

CITY OF NATALIA

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 19 JULY 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Mayor Tommy Ortiz – Present

Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present

Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Absent

Alderman Darin Frazier - Present

Alderman Selica Vera – Present

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Ortiz called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by the Natalia Minor All Stars and Invocation by Alderman Bluemel.

2. **PRESENTATION**

a) Certificates of Recognition to Natalia Minor All Stars. (Ald. S. Vera)

The Natalia Minor All Stars were presented with Certificates of Recognition for the excellent performance throughout the season, having ultimately placed 3rd in Sectionals.

3. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

James Fleming, a former Chief of Police of Natalia, addressed the council, airing grievances against the City Council regarding personnel matters. Mayor Ortiz notified Fleming that according to the rules as indicated on the Agenda, “*Anyone will be allowed to speak **on any posted matter, other than personnel matters** or matters under litigation, for length of time not to exceed three (3) minutes.*” Fleming continued, singling out individual council members, with the mayor again intervening to ask Mr. Fleming to mind public decorum. Mr. Fleming continued before ultimately leaving.

4. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Ald. Bluemel suggested WTG be contacted concerning open pipes. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith identified a travel trailer at the inspection station that needed to be dealt with for code issues. Ald. Frazier commented it had been a good month and all was well. Ald. Fernandez commented again about the 18 wheelers parking on the access road. City Administrator Hinojosa said he had contacted TxDOT about this but TxDOT had said they were not responsible for that and the City and County needed to determine whose land it was, put up signs, and enforce the signs. Fernandez also asked for police reports in Devine News. Ald. Vera commented on tournaments being held at the Natalia Veterans Memorial Sportsplex speaking about parking issues and lack of police presence. Administrator Hinojosa stated it is the Natalia Little League who is responsible for contacting the police to request (and pay) for police presence.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

All of the following items are considered to be routine by the City Council, there will be no separate discussion on these items and will be enacted with one motion; unless removed by any Council Member to discuss and consider separately by making such request prior to a motion and vote.

b) Approval of the Minutes: 21 June 2021 Regular Meeting

c) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: June 2021

- d) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: June 2021
- e) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: June 2021
- f) ~~Approval of the Police Code Enforcement Activity Report: June 2021~~
- g) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: June 2021

Action: Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

6. Discussion/Consider action on an Ordinance regulating the drilling of water wells within the City of Natalia service area; creating minimum and maximum penalties for violations in the amounts of \$250.00 and \$500.00; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date hereof.
Discussion: This item was tabled from last month. Concerns were raised about banning wells. Alderman Frazier said this ordinance was important so that wells could be regulated, so the City would have records of exactly where wells were, and to ensure that wells would not interfere with City water or sewer lines.
Action: Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made the motion to postpone discussion indefinitely and Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; motion carried unanimously.
7. Discuss/Consider a Resolution authorizing the City Administrator to request Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, as provided in the American Rescue Plan Act.
Discussion: City Administrator noted that the City of Natalia was eligible for almost \$394,000 of funding, to be disbursed in two tranches.
Action: Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made the motion approving said Resolution and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; motion carried unanimously.
8. Discuss/Consider directing Police Department to enforce code compliance and re-instituting monthly code compliance reports to council.
Action: Alderman Bluemel so moved to direct the PD to enforce code compliance and reinstitute monthly code compliance reports to council. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Discussion/Consider action on an Ordinance to change the corner of 7th Street and Kearney from a 4 way stop to a two-way in order to improve traffic flow and to eliminate one way traffic streets.
Action: Alderman Frazier made the motion approving said Ordinance, and Mayor Pro-Tem Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; Motion carried unanimously.
10. Discuss/Consider temporarily closing streets being a portion of Kearny St. between 4th St. and 5th St., and a portion of 5th St. between Kearny and Cresson St., for St. John Bosco Catholic Church annual church festival scheduled on 05 September 2021 from 3.00 pm to 11.59 pm. (Ruby Vera)
Action: Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made a motion granting the request, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried. Note: Alderwoman Vera abstained from vote as she is a member of St. John Bosco Catholic Church.
11. Discuss/Consider convening into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters—update on Chief of Police interviews.
Action: Ald. Bluemel made a motion to convene into executive session at 7.37 pm. Ald. Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. The City Council shall meet in Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 to discuss the following:
 - a. §551.074; Personnel Matters—Update on Chief of Police Interviews

REGULAR SESSION

Regular Session: City Council reconvened into regular session at 8:20 pm, and if necessary, may take action on the items discussed in executive session. No action taken.


13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a) City Administrator/Secretary
 - i. Medina County has begun road work for phase one: 3rd and Bartlett
 - ii. Parking on access road—must determine who owns the land next to the road (City or County) and the relevant jurisdiction can put up a no parking sign.
 - iii. Applications for place on ballot can be filed until August 16 at 5 pm.
 - iv. Marshal Hoak, Staff Assistant for Congressman Tony Gonzales will be in Council Chambers on July 21 from 1-3 pm for outreach to constituents.
 - v. COVID-19 Vaccinations will be held in Council Chambers on 29 July. Registration is available online at <https://www.medinahospital.net/coronavirus-updates/>
 - vi. Eclipse 2024 Community Roundtable to be held at Hondo Public Library Re: Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024 on 21 July 2021 at 10 am.
- b) Utility Director
- c) Interim Chief of Police (Linda Rodriguez spoke on Martinez' behalf as he was away for training)
 - i. Lytle Animal Control has contacted police to offer 10 animal kennels
 - ii. \$6,000 check from Medina Electric & Partner bank for computers to arrive shortly
 - iii. Reserve Officer Patino has resigned for a full-time job
 - iv. Two reserve officer positions are open
 - v. Police are considering updating on existing PD Policies and Procedures.


14. Adjournment. Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 8:37 pm, and Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of August, 2021.

Approval:


Tommy Ortiz, Mayor /or/
Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:


René Hinojosa, MPA
City Administrator/Secretary

