

City of Natalia, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting
June 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm
Minutes

- 1) Call to Order: Mayor Tommy Ortiz ó Present Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Present
Alderman Mike Fernandez ó Present Alderman Darin Frazier - Present
Alderman Sam Bluemel ó Present Alderwoman Selica Vera ó Present
 - A. Mayor Ortiz called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
 - B. Invocation made by Alderman Bluemel.
- 2) Public Comments: *Anyone is allowed to speak on any posted matter, other than personnel matters or matters under litigation, for length of time not to exceed three minutes. No Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law. To address the City Council, please sign the Citizens Participation Sign-in Roster located on the table at the entrance of the Council Chambers.*
 1. Ruby Vera, MDD Chairman, invited City Council to attend the NMDD meeting June 17, 2020 at 6:30pm, discussions will include the demolition of Palm Courts Property; NMDD assisted cooperation with the Census Bureau to collect information.
- 3) City Council Comments: Alderwoman Vera questioned the status on code compliance issues, specifically addressing the brush being put to the curbside, and mentioned that contact was made with Keith Lutz in regards to the emergency siren testing. Alderman Fernandez also requested information regarding code enforcement issues, and thanked Officer Garcia and the NPD that captured person involved in burglaries. Alderman Smith reiterated on City Administrator Hernandez contact with Blake Caesar, Republic Services, for solution or added costs to pick up excessive brush piles. Caesar will be contacting Hernandez to provide further information, possibly moving-up the brush pickup date or pickup for specific locations.
- 4) Staff Reports:
 - A. City Administrator: 1) TDHCA Home Program Contract No.2019-003 is set for construction mobilization at five property locations June 15, 2020. 2) Notice of Deadline to File for Application for Place on the November 3, 2020 Natalia General Election Ballot begins July 18, 2020 and ends August 17, 2020, since July 18th falls on a Saturday, the first date to file moves to Monday July 20th, positions open are currently held by Alderpersons Sam Smith, Mike Fernandez, and Selica Vera.
 - B. Public Works Director: 1) Updated City Council on the USDA Construction Improvement Projects status on Certificate of Substantial Completion; 2) 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Cosumer Confidence Report is readily available online, city hall, and will be delivered with utility bills at the end of this month; CCR reports no violations for 2019.; TCEQ Delcares City of Natalia WWTP Permit No. WQ0011806001 Administratively Complete for Permit Renewal, upon compliance of period to receive public comments.
- 5) Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of the Minutes: May 18, 2020, June 1, 2020 and June 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - B. Approval of the Financial Activity Report: May 2020
 - C. Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: May 2020
 - D. Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: May 2020
 - E. Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: May 2020

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 6) Review/Discuss/Consider acceptance of the City of Natalia Financial Audit for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.
Presentation of FY2018-2019 Audit was presented by Wayne Beyer & Co.; no significant discrepancies or misrepresentations were found.
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion accepted FY2018-19 Financial Audit as presented, and Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.
- 7) Review/Discuss/Consider actions regarding the Natalia Little League 2019-20 Lease Agreement.
Discussion: Jaime Gomez, NLL President, requested assistance from City Council regarding the payment or possible disconnection of electric services, due to Covid-19, until the new seasons agreement is revisited.

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion providing City's assistance by paying NLL electricity bills at facilities until contract renewal is revisited; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

- 8) Discuss/Consider engaging into a contract with Medina County Elections Officer for the conduct of the November 2020 City of Natalia Elections.

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez presented the November 2020 Election Contract to City Council, advising that costs has not been implemented as the costs depends on the number of entities holding elections, the more entities involved the lower the total cost each entity pays.

Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion approving the elections contract; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

- 9) Discussion and possible action on the following items related to the Natalia Police Department operations:

- a. Appointment of Interim Chief of Police
- b. Interim Chief pay adjustment for the time spent performing the duties related to the position
- c. The hiring process and timeline for the position of Chief
- d. Direction regarding possible amendments to the City Code of Ordinances related to the operational structure of the police department and the current residency requirement

Action: Alderman Bluemel motioned to discuss items in closed session; seconded by Alderwoman Vera. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

- 10) Executive Session: The City Council met in Executive Session at 7:58pm, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.074 to discuss the following:

- a. Appointment of Interim Chief of Police
- b. Interim Chief pay adjustment for the time spent performing the duties related to the position
- c. The hiring process and timeline for the position of Chief
- d. Direction regarding possible amendments to the City Code of Ordinances related to the operational structure of the police department and the current residency requirement

- 11) Regular Session: The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 8:50pm, and if necessary, may act on items discussed in Executive Session.

- a. Appointment of Interim Chief of Police. ó Alderman Fernandez made a motion appointing Matthew Garcia as Interim Chief of Police. Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Motion passed by 5-0 vote.
- b. Interim Chief pay adjustment for the time spent performing the duties related to the position. ó Alderman Bluemel made a motion to increase Matthew Garcia pay to \$45,000 in performance of duties as Interim Chief of Police; Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.
- c. The hiring process and timeline for the position of Chief. - No action.
- d. Direction regarding possible amendments to the City Code of Ordinances related to the operational structure of the police department and the current residency requirement. ó Alderwoman made a motion to remove section 22.31(a) residency requirements from the code of ordinances; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

- 12) Adjournment. Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 8:57pm, and Alderwoman Vera seconds the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 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