

CITY OF NATALIA

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SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 28 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ortiz called the Special city council meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Tommy Ortiz – Present

Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present

Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Present

Alderman Darin Frazier - Present

Alderman Selica Vera – Present

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mireya van der Slice addressed item number 4 on the council agenda. She discussed how this is a benefit to the community and will enable the community to come together and how it was of benefit to the NISD class of 2025. Furthermore, she stated that she apologized to council if originally asking the Little League for permission was not appropriate since their contract ends at the end of September. She requested that any and all fees and deposits be waived as this was a community event and not for profit.

City Administrator/Secretary Hinojosa read comments from Michelle Martin as she was unable to address the Council in person due to public health regulations. The text of her email is entered into the minutes as received via email and read by Mr. Hinojosa:

“Hi my name is Michelle Martin and have lived in Natalia for three years. I am sorry I can't be there in person to comment...I along with a long time resident of Natalia are requesting use of the Natalia Ball Fields on Saturday, October 9th from 6pm-9pm (set up/clean up) for a Family Movie Night. I previously hosted two Christmas events in Natalia these past two years and were a great impact in the community as well. My sincere apologies in not initially contacting the City and Council Members with this request as there was a misunderstanding on our part. Here is what we are requesting:

- We only need one half of the field and will need access to electricity.
- This is a free event for the community, so I am asking if the rental fee could be waived.
- Wanted to see if we could sell [soda]/candy (no concession needed) to raise money for Natalia Class of 2025.
- Ask two food trucks to park nearby to sell food if anyone is interested.
- We have all of the equipment (e.g. chairs, tables, projector, screen).
- No alcohol will be allowed (seeing if water can be donated).

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I am simply a community member trying to get neighbors together for fun, security, engagement, and support. I believe that when communities come together we can build a stronger foundation for our kids.”

3. Discuss/consider budget amendments for FY 2020-2021.

Discussion: The COVID Relief Funds were questioned, to which it was explained that that money was not budgeted or expected within this fiscal year, hence the need to amend the budget. Assistant City Secretary Bermea also noted the budget had been changed to allow for a vehicle purchase for the Police Department at a total cost of \$48,790, however wages and health insurance saved due to turnover amounted to over

\$67,000, so the cost will be fully covered by that. She also noted the equipment purchase from John Deere, and the contracted work for water/sewer taps done by Qromex and the WWTP cloths were also included in the amendments.

Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to approve the budget amendments by ordinance and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

4. Discuss/consider allowing a "Family Movie Night" to be held at the Natalia Veterans Memorial Sportsplex on October 9, 2021 from 7 to 9 pm, and the possible lowering or dispensation of rental fees and special event health inspection fees.

Discussion: Mayor said if this were to pass, to coordinate with Chief Naff. Alderman Frazier commented that the Council was asked to allow an event on city property after having taken away a city organized event (National Night Out). Alderman Fernandez stated they should have it at the school as Ms. van der Slice is a school board member and it benefits the school, to which Ms. van der Slice stated that the school had not been approached about hosting such an event. Mr. Fernandez stated that people from all over will be here and that there are liability issues to be considered. Ms. van der Slice stated that people can assess their own risks for COVID-19 and make a decision on their own whether they should attend an event. Mr. Fernandez stated that NMDD had also cancelled their fall festival due to COVID-19.

Action: Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made a motion for Mr. Hinojosa to consult with an attorney regarding any liability, especially concerning COVID-19 and for the City Administrator to make a decision with that information in mind. If the event is approved by Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Smith furthermore allowed use of the fields from 6 to 10 pm inclusive, and to waive all fees, but not deposits, associated with use of the fields. Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion carried by a 3-2 vote.

5. Discuss/consider an extension to the Natalia Little League contract until October 18.

6. Discussion: Edward Castro represented the Little League, but noted he is not a board member. The Mayor stated he did not want the contract to be considered until January. He noted an outstanding balance of \$1,236.34 for electricity and garbage services and stated the NLL was not following the contract, including filing bank statements with the City Administrator. He stated the fields are not cared for and that rules and regulations are ignored. He further questioned how Little League gets paid and stated people have complained that it is a moneymaker. Alderwoman Vera questioned which exactly are the three organizations. Mr. Castro replied he has one, NYFL, and the movie night organizers. Mr. Castro noted that NLL is dropping the ball on all City Council requests, and also noted Mr. Woodson used the fields during COVID-19 and that movie night won't hurt. It was explained the difference is those with contracts have certificates of liability naming the City as well, where as those renting the fields for a day do not.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith left the meeting at 6.31 pm, but as there was still a quorum, the meeting continued.

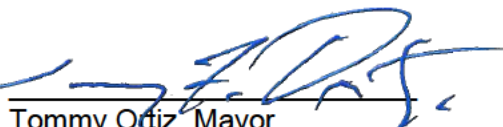
Alderman Frazier made a motion to deny an extension to the Natalia Little League as there were no board members present for the meeting. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. ADJOURNMENT

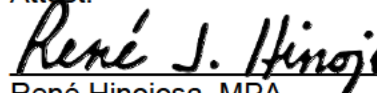
Alderman Vera motioned to adjourn at 6:36 pm, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this 18th day of October, 2021.

Approval:


Tommy Ortiz, Mayor

Attest:


René Hinojosa, MPA
City Administrator/Secretary

