

CITY OF NATALIA

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**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 78059
21 AUGUST 2023 at 7.00 P.M.**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Present
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present Alderman Darin Frazier - Present
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Present Alderman Selica Vera – Present

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Bluemel called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Alderwoman Vera and Invocation by Mayor Bluemel.

2. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

There were no citizens to be heard.

3. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Alderwoman Vera voiced concerns about the cars racing at the car wash. Alderman Fernandez suggested we contact someone higher up in authority at TXDOT about the ongoing issues with signage and truck parking. Alderman Fernandez also expressed concerns about the remaining loose dogs in town. Alderman Smith stated he has seen the 18 wheelers parked by Love's dumping trash, leaving truck parts behind in the grass. Mayor Bluemel is going to reach out to TXDOT again. Alderman Fernandez and Alderwoman Vera stated the trucks are parking overnight and are still there at 7:30 am.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

All of the following items are considered to be routine by the City Council, there will be no separate discussion on these items and will be enacted with one motion; unless removed by any Council Member to discuss and consider separately by making such request prior to a motion and vote.

- a) Approval of the Minutes: 17 July 2023 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: July 2023
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: July 2023
- b) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: July 2023
- c) Approval of the Police Department/Code Enforcement Activity Report: July 2023

Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0; motion carried.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a) City Administrator/Secretary, Nichole Bermea reported the last day to file for a place on the ballot was August 21st at 5PM. We received two applications for the mayor position and three for the two Alderman positions. Bulk/brush pick up will be 9/11-9/15 throughout the city. A county burn ban was issued on 8/10/23. Nichole reported we are down one utility worker as he is out on medical leave. Nichole gave an update on the Rise broadband installation and the CPF request.
- b) Utility Director – Art had nothing to report.

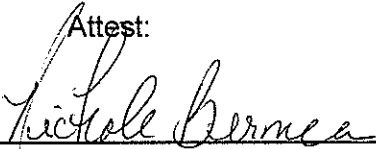
- c) NMDD – Ruby Vera reported that a circus will be on the MDD property on August 25th, 26th and 27th. A reminder was given for the name drive for the Veterans Monument. The last day to submit names is 9/1/2023. The MDD has received a quote for the sprinkler system at the monument area. This is an item previously discussed and approved. The city will pay half of the cost. Ruby gave an update on events that the MDD will host.
- d) Mayor – Mayor Bluemel thanked city staff and police officers.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

6. Discuss/Consider ordering the General Election for the City of Natalia, Texas to be held on November 7, 2023 for the purpose of electing two (2) Aldermen and a Mayor. Alderman Fernandez motioned to order the City of Natalia election for the purpose of electing a mayor and (2) two aldermen; Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
7. Discuss/Consider a request from Natalia ISD for additional crosswalks at 8th Street and Miller Street. Alderman Smith explained what the district was requesting. Nichole explained that the city does not paint crosswalks, in the past the district hired contractors to do it and she had emailed Kerrie explaining this. Alderman Frazier stated that he sees a lot more student walkers this year and he feels additional crosswalks need to be installed at 7th Street and Kearny in addition to the ones that the district has requested. Alderman Smith made a motion to approve the request and add 7th Street and Kearny both directions. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
8. Discuss/Consider appointing a council member to a committee to meet with the Mayor, City Administrator and (2) two Natalia ISD board members and superintendent a minimum of two times a year. Nichole explained that the school board president had contacted her to request that we form a committee to hold a round table meeting at a minimum of two times per year consisting of the mayor, city administrator, a council member, two NISD board members and the superintendent. Nichole explained this is to address concerns or issues and to keep the line of communication open between the district and the city. Mayor Bluemel suggested that we not appoint a single council member but rather rotate who will attend depending on the date and time of the meetings. Alderwoman Vera stated that she works during the day and Alderman Fernandez agreed he does as well. Both would not be able to attend if the meetings are held during the day. Alderwoman Vera made a motion to form a committee with NISD. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
9. Discuss/Consider setting a date and time for a Special meeting to discuss Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget and Tax Rate. Alderman Smith made a motion to hold a special meeting to discuss the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget and tax rate on August 28, 2023 at 6:45 PM. Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
10. Discuss/Consider declaring Stage 4 Drought Restrictions. Art went over the restrictions EAA has declared, reductions, and remaining acre feet. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to declare Stage 4 Drought Restrictions. Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
11. Adjournment. Alderman Smith motioned to adjourn at 7:49 pm, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.


Passed and Approved this 18th day of September, 2023.

Attest:


Nichole Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary



Approval:


Samuel Bluemel, Mayor /or/
Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem