

**City of Natalia, Texas**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**May 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

Roll Call: Mayor Tommy Ortiz ó Present Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Present  
Alderman Mike Fernandez ó Present Alderman Darin Frazier - Present  
Alderman Sam Bluemel ó Absent Alderman Selica Vera - Present

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 a moment in silence.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) None.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Fernandez had a few questions/concerns regarding police reporting and code enforcement issues; and, questioned the status of the water leaks at Miller/8<sup>th</sup> Streets. PW Director Smith advised that there are several pre-final inspection repairs that still need to be completed, and these items were on part of the lists. Alderwoman Vera asked if anyone had heard the emergency siren go-off lately, and when it is typically set; and, also had concerns regarding the numerous break-in's. City Administrator Hernandez mentioned the Medina County Emergency Services, Keith Lutz, supposedly triggers the emergency siren each month for testing. Vera will contact Lutz for information. Chief Barrows was not present to comment on Fernandez and Vera's concerns. Alderman Smith questioned the location of the Fort Ewell Creek liftstation generator. PW Director Smith stated that the location is not placed in the most suitable location but that was the only viable solution and location within our easement available to set the generator, engineers reviewed specifications and believe that no major issues should occur during heavy rains.

Staff Reports:

- 4) (a) City Administrator: 1) Update on TxCBDG Contract No.7219309 WWTP for clarifier improvements, a four-month pre-bid construction meeting is set for Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am. 2) Project Engineer, Jerod Motts, M&S Engineers, has issued statements of a few discrepancies in the railing in result of inspection that will have to come down and be replaced. M&S has agreed to fund these repairs, to be performed by contractor. 3) TDHCA Home Program Contract No.2019-003 has scheduled for a preconstruction meeting with all property owners, city officials and construction contractors for Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am, of which we will visit each home location and make final remarks prior to commencement of construction, which should take place June 15<sup>th</sup>. 4) Medina County Appraisal District has issued 2019 preliminary taxable property valuations, and will begin accepting protests having a filing deadline of June 8<sup>th</sup> for Appraisal Review Board to begin hearing cases on June 29<sup>th</sup>.  
(b) Public Works Director: 1) Updated City Council on the USDA Construction Improvement Projects status on Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Wastewater Collection System by QRO Mex Construction; Wells Site Improvements by MGB Construction; and Water Distribution Improvements by QRO Mex Construction. 2) City's new sewer jetter is in, and crews have been cleaning out several sewer lines since.  
c) Chief of Police: 1) Code compliance/animal control issues. Chief Barrows was not present to report.

Consent Agenda:

- 5) a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes: March 16, 2020.  
b. Approval of Financial Activity Report: April 2020  
c. Approval of Utility Department Activity Report: April 2020  
d. Approval of Municipal Court Activity Report: April 2020  
e. Approval of Police Department Activity Report: April 2020  
Action: Alderman Smith made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 6) Introduction/Acceptance of employing Reserve Police Officer(s) for the Natalia Police Department (Mayor Ortiz had previously officiated Oath of Offices to individuals):
  - a) George Patino
  - b) Tobe Allen-Whitley
  - c) Carlos DelaRosa

Discussion: None.  
Action: None.
- 7) Discuss/Consider action on Fund View proposal for Municipal Court Case Management software for a cost not to exceed \$5,750, sharing first-year installation costs from Municipal Court Technology Fund and General Fund budget operations.
 

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez advised Council of long term issues court has been dealing with, with its current program using USTL, and wish to switch software for an installation cost of \$5,750 and annual subscription of \$5,250. Court technology funds will be allocated to pay some costs while the remaining balance will be paid from general fund operations.  
Action: Alderman Frazier made the motion approving proposal, and Alderwoman Vera seconded. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Discuss/Consider actions related to Ordinance No.20-0316-1 Public Health Emergency Rules and Regulations in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
 

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez reported reopening of office operations, following social restrictions, and reported the latest county cases count.  
Action: None.
- 9) Executive Session: The City Council met in Executive Session at 7:34pm, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 to discuss the following:
  - a) Section 551.071, Consultation with the City Attorney and 551.074, Personnel Matters, regarding the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice of Discrimination Charges against the Natalia Police Department filed by a former employee.
- 10) Regular Session: The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 7:55pm, and if necessary, may act on items discussed in Executive Session:
  - a) Section 551.071, Consultation with the City Attorney and 551.074, Personnel Matters, regarding the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice of Discrimination Charges against the Natalia Police Department filed by a former employee.  
Action: None.
- 11) Adjournment. Alderman Smith motioned to adjourn at 7:55pm, and Alderwoman Vera seconds the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

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

Approval:

Attest:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Hernandez  
City Administrator/Secretary, TRMC