

CITY OF NATALIA

2078 State Hwy. 132 N. • P.O. Box 270 • Natalia, TX 78059-0270
(830) 663-2926 • Metro (830) 665-2206 • Fax (830) 663-3806

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
29 AUGUST 2022 at 6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bluemel called the regular city council meeting to order at 6:30 pm

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. Discuss/Consider amending the Garbage Rates and providing for an effective date; Nichole Bermea explained that South Texas Refuse Disposal Inc. will take over the city garbage services as of October 1, 2022. Due to increasing fuel prices there is a chance that the rates will be increased and the current franchise fee of 5% will be lowered to 3%. Alderman Frazier made a motion to increase the garbage rates by \$1.00 effective September 15 – October 15th billing cycle, Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Discuss/Consider amending the Utility Rates and providing for an effective date; Nichole Bermea explained the City established a five-year restructuring plan in 2017 for water and sewer rates. The plan will now expire on September 30, 2022. The current tiered-volume increase applied each year is 1.2%. Based on a monthly average of 5,000 gallons a residential customer's water usage would increase by .48 and sewer would increase by .39 for a total of .87. Alderman Fernandez suggested that the city council review the water and sewer tap fees the city currently has in place due to the increase in cost of supplies and materials. Nichole Bermea and Art Smith will work on this and present it to the city council at a future meeting. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to renew the five-year restructuring plan effective September 15 – October 15 billing cycle, Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Discuss/Consider agreement terms between the City of Natalia and the Natalia Independent School District for the employment of two (2) School Resource Officers commissioned by the Natalia Police Department for School Year 2022-2023; Nichole Bermea explained that Natalia ISD is requesting that the City provide (2) two SRO's 190 days. The only changes to the contract are adding an additional SRO, from (1) one to (2) two officers and removing the Peer mediation and Student Safety Programs. The estimated school portion is \$74,616.42 and the City portion is \$24,871.00 for (2) two SRO's vs. \$12,435.50 City portion and \$37,308.21 school portion for (1) SRO. Alderman Frazier asked what about cars? Is the City to supply (2) two cars? Nichole Bermea explained there is no mention of cars in the contract except for the NISD direct payables to include a \$3,000 fuel allowance, Training, (3) three oil changes, (1) one tire rotation, (1) one brake replacement, (1) one belt replacement and up to \$500 additional vehicle maintenance. All of which is the standard direct payables for (1) one SRO. If the city

is to provide (2) two SRO's and (2) two vehicles the direct payables will need to be increased. Alderman Frazier asked why the school wouldn't just want the additional officer for the entire year. Why only 190 days. Mayor Bluemel added that if you counted in the days of summer school and athletic programs throughout the summer it would almost complete the remaining 70 days that the officer would return to patrol for the city. Chief Naff stated that the school pays the officer directly for additional days beyond the 190 days. Nichole explained that if the city council approves this contract the city would be creating a new employee position. Alderman Fernandez asked why anyone from the school wasn't present at the meeting and who are the officers assigned as SRO's. Chief Naff stated that Officer Lopez is assigned as the SRO and Officer Chavez is there now as the second SRO. Alderman Fernandez asked what their qualifications are. Chief Naff stated that Officer Chavez has 20 some years of police background and Officer Lopez started with the City in July and has two years police background. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to table until someone from the school could attend the meeting and answer any questions council may have, Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Discuss/Consider setting a Proposed Tax Rate for Tax Year 2022-2023; and setting a date, time and place for the public hearings and adoption of the tax rate; Alderman Frazier moved to set the proposed tax rate for FY 2022-2023 at \$0.6439 per \$100 and to schedule a public hearing and date to vote on the tax rate for September 19, 2022 at 6:45 pm. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion.

Vote:

Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present; not voting

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Absent

Alderman Mike Fernandez – Yes

Alderman Darin Frazier - Yes

Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Yes

Alderman Selica Vera – Yes

5. Review, Discuss, and Consider revisions of the Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; City council went through the proposed budget items. No action.

6. Discuss/Consider setting a date, time, and place for a Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Proposed Budgets; Alderwoman Vera moved to set the Public Hearing for FY 2022-2023 Proposed Budget for September 19, 2022 at 6.45 pm and to discuss/consider adopting the budget at that time or to postpone consideration. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion.

Vote:

Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present; not voting

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Absent

Alderman Mike Fernandez – Yes

Alderman Darin Frazier - Yes

Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Yes

Alderman Selica Vera – Yes

7. Discuss/Consider approving a Resolution: DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant; Nichole Bermea reminded the city council that Chief Naff reported in May that the AACOG review board approved the city's grant request. This grant would fund (3) three part time officers. A resolution is required designating the Mayor as the authorized representative. Alderman Fernandez asked if the grant was renewable. Chief Naff stated the grant is renewable yearly and there is no match. Alderman Frazier asked how many hours would be covered. Nichole Bermea stated it would cover 35 hours per pay period for three officers to include wages and taxes. Alderman Frazier asked Chief Naff is she could fill the positions, Chief Naff responded saying she could. Alderman Frazier stated we need to get the salary raised to find officers. Alderman Fernandez stated he feels we hire more officers with lesser pay instead of paying the officers we currently have a higher wage. Nichole Bermea stated if the wages are raised all officers will need to be raised. Mayor Bluemel stated that many departments are having issues hiring new officers. Alderman Frazier asked if it was possible to supplement current officer's wages, or to make a part time officer full time. Alderman Fernandez asked Chief Naff if the part time

officer the city has now would consider a full-time position. Chief Naff responded saying he is not interested in full time hours. Alderman Fernandez asked Chief Naff how soon the resolution had to be completed. Chief Naff stated the grant is due to fund on October 1, 2022. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to table until Chief Naff could clarify exactly how the funds could be used, Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Discuss/Consider Standard Response Protocol Memorandum of Understanding with Law Enforcement/ Fire/ EMS; Alderwoman Vera made a motion to approve the memorandum with Chief Naff and Interim City Administrator as the authorized representatives. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
9. Discuss/Consider engaging into a contract with Medina County Elections Officer for the conduct of the November 2022 City of Natalia Elections. Alderman Frazier made a motion to engage in a contract with Medina County Elections Office to conduct the November 2022 City of Natalia Elections. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
10. Discuss/Consider action on issues concerning animal control within the city limits of Natalia; Chief Naff reported the number of dogs that Medina County and Natalia PD have picked up in the last week. Alderwoman Vera suggested the city find another way to get the word out to citizens about containing their dogs in their property. Nichole Bermea stated that it has been printed on the back of the utility bills for months. Alderman Ortiz asked if the owners of the dogs are being held accountable for dogs at large. Chief Naff stated that if they are able to find the owners of the dogs, they have received a citation. Alderman Frazier suggested that a "no dumping" sign be installed. Nichole Bermea will contact the county to see if the county has signs. No Action.
11. Discuss/Consider action on the Natalia Police Department policy manual; Chief Naff submitted a new policy manual for council review. Alderman Frazier asked Chief Naff how much of this new policy manual has changed from the current policy manual. Chief Naff explained that many of the laws have changed since the current policy manual was approved. Mayor Bluemel asked why we can't go through the manual submitted and focus on the items that need to be changed by law. Chief Naff responded yes, but some items need to be attorney approved. Alderman Frazier stated that with the size of policy manual it could take up to five months to completely review, raising attorney fees. Alderwoman Vera wanted to clarify that until this new policy manual is approved the current Natalia PD policy manual is the one in place. Chief Naff responded yes that is correct. Chief Naff will submit each section to be reviewed by the city attorney and then submitted to the city council for approval in the future. No action.
12. Discuss/Consider convening into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters; Alderman Frazier made a motion to convene into executive session at 7:52 pm, Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. The City Council shall meet in Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 to discuss the following:
 - a) §551.074; Personnel Matters

REGULAR SESSION

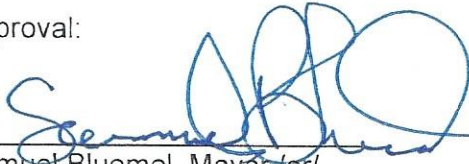
14. The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 8:13 pm, and if necessary, may act on items discussed in Executive Session: No Action.
 - a) §551.074; Personnel Matters

15. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Frazier made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm, Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0.

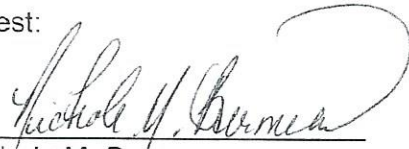
Passed and Approved this 19th day of September, 2022.

Approval:



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

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary

