

CITY OF NATALIA

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**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
19 SEPTEMBER 2022 at 6:45 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro-Tem Smith called the Public Hearing on proposed tax rate open at 6:45 pm. Mayor Bluemel was absent. There were no public comments on the tax rate. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith closed the hearing at 6:49 pm; No action. The Public Hearing on the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget was opened at 7:49 pm. There were no public comments on the annual budget. Alderwoman Vera made a motion to postpone the adoption of the FY 2022-2023 annual budget to the regular city council meeting on September 19, 2022, at 7:00 pm. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0. Mayor Bluemel arrived at the meeting at 6:51 pm and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: Mr. Degalado, a Love's employee commented on the police department doing a wonderful job responding to calls and closing cases. Ms. Morales commented that she has lived here for 10 years, she is a realtor and happy that the city is expanding and improving. Ms. Morales stated the police are working hard, checking on the mobile home park and patrolling. Ms. Morales would like to see the library receive more help and for the city to possibly develop a program to help the library for the kids in the community.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Ortiz is pleased with the help from Medina County Animal Control. Dogs have been an ongoing issue in the city and not always easy to catch. Alderman Smith noticed less dogs and that's good. Alderman Frazier thanked the city staff for the clean-up and grass cutting at the baseball fields. Alderwoman Vera stated there was someone asleep on the library steps and the police need to patrol and monitor the area.

6. 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: 15 August 2022 Regular Meeting
29 August 2022 Special Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: August 2022
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: August 2022
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: August 2022
- e) Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: August 2022

f) Approval of the Police Code Enforcement Activity Report: August 2022
Alderman Frazier made a motion approving the consent agenda. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a) City Administrator/Secretary
Nikki reported Karen is working on the next round of homes for the HOME program. Alderman Ortiz reminded everyone to tell people to apply for the program.
- b) Utility Director had nothing to report.
- c) Chief of Police Naff reported that they have picked up a total of 25 dogs with the help of Medina County. Officer Lopez attended SRO training and is not certified. Alderman Frazier asked the status of the Tahoe's and Chief reported that one should be ready for pick up on Friday September 23rd and the other one will take approximately 70-80 additional hours to complete.
- d) NMDD – Ruby Vera reported that she has spoken to Victor Quiroga about the community center being a joint venture between the NMDD and the city. A 50 x 100, 5,000 sq. ft. building was about \$400/sq. ft. and would cost approximately \$2 million. Ruby also received two other quotes for a 60 x 150 building and concrete that included no plumbing and electrical. Ruby also mentioned installing a walking path around the property is being considered.
- e) Mayor Bluemel reported that the tire re-tread and storage business should be coming by January 2023. It will be a warehouse style building and move in will be quick. No site plans have been submitted yet. They are in the survey process at the time. Alderman Fernandez asked if there was a status update on the travel stop. Mayor Bluemel stated that the city hasn't been contacted since December 2021.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

- 8. Discuss/Consider a Resolution, designating an official newspaper for all city publications for fiscal year 2022-2023. Alderman Smith made a motion designating the Devine Newspaper as the official newspaper for all city publications. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
- 9. 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. NISD Superintendent Piles thanked the City and Police for it's continued support to the district. Mr. Piles stated that having more police presence has made a difference on campus. Mr. Piles thanked Officer Jeremiah Sanchez for going above and beyond on a recent call that occurred after school hours. Officer Sanchez stayed and helped Mr. Piles and he appreciated it. Mr. Piles explained that he had a meeting with Nichole Bermea and Chief Naff and the school is now asking for two (2) SRO's, one for 180 days and one for 240 days. Alderman Frazier asked what vehicles will be required. Mr. Piles stated that the district will be purchasing a utility vehicle for on campus and the city will be required to provide the second vehicle. Alderman Smith asked where the officers go beyond the days required at the school. Nichole Bermea explained that the officers will come back to the city for the remaining days. Alderman Ortiz made a motion to accept the agreement for two SRO's. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
- 10. Discuss/Consider first phase and future new landscaping and water usage at the Veterans Memorial Monument. Ruby Vera, NMDD Chair discussed phase one planning for landscaping at the Veterans Memorial Monument. Ruby explained that with planting new landscaping it will require frequent watering that will cause a high-water usage until the plants are established. Alderman Frazier asked who will do the watering and suggested installing a sprinkler system so the watering won't require hand watering manpower. Alderman Fernandez requested that no hand-watering be

done at noon. Alderman Frazier suggested that a motion be made to include approval of a sprinkler system. Ruby Vera explained that she doesn't have any idea of cost to install and materials. Ruby will get quotes for a sprinkler system for phase two of the landscaping plan. Ruby reminded the council again, that the watering will require high usage. Alderman Smith made a motion to approve phase one to landscape the memorial monument with unlimited water usage. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

11. Discuss/Consider an Ordinance, amending the garbage rates and providing for an effective date. Alderman Smith made a motion to pass ordinance amending the garbage rates beginning with bill cycle September 15 – October 15, November 1, 2022, Bill. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0
12. Discuss/Consider an Ordinance, amending the Five-Year Utility Rate Structure Plan and providing for an effective date. Alderman Smith made a motion to pass ordinance amending the Five-Year Utility Rate Structure Plan beginning with bill cycle September 15 – October 15, November 1, 2022, Bill. Alderwoman Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
13. Discuss/Consider increasing Water and Sewer Tap Fees. Alderman Frazier asked Utility Director Art Smith what the average cost of materials are. Art stated approximately \$800. Nichole Bermea reported what surrounding cities are charging for taps, acquisition and impact fees. Currently the City of Natalia charges CIP fees. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to table the item and Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.
14. Discuss/Consider an annual Service Incentive Pay Policy. Alderman Frazier stated that he feels the employees should be recognized and honored for their hard work and dedication. Three (3) options were discussed based on years of service and incentive amounts. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve option #2, (\$100 for each year of continuous service starting at year (2) two of employment with a maximum payout amount of \$2,000). Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
15. Discuss/Consider status on updates of current Natalia Police Department manual to be submitted to city attorney for review. Mayor Bluemel asked the Chief where we were at with the manual updates. Alderman Frazier stated that it was previously discussed that sections would be submitted for city attorney review and then submitted to council for approval. Chief Naff stated that she will work on it. No action.
16. Discuss/Consider a Resolution; Adopting the Natalia Municipal Development District Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to pass a resolution adopting the Natalia Municipal Development District Proposed Budget for the FY 2022-2023. Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried.; 5-0.
17. Discussion/Consider Ordinance; Ratifying the Adoption of the City of Natalia's Municipal Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Alderman Frazier moved to pass the ordinance adopting the Municipal Budgets for FY 2022-2023 as presented. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Record vote as follows:

Vote:

Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present; not voting
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Yes
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Yes

Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Yes
Alderman Darin Frazier - Yes
Alderman Selica Vera – Yes

18. Discussion/Consider Ordinance; Levying Ad Valorem Taxes for Tax Year 2022-2023 of a Tax Rate of \$0.6439 on each \$100 valuation of property; apportioning tax to the specific purpose; establishing due and delinquency dates; assessment of penalties and interest; and providing for a record vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith: moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.6439, which is effectively a 1.57 percent increase in the tax rate. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

Vote:

Mayor Samuel Bluemel – Present; not voting	Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith – Yes
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Yes	Alderman Darin Frazier – Yes
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – Yes	Alderman Selica Vera – Yes

19. Discuss/Consider setting a date and time for a Special Meeting. Alderwoman Vera made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on September 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

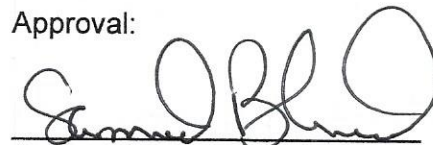
20. **Executive Session:** The City Council will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074, personnel; to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee; to wit: the Chief of Police. The employee may request that all deliberation take place in the public meeting. Alderwoman Vera made a motion to convene into executive session at 8:17 pm. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

21. **Regular Session:** The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 10:20 pm. Alderman Frazier made a motion to place the Chief of Police on a 60 day probation. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

22. **ADJOURNMENT:** Alderman Fernandez made a motion to adjourn at 10:23 pm. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

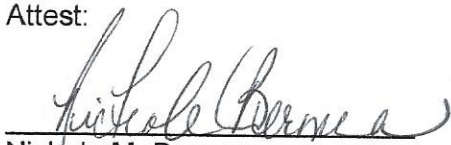
Passed and Approved this 17th day of October, 2022.

Approval:



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

Attest:



Nichole M. Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary