

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

- 1) Call to Order: Mayor Tommy Ortiz – Present  
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present  
Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present  
Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith - Absent  
Alderman Darin Frazier - Present  
Alderwoman Selica Vera – Present  
Mayor Ortiz called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Alderwoman Vera and Invocation by Alderman Bluemel.
- 2) Public Comments: None.
- 3) City Council Comments:
  - a. Newly appointed City Administrator/Secretary, Rene Hinojosa introduced to City Council along with Mayor Ortiz administering the Oath of Office.
  - b. Newly promoted Assistant City Secretary, Nichole Bermea took the Oath of Office, administered by Mayor Ortiz.
- 4) Consent Agenda:

*All of the following items were considered to be routine by the City Council. There was no separate discussion on these items were enacted with one motion.*

  - a. Approved of the Minutes: June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting and July 1, 2020 Special Meeting
  - b. Approved of the Financial Activity Report: June 2020
  - c. Approved of the Utility Department Activity Report: June 2020
  - d. Approved of the Municipal Court Activity Report: June 2020
  - e. Approved of the Police Department Activity Report: June 2020

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving all; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion.  
Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 5) Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

Presentation by NMDD Chair Ruby Vera, regarding Natalia Municipal Development District being gifted Chapel from the Cuellar Family. Ms. Vera also noted the MDD would meet at 6.30 pm on 27 July 2020.

Councilmembers discussed possible issues with religious figures on City property. Councilman Fernandez requested a revote by MDD to clarify this issue and bring to Council for approval.

No action taken.
- 6) Discuss/Consider Ordering the General Election for the City of Natalia, Texas to be held on November 3, 2020 for the purpose of electing three (3) Aldermen.  
Discussion: None.  
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion to order the General Election for the City of Natalia; Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 7) Discuss/ Consider action on Resolution 20-06; amending the City of Natalia Personnel Policy Manual and Organizational Chart, providing for a repealer, severability and an effective date.  
Discussion: None.  
Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to amend the City of Natalia Personnel Policy Manual, including the Organizational Chart; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

- 8) Discuss/Consider action on Resolution 20-07; Designating authorized signers for all depository accounts with Security State Bank on behalf of the City of Natalia, Texas.  
Action: Alderman Frazier made a motion to remove Lisa Hernandez and designate the new City Administrator/Secretary Rene Hinojosa as an authorized signer, along with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 9) Discuss/Consider action to have Quality Renovators construct an awning structure at the WWTP.  
Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion have Quality Renovators construct an awning structure at the WWTP; Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 10) Consider setting a date, time and place for a Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Proposed Budgets  
Action: Alderwoman Vera made a motion to hold the Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Proposed Budgets at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, to be held on 17 August 2020 at 7:00 pm; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 11) Staff reports:
- a. City Administrator/Secretaries reports:
    - i. The Downtown Revitalization Project is still in progress. There are several deficiencies that need to be addressed. A walkthrough has taken place with a representative of M&S Engineering and the contractor, Lone Star Sitework. LSS has agreed to correct several deficiencies, but others have not been addressed.
    - ii. First to day to File Applications for Place on the Ballot is on July 20, 2020.
  - b. Public Works Director:
    - iii. Drought Stage 1 Implementation and Restrictions. The Edwards Aquifer is on Stage 1 Water Restrictions. Stage 1 restrictions begin when the 10-day rolling average of the Edwards Aquifer level drops to 660 feet mean sea level at the monitored well.
- 12) Discuss/Consider convening into Executive Session to deliberate on the following personnel matters:
- a) Reviewed/Considered Applicants/Interviews for Chief of Police position.  
Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to go into Executive Session; Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.
- 13) **Executive Session:** The City Council convened into Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. Pursuant to Section 551.074, Personnel Matters, and Section 551.074, Personnel Matters, of the Texas Government Code, to discuss the following:
- a) Review/Consider Applicants/Interviews for Chief of Police position.
- 14) **Regular Session:** The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 8:44 p.m., and if necessary, took the following actions on items discussed in Executive Session.
- a) Review/Consider Applicants/Interviews for Chief of Police position. Mayor to proceed with soliciting for interviews of selected applicants and convene a special meeting on 24 July 2020 at 11 am to select a finalist for Chief of Police. Motion made by Alderman Frazier, seconded by Alderman Bluemel. Motion passed unanimously.
- 15) Adjournment. Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn at 8:45 pm, and Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Vote: Motion passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

Passed and Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Approval:

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

Attested by:

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René Hinojosa  
City Administrator/Secretary