

**CITY OF NATALIA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
AUGUST 05, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Roll Call

Honorable Ruberta Vera, Mayor – present
Alderman Jaime Gomez – present
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – present

Alderman Sam Smith - present
Alderman Sam Bluemel Jr. – present
Alderman Mike Fernandez – present

Call to order

Mayor Ruberta Vera called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Notice was posted as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551, Texas Government Code). Alderman Jaime Gomez led the pledge of allegiance and Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. the invocation.

Citizens to be heard

- Emilio Flores – 502 6th Street – deferred comments to Item 6.
- Eric Smith – 400 6th Street – deferred comments to Item(s) 6 and 7.
- Sherry Moore – 14780 FM 470 S. – deferred comments to Item(s) 5-9.
- Liz Cargile – 707 Miller – deferred comments to Item(s) 5-9.
- Roger Pedroza – 511 6th Street – deferred comments to Item 9.

City Council Comments

- Mayor Vera announced the birth of twins to Alderman Jaime Gomez and his wife on August 1st.
- Mayor Vera also announced that the City of Natalia entered into Stage III Water Restrictions on July 31, 2013.

Discuss and consider possible action on Medina County conducting animal control in the City of Natalia.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to have Medina County temporarily conduct animal control within the Natalia city limits. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider action on concerns regarding recent complaints received in reference to the Natalia Police Department.

- Sherry Moore – 14780 FM 470 S. – suggested that the City Council consider the safety of the kids going back to school. She also suggested that the City Council a “root cause analysis” or a

“focus group”. Ms. Moore concluded by thanking the Police Department and City Council members for all they do.

- Liz Cargile – 707 Miller – spoke about budget restrictions and asked that Council “get rid of the administrators”.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to table this item until a future agenda. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider action on ratification of Natalia Police Department staffing to include all reserve officers.

- Emilio Flores – 502 6th Street – spoke about the “failure of the City”.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Jaime Gomez and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to move Sgt. Mike Ratterree from the Impound Fund to the General Fund. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider possible action on the submission of the notification of retirement from the Chief of Police.

Mayor Vera read aloud the letter she received from Chief Wayne Morgan announcing his retirement.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz and a second made by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to accept Chief Morgan’s letter of retirement as presented. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider possible action to fill the position of Chief of Police.

- Eric Smith – 400 6th Street – asked that the City Council hire “someone we can trust”.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to have permission to bring forward some of the previous applicants for the position of Chief of Police for Council consideration. The motion carried.

Alderman Tommy Ortiz added that all of the Council need to work together on finding a replacement.

Discuss and consider action to enter into an agreement with Medina County Sheriff’s Office to continue to provide necessary police support to the City of Natalia.

Medina County Sheriff Randy Brown was present and spoke about his department’s continual support of the Natalia Police Department and their willingness to assist in any way needed.

No action was taken.

Discuss and consider action on the extension of Ms. Beth Leonesio, Finance Administrator's contract.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted three (3) for and two (2) opposed with Alderman Mike Fernandez and Alderman Tommy Ortiz casting the negative votes to extend Ms. Leonesio's contract until September 30, 2013 with the reduction in hourly rate of \$20.00 from \$25.00. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider possible action on the 2014 Proposed Budget for the Medina County Appraisal District.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Jaime Gomez, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to disapprove of the Medina County Appraisal District's 2014 Proposed Budget as presented. The motion carried.

City Council gave direction to the City Administrator to draft a resolution to the affect and bring back to the Council for approval on August 19th.

Discuss and consider an alternate date for the presentation of the Proposed FY 2013-14 Operating and Capital Budget.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to move the presentation to 5:30 p.m. on August 19, 2013 in a Special meeting to be followed by the Regular City Council meeting. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) and none (0) to adjourn the Special City Council meeting at 9:06 p.m. on Monday, September 05, 2013. The motion carried.

The minutes approved on the 16th of September, 2013.

A P P R O V E D

RUBERTA C. VERA
MAYOR

Attest: _____
SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Administrator