

CITY OF NATALIA

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS 20 NOVEMBER 2023 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:

Alderman Smith voiced concerns about the dogs hanging by the carwash and the restaurants. He requested traps be set. Alderman Frazier congratulated the winners of the election and thanked outgoing Mayor Chip Bluemel. Alderman Fernandez let Art know there is a leak on 8th street. He asked if anyone knew why there was a dog food bag on the fire hydrant and if we knew what the status is on the burn house. Alderwoman S. Vera also stated dogs are hanging out by the catholic church and 3rd & Kearny. Alderwoman Vera thanks the utility guys for their hard work dealing with daily city issues and leaks.

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: 16 October 2023 Regular Meeting
- b) Approval of the Financial Activity Report: October 2023
- c) Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: October 2023
- d) Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: October 2023
- e) Approval of the Police Department/Code Enforcement Activity Report: October 2023

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

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

City Administrator/Secretary- Nikki reported that brush pick up begins the 1st week of December and there is a roll off container available now for residents to use located in the impound lot. The city offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday, November 23-24, 2023. The F-5 appeal has been completed and dismissed. The annual city Christmas Dinner will be held on December 15th at 6:30pm at Hermann Sons Restaurant. Mary Estrada has resigned from the MDD and this leaves an opening on the board that will need to be filled. Nikki did confirm with city attorney Dan Santee that MDD Chair can

still sit on the MDD board and be on the city council should she choose too. The Downtown Christmas lighting December 5, at 6:30 pm. We will be receiving a donation of \$21,827 for new LL score boards from North Park Chevrolet. There will be a check presentation in the next couple of weeks.

Utility Director – Art Smith reported that Rise broadband contractors have been keeping the guys busy. Art reported that every house in the city will have access to the internet. Another crew will begin on December 4th. Alderman Frazier asked if we knew how long this project would take and Art stated he believes close to summer of 2024. Nikki stated they are not allowed to bore or trench after 4:30pm and on Friday's noon during the week and no boring or trenching on weekends or holidays.

Mayor – Mayor Bluemel congratulated the winners of the election and thanked the city council for all their efforts. He feels the city will be in good hands with the new mayor and stated he will always be accessible if anyone needs anything.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ITEMS:

7. A canvass of the votes from the November 7, 2023 general election will be reviewed and accepted; Alderman Frazier made a motion to accept the canvass of votes; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
8. Accept and approve Resolution No. 23-10 declaring the results of the City of Natalia General Election of November 7, 2023. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve and accept resolution 23-10 declaring the results of the city of natalia general election of November 7, 2023. Alderwoman S. Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0. Outgoing Mayor Samuel Bluemel administered the Oath of Office to incoming Mayor Tommy Ortiz. Mayor Tommy Ortiz administered the Oath of Office to Alderwoman Ruby Vera and Alderman Darin Frazier.

At this time, New Mayor Tommy Ortiz took over the meeting. Outgoing Mayor Samuel Bluemel stepped down and newly elected Alderwoman Ruby Vera took her place as the dais.

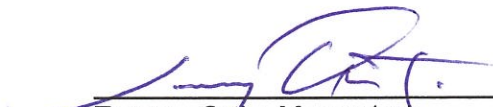
9. Discuss/Consider Resolution 23-09; Allocating votes for the nomination for the Medina County Appraisal District Board for 2024-2025. Alderman Frazier made a motion to allocate all city votes for the city's nomination of Jerry Beck. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
10. Discuss/Consider temporarily closing streets being a portion of Kearny St. between 4th St. and 5th St., and a portion of 5th St. between Kearny and Cresson St., for St. John Bosco Catholic Church Jubilee Festival scheduled on December 3, 2023, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to approve the street closures. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
11. Discuss/Review and Consider the Natalia Little League Lease agreement and sub-leases to individuals to clarify and specify who is or is not eligible to sublease for "for profit" non little league events during in and off season for the duration of the contract. Mayor Ortiz read a brief history of the little league property and topic. Alderman Smith asked the members of the little league board in attendance of the board was aware that Mr. Castro intended to use the property for soccer. Board President Jaime Gomez explained that the board held a meeting and a motion was made that if the city council approved the use, the board would also approve the usage of the fields for soccer, but it had to be approved by the city council first. Alderman Smith asked why this topic was on the agenda and Nikki stated that there needed to be clarification on sub-leasing for non-little league events and discussed with all three parties in attendance. Alderman Frazier asked Jaime if anyone from the board has contacted the IRS in reference to a 501C3 sub-leasing and charging a rental fee. Jaime stated he doesn't appreciate being accused of

anything that the money is used to make improvements to the fields/property and also to pay the monthly electric bill. Edward Castro stood up and asked why he is the only one held accountable and no others who sub-lease. Alderman Smith stated that it was because Edward owed for past electric usage that took two years to pay. Alderman Fernandez suggested that the little league lease be for league season only and this would eliminate the sub-leasing all together and the issues. Alderman Fernandez asked when the league season was. Board member Bobby Contreras stated it is February through July. Alderman Smith asked when soccer was over, and Edward Castro stated around December 12th. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to end the annual contract with the little league and make a contract for little league season months only. Alderman Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.


12. Discuss/Consider lifting Stage 4 Drought Restrictions. Alderman Fernandez made a motion to lift the stage 4 drought restrictions. Alderwoman S. Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
13. Discuss/Consider authorizing the Interim City Administrator to contact city attorney about the National Foam Factory property. Nikki explained that MDD Board member Dorothy Woodson did some research on the history of the foam factory and the conditions of the warranty deed. Nikki explained that the co-owner had requested a zoning change in July 2022 but did not give enough details and it was requested that further detail be given before the planning and zoning could consider the request. No response was given. At this time Nikki would like to ask city attorney Dan Santee to review all documentation and give his opinion on what options the city may take. Alderman Frazier made a motion to authorize Nikki to contact the city attorney to review the documents and give his opinion to the council on what steps if any may be taken. Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
14. Discuss/Consider a Resolution 23-11 authorizing the Mayor to act as the city's executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the city's participation in the HOME program reservation system. Alderman Smith made a motion to approve resolution 23-11. Alderwoman S. Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.
15. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Alderman Fernandez made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Alderwoman S. Vera seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.

Passed and Approved this 22nd day of January, 2024.

Approval:


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

Attest:


Nichole M. Bermea
Interim City Administrator/Secretary



