

**City of Natalia, Texas**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**February 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Mayor Tommy Ortiz ó Present Alderman Mike Fernandez ó Absent Alderman Sam Bluemel ó Present	Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Absent Alderman Darin Frazier - Present Alderman Selica Vera - Present
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Call to Order:

- 1) Mayor Ortiz called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Alderman Bluemel.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) Amy Edge, Librarian of the Natalia Public Memorial Library, briefed on the Bluebonnet Festival Events: games, vendors, music will be available, no carnival this year but a possibility of getting small petting zoo and inflatables, asking for monetary donations from Council/Staff to purchase drinks; festival is Saturday, March 28, 2020.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Bluemel questioned why the water system was not turned off on February 17<sup>th</sup>? City Administrator Hernandez explained that a set date was not determined, it was discussed that when the interruption occurs it would be scheduled either during a school holiday or during late evening hours, upcoming holidays were noted but not confirmed; adding, information of any interruption will be communicated through I-Info. Alderwoman Vera questioned the status of the street repairs after construction. PW Director Smith stated that streets will be repaired to their existing condition prior construction, not a complete redo as that is not within the scope of these project. Alderman Frazier asks Administrator Hernandez to place an article in the local newspapers updating the community about these projects. Mayor Ortiz recognized Administrator Hernandez graduation from Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and her continued efforts in completing her third recertification.

Staff Reports:

- 4) (a) City Administrator: 1) The TxCBDG Contract No.7219309 WWTP archeological survey requirements were discussed via teleconference with THC, Engineer and grant Environmental Specialist; the City is to provide WWTP date of service records, detailed pictures of plant and its systems, specific involved work of this contract, a copy of the city's comprehensive plan, and clarification of surface traffic or potential disturbance of the project. Information is to be provided to THC for review, following-up with another meeting to discuss findings. 2) A request for an inspection was placed with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation for TxCBDG Contract No.7217162 Downtown Revitalization Project, this inspection was scheduled for March 2, 2020 with Grant Administrator, Engineer, Contractor and RAS Inspector; project has many construction deficiencies to the eye, however results will be determined after inspection is completed. 3) General Primary Election early voting has begun, residents may vote at any voting polling location within their registered County through February 28, 2020, and on Election Day being March 3, 2020. 4) Republic Services scheduled the city's curbside bulky-item pickup for June 10, 2020, advising council to reach out to Blake Caesar to have this date changed to a day sooner in spring rather than first part of summer.
- (b) Public Works Director: Art Smith absent updated City Council on the USDA Construction Improvement Projects: 1) Gravity Sewer by Barclays Premier Utility Services is complete; 2) Wastewater Collection System by QRO Mex Construction has installed the Love's Lift Station pumps, and now awaiting the final walkthrough; however, the city is having difficulty with materials clogging up the 40 sewer line where the pressure sustaining valve was installed, so the PSV was removed temporarily until we discuss this matter further with the engineers. 3) Wells Site Improvements by MGB Construction is ongoing, Well #6 is complete and operating; Well #4 is complete, currently in the flushing phase and needing to obtain three good raw water samples to put back into service; the standby generator is also installed and waiting for start-up trial before activation. 4) Water Distribution Improvements by QRO Mex Construction, water lines are all installed and needing a few more residential taps before system can be entirely connected to existing system.
- c) Chief of Police: Chief Barrows introduced TJ Richardson the newest reserve officer recently sworn in by Mayor Ortiz.

Consent Agenda:

- 5) a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes: January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 6, 2020.
- b. Approval of Financial Activity Report: January 2020
- c. Approval of Utility Department Activity Report: January 2020
- d. Approval of Municipal Court Activity Report: January 2020
- e. Approval of Police Department Activity Report: January 2020

Action: Alderman Frazier made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 6) Discuss/Consider action on Ordinance granting to AEP Texas Inc., its successors and assigns, a nonexclusive franchise to construct, maintain and operate lines and appurtenances and appliances for conducting electricity in, over, under and through the streets, avenues, alleys and public places of the City of Natalia, Texas, at a rate prescribed by law in accordance with the methodology prescribed by Texas Public Utility Regulatory Act of a factor of \$0.002790 per kilowatt hour multiplied times the number of kilowatt hours delivered by AEP to retail customers within the city's boundaries, until November 7, 2050.

Discussion: Administrator Hernandez mentioned the content is to renew the existing contract that was adopted November 7, 1988 and set to expire on November 7, 2020 at a rate currently prescribed by PUC. Rita Parrish, AEP Community Affairs Manager, explained the terms of the agreement is for thirty years at the maximum highest rate-methodology set by the Public Utilities Commission. Alderman Frazier questioned the average income received from this franchise. Administrator Hernandez noted that the fees received range anywhere from \$2-\$4k per month which depends on consumer usage. Alderman Frazier had concerns to Section 3 of the agreement regarding AEP's permission to cut down, trim, remove or otherwise control tree growth within the public right-of-way; that further negotiations should be considered to protect the palm trees within the city. Frazier suggested either AEP reroute their power lines or consider repositioning the public right-of-way line. Parrish explained the terms are for liability purposes, and do not cut or trim trees unless necessary for hazardous purposes for which any trimming is performed by forestry experts; additionally noting that relocating lines is expensive and though it can be done those costs will be incurred by the city requesting it. Alderman Frazier suggested this item be postponed next month giving other members an opportunity to speak on the matter. Parrish will also be bringing a forestry expert to the meeting to go over their tree trimming process.

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to postpone consideration until March 16, 2020 meeting, and Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

- 7) Discuss/Consider action on Resolution; Appointing two (2) Board of Director members to the Natalia Municipal Development District: Pat Bourcier and Krystal Sepulveda, and, having one (1) directors' position open; positions are for a two-year term expiring February 2022.

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion approving the appointments by Resolution; and Alderwoman Vera second the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

- 8) Adjournment. Alderwoman Vera motioned to adjourn at 7:45pm, and Alderman Bluemel second the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Approval:

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

Attest:

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Lisa S. Hernandez, City Administrator/Secretary