

CITY OF NATALIA

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 78059
15 AUGUST 2022 at 7.00 P.M.

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Present
Alderman Darin Frazier - 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 of the ongoing dog issue in the city. Alderwoman Vera reminded everyone to please call the office or Medina County dispatch if you see someone dumping an animal. Alderman Fernandez had concerns to address to the police chief, but since she is absent tonight he will address them at a later date. Alderman Fernandez requested that the on-call utility schedule and the police department schedule be emailed to council. Alderman Fernandez reported he heard there was a dog bite recently by a stray dog. Alderman Fernandez still has concerns over the ongoing issue with the 18 wheelers parking all over the city. They are now parking directly in front of the no parking signs and he feels nothing is being done to prohibit the issue. Alderman Fernandez requested an updated officer phone list and asks that all officers answer their city phones. Alderman Frazier thanked Alderman Fernandez, Alderman Smith, city employees, county employees and Commissioner Jerry Beck for the hard work in getting the street repaving completed. Alderman Frazier requested that executive session be on the next city council meeting agenda. Alderman Ortiz also had concerns about the 18 wheeler parking issues and feels they need to address the issues with Chief Naff. Alderman Ortiz voiced his concerns for the continued loose dogs roaming in the city. Alderman Ortiz suggested we work with county on addressing the loose dogs.

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: 18 July 2022 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: July 2022
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: July 2022
- b) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: July 2022
- c) Approval of the Police Department/Code Enforcement Activity Report: July 2022

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

5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- a) City Administrator/Secretary, Nichole Bermea reported the last day for applications to file for a place on ballot is Monday, August 22nd. The auditors were here on August 10th. Medina county has completed the road project. Municipal court in person proceedings resumed on August 12th.
- b) Chief of Police - Absent
- c) Utility Director – Absent
- d) Mayor Bluemel reported that he has contacted Medina County to coordinate help in catching the loose dogs within the city. They have agreed to come this week. Mayor Bluemel reported the two (2) new Tahoes and equipment will be picked up on Friday, August 19th. He has arranged with a local upfitter to have the equipment installed within 7-10 days. Mayor Bluemel reported that the night officers will be addressing the 18 wheelers parking illegally. Alderman Frazier stated that he is upset that Chief Naff is not in attendance. Alderman Frazier stated that staff should be in attendance to address questions from the city council.
- e) NMDD – Ruby Vera reported the NMDD webpage will be up and running in the next few weeks. They will be utilizing the Go Medina website to inform residents about Market Days, festivals, and other events. They will also be printing tri-fold business brochures. The NMDD has plans to do landscaping around the property and veterans' monument. They are waiting on a proposal from the landscaper for drought tolerant plants. In doing this it will increase the water usage at the property. The NMDD is hoping that the city council will agree to help the costs of the landscaping around the veterans' monument since it is city property. The NMDD is considering the possibility of putting in a walking track and lighting around the property. At this time the NMDD has completed five (5) years of principal and interest payments on the property. They are discussing the possibility of paying off the property and researching funding for a pavilion with restrooms that the community can utilize and work towards a community center. Ruby Vera is going to speak to Mr. Victor Quiroga and will provide Nichole Bermea the information.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

- 6. Discuss/Consider ordering the General Election for the City of Natalia, Texas to be held on November 8, 2022 for the purpose of electing three (3) Aldermen. Alderman Smith made a motion to approve the Order of Election. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0
- 7. Discuss/Consider Action of Memorandum of Understanding with Medina County Health Unit to respond effectively to acts of biological terrorism. Nichole Bermea explained that this is a renewal agreement. Alderman Frazier questioned what kind of resources would be given and why do we have to go pick the supplies up. Alderman Frazier stated he feels we received no support during COVID. A testing and vaccine site in Natalia wasn't offered until late in the pandemic. Alderman Frazier feels that a representative from Medina County Health Unit should attend tonight's meeting. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Medina County Health Unit. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1.
- 8. Discuss/Consider Natalia Municipal Development District's recommendation to fill vacancy for the unexpired term ending February 2024. The NMDD recommended Linda Munoz to fill the vacancy on the board. Alderman Fernandez asked if Ms. Munoz was required to attend tonight's meeting. Alderman Ortiz explained that he did speak to Ms. Munoz and she asked him if she was required to be at tonight's meeting and he did tell her no she was not. Ruby Vera gave a short introduction about Ms. Munoz. Alderman Ortiz made a motion to accept the NMDD's recommendation to appoint Linda Munoz to fill the vacancy on the NMDD board. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0
- 9. Discuss/Consider action on a lease agreement between the City of Natalia and Edward Castro for the purpose of soccer and tournaments for property located between State Hwy 132 & East 3rd Street off FM-471 (Natalia Veterans Sportsplex). Edward Castro is requesting use of the fields for soccer on Saturdays and practices 2-3 times per week. He does not want a contract. He stated that last

year he was stuck in a contract for several months and the electric bill is too high. Alderman Frazier asked if this is the same soccer program that he ran last year and what the average bill is per month. Nichole Bermea stated it runs about \$600-700 per month. Last years three (3) month bills during the contract period were approximately \$1,900. Edward stated that the money he collects at the gate and for registration is what is used to buy uniforms and pay expenses. Edward stated that due to the time change they would like to use the lights when needed. Mr. Castro stated that practice begin the beginning of October, but games start at the end of October. Alderwoman Vera stated that daylight savings time is November 6th. Alderman Ortiz stated that he feels this should be tabled and we should review things before a decision is made. Alderman Smith asked Mr. Castro what he is requesting is to use the fields and use the lights if needed without a lease. Mr. Castro stated yes, that's correct. Alderman Fernandez asked if the tournaments were also for soccer. Mr. Castro stated, no, that is a separate request from soccer. Alderman Smith stated that the lights are expensive as soon as turned on. Alderman Fernandez asked Mr. Castro if there is insurance. Mr. Castro stated that he does have liability insurance in place. Alderman Frazier asked what the registration fee cost is. Mr. Castro stated they charged \$50 last year and would like to keep the fee's the same for this year. Alderman Ortiz asked if during this time, would there be any tournaments at the fields. Mr. Castro stated there would not be during the soccer program. Nichole Bermea explained that if we allow the lights to used and the cost is pro-rated by days they use the city would still be responsible to pay the remaining balance of the bill. Alderman Frazier made a motion to allow the use of the fields for soccer with no light usage. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Castro asked why the Little League contract states no tournament play on Saturdays. Nichole Bermea explained that the Little League contract has expired, and the keys have been turned in. This request to be on the agenda for "soccer/tournaments" has nothing to do with the Little League contract and a request to discuss the Little League contract would need to be addressed later. Mr. Castro stated that a tournament that is being advertised online is not his. Alderwoman Vera stated that she has been contacted by several community members about the city allowing tournament play on Sundays during church hours. Alderman Ortiz stated again he feels the council needs to review the contracts in place.

10. Discuss/Consider action on issues concerning animal control within the city limits of Natalia. Alderman Smith made a motion to table item #10. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

11. Discuss/Consider action on the Natalia Police Department policy manual. Alderman Smith made a motion to table item #11. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0. Mayor Bluemel stated that he is researching options to expand the city's current animal control facilities.

12. Discuss/Consider action on the city purchasing materials for completion of the remaining 550 feet portion of Palfrey Street. Dana Woodson has agreed to complete the labor at no charge to the City. Mayor Bluemel explained there was confusion during the approval of the previous road project in July. Mayor Bluemel stated he did not realize the measurements for the area of work to be completed were given to Commissioner Beck and then he also gave Commissioner Beck measurements to include this portion of Palfrey Street. The portion is actually El Paso Street, not Palfrey Street. Alderman Frazier stated that he feels that the city needs to do a survey of the street prior to any work being done and if it's going to be done then it should be completed to FM 471. The manhole is not currently centered in the road and there needs to be clarification on proper street path and property lines. Alderman Frazier stated it needs to be done but done properly. Alderman Smith questioned what the total footage would be. Alderman Smith asked Mr. Woodson if he has the proper equipment to complete the project. Nichole Bermea will contact a surveyor for a quote. No action.

13. Discuss/Consider setting a date and time for a Special meeting to discuss Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget, Tax Rate and SRO contract. Alderwoman Selica Vera made a motion to hold a Special


meeting on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0

14. Discuss/Consider request for road closure for the St. John Bosco Catholic Church Festival. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve road closure. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

15. Adjournment. Alderwoman Vera motioned to adjourn at 8:44 pm, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

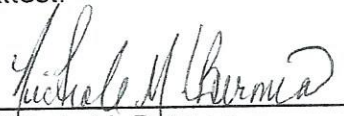
Passed and Approved this 19th day of September, 2022.

Approval:



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

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary

