

**CITY OF NATALIA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
AUGUST 19, 2013
5:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

Roll Call

Honorable Ruberta Vera, Mayor – present
Alderman Jaime Gomez – absent
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 Special City Council meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Notice was posted as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551, Texas Government Code).

Presentation of the 1st Draft of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating and Capital Budget.

City Administrator Sandra Passailaigue presented the 1st Draft of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating Capital Budget. Ms. Passailaigue pointed out that this was just a starting point in order for the Council and staff to work together to develop a very conservative budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Passailaigue pointed out that there will be funds set aside to complete the codification process along with an increase in legal fees in order to bring the current ordinances up to date and also present some where the City is lacking; there is also a slight increase in election fees based on what the City would be paying for the November 2013 election; the Utility Department would like a new truck but the City Administrator would like to hold off on that for one year and possibly use one of the Police Department vehicles that would normally be sold this year. This would allow the City to pay off the current vehicle loan before beginning another. Ms. Leonesio added that the property tax projected revenue is at 93% collection; the effective tax rate is lower by almost \$.03 at 0.9506 compared to last year at 0.9779. Ms. Leonesio added that Franchise Fees had been steadily dropping over the years so those numbers are not available at this time but the City Administrator and Finance Director will be reviewing all franchise agreements over the next several months to see that those fees are paid. The proposed sales tax should be around \$153,000. but we haven't seen what was expected to come from Love's but do anticipate the sales tax revenue to increase and new business' come to Natalia and the revenue from the MDD start to come in. Utility revenues have increased due to Love's and La Pasadita and we expect that to continue. Building Permits and Inspections should increase if development of commercial property begins as we hope. Ms. Passailaigue added that we should see a large increase in revenues in the Municipal Court as we begin attempting to collect unpaid citations, failure to appear fees and outstanding warrants. On to expenditures, the Mayor requested that a budget item be created for fireworks for a City event, a public address system, staff Christmas party and a "Safe Route to School" project that Commissioner Jerry Beck has offered to assist us with.

Discussion and possible action on the 1st Draft of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating and Capital Budget.

No action was taken.

Discuss and consider action on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Ad Valorem Tax Rate.

Mayor Vera announced that the proposed ad valorem tax rate would drop the current tax by \$.03 per \$100 valuation and that public hearing would be held for public input.

Discuss and consider a date, time and place for the public hearings and adoption of the tax rate.

Mayor Vera announced that the first public hearing would be held on August 27, 2013 with a second public hearing being held on September 9, 2013 with the adoption of the tax rate being held on September 16, 2013. This information will be posted in the Devine News as required.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to set the first public hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Ad Valorem Tax Rate on August 27, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. and the second public hearing on September 9, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted four (4) and none (0) opposed to adjourn the Special City Council meeting at 6:31 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2013 and take a ten minute recess before beginning the Regular City Council meeting. The motion carried.

The minutes approved on the 21st of October, 2013.

A P P R O V E D

RUBERTA C. VERA
MAYOR

Attest: _____
SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Administrator

**CITY OF NATALIA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
AUGUST 19, 2013
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

MINUTES

Roll Call

Honorable Ruberta Vera, Mayor – present	Alderman Sam Smith - present
Alderman Jaime Gomez – absent	Alderman Sam Bluemel Jr. – present
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – present	Alderman Mike Fernandez – present

Call to order

Mayor Ruberta Vera called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. Notice was posted as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551, Texas Government Code). Alderman Tommy Ortiz led the pledge of allegiance and Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. the invocation.

Citizens to be heard

None

City Council Comments

- **Medina County Burn Ban** – Mayor Vera reminded everyone that Medina County is under a burn ban for at least ninety (90) days.
- **Presentation of award to SRO Gerry Rogers for outstanding service** – Mayor Vera presented School Resource Officer Gerry Rogers with a certificate of appreciation for his quick response during a recent emergency in the City of Natalia. Mayor Vera also read a letter submitted by Acadian Ambulance Service who thanked the Natalia Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department with their response that evening in July 2013.
- **Presentation of the Natalia Little League – 1st Place District Champs and 3rd Place Regional Winners - Megan Castro, Gabryelle Contreras, Jimena Figueroa, Kyra Keylich, Kaelyn Lara, Halley Manaka, Mackenzie McClellan, Sophia Padilla, Gabi Santoya, Aaliyah Terrazas, Kayla Torres, Trista Vera, Manager Edward Castro, Coach Willa Keith, and Coach Dana Woodson.** – Mayor Vera presented each player and coaches with a certificate of achievement and a Natalia Sentinel Coin. Coach Castro thanked all of the parents for their support. Coach Keith thanked the parents for allowing her to coach their daughters. Coach Woodson thanked Little League President Tommy Ortiz and encouraged the girls to continue to work hard to achieve their goals.

- **Natalia Veterans' Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program presentation to Christine Moore -1st Place; Amanda Hernandez – 2nd Place; Leland Garcia – 3rd Place; and Matthew Hauff – 4th Place in the Summer Reading Program** – Mayor Vera presented certificates of achievement, a gift basket with gift certificate and a Natalia Sentinel Coin to the following participants of the Natalia Veterans' Memorial Library's 2013 Summer Reading Program: 4th Place - Matthew Hauff for reading 5 books; 3rd Place - Leland Garcia for reading 8 books; 2nd Place – Amanda Hernandez (not present); and 1st Place went to Christine Moore for reading 18 books. Mayor Vera encouraged all of the children to continue their reading.

Presentation of the 2012 Audit from Beyer & Co. Certified Public Accountants followed by discussion and possible action.

Wayne Beyer, C.P.A. with Beyer & Co. presented the 2012 City's Annual Financial Report.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to accept the 2012 Annual Financial Report as presented by Beyer & Co. The motion carried.

Presentation followed by discussion and possible action on the annual review and renewal of the Municipal Court Collection Service Agreement between the City of Natalia and Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc. by Terri Neal.

Terri Neal of Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc. gave a presentation before the City Council considered renewal of the contract for Municipal Court Collection Services. Ms. Neal informed the Council that Pioneer has collected a total of \$85,787.61 for the City of Natalia since the first year and \$20,599.60 in outstanding court fines for the City of Natalia. This is at no cost to the City of Natalia except that Pioneer does retain 30% of everything collected. Ms. Neal concluded that the City of Natalia Municipal Court currently has 3,976 outstanding cases totaling approximately \$903,000.00.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to renew the contract for Municipal Court Collection Services with Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc. as presented. The motion carried.

Mayor Vera requested that Item 12 be moved up on this agenda and there was a consensus among the members of Council to approve.

Discuss and consider final approval of the contract for municipal solid waste collection and disposal between the City of Natalia and ACI Recycling & Disposal, Inc.

Blake Caesar of ACI Recycling & Disposal, Inc. presented stating that containers would be delivered next week with the first date of service being September 3, 2013. Mr. Caesar added that he has met with Natalia ISD and this contract should save them \$500 - \$600 a month from what they have been paying. They have designated Tuesdays and Fridays as pick up days for the schools due so that food does not sit too long. A recycle bin will be located at the school for white paper, cans and card board.

ACI has agreed that 100% of the proceeds from the recyclables will go back to the school. Mayor Vera designated those funds for the first year to go towards the purchase of the new playground. All citizens of Natalia and local businesses are invited to donate all those recyclable items to that cause. The City will also receive a 5% franchise fee from the solid waste collection from. Brush will be picked up monthly and bulky item pick up will occur twice annually.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to grant final approval of the contract for municipal solid waste collection between the City of Natalia and ACI Recycling & Disposal, Inc. as presented. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider possible action on the hiring/not hiring of a Chief of Police for the City of Natalia.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted four (4) and none (0) opposed to move forward and hire a new Chief of Police for the City of Natalia. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider possible action to establish a Citizens' Focus Group to assist with the hiring of a new Chief of Police and to bring back recommendations to the City Council.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to have each member of City Council to include the Mayor, appoint a person to sit on a Chief of Police Committee and bring back the names of the top three candidates for Council review. The motion carried.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to amend the previous motion to advertise the position on the City of Natalia website and advertise a salary range. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider approval of the consent agenda as presented or amended.

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes from:
July 15, 2013 Regular Meeting
July 23, 2013 Special Meeting**
- b. Acceptance of the Financial Activity Report**
- c. Acceptance of the Municipal Court Activity Report**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., and a second made by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Request submitted by Elizabeth Cargile on 7-29-2013 to be placed on the 8-19-2013 City Council agenda regarding water shut offs.

Elizabeth Cargile of 707 Miller spoke regarding procedures for water shut offs within the City of Natalia for Natalia water customers. Mayor Vera informed Mrs. Cargile that her concerns would be discussed during upcoming budget workshops.

Discuss and consider possible action on Resolution No. 13-07, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Natalia ordering and establishing procedures for a General Election in the City of Natalia, Texas to elect one Mayor and two Aldermen.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Mike Fernandez, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to adopt Resolution No. 13-07 as presented. The motion carried.

Resolución del consejo municipal de la ciudad de Natalia, ordenando y estipulando los procedimientos para la celebración de una Elección General en la ciudad de Natalia, Texas, para elegir uno mayoral and dos concejales.

Al ser presentada una moción por el Concejal Sam Bluemel, Jr. y secundada por el Concejal Mike Fernández, el Consejo Municipal votó cuatro (4) votos a favor y ninguno (0) en contra para aceptar la Resolución No. 13-07 según enmendada. La moción fue aprobada.

Discuss and consider action on Resolution No. 13-08, a resolution of the City of Natalia disapproving the budget for 2014 for the Medina County Appraisal District pursuant to Section 6.06(b) of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Mike Fernandez, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to adopt Resolution No. 13-08 as presented. The motion carried.

Direction was given to the City Administrator to forward the signed resolution to the appropriate entity.

Discuss and consider possible action on Ordinance No. 13-0819-1, an ordinance establishing a City wide solid waste collection, transportation and disposal program; requiring mandatory participation in the program; prohibiting the collection, conveyance and transport of residential, household, commercial and industrial refuse and solid wastes within the City limits of Natalia, Texas without a franchise agreement; providing for a penalty for violation therefore; and providing for an effective date.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to adopt Ordinance No. 13-0819-1 as presented. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider possible action on Ordinance No. 13-0819-2, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 98-0609 – Drought Management Regulations, Section 2 (4) Drought Stage Conditions; providing for severability; providing for proper notice and meeting; and providing for an effective date.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Mike Fernandez, the City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed to adopt Ordinance No. 13-0819-2 as presented. The motion carried.

Mayor’s Report

a) Reach Broadband Increase

Mayor Vera informed all present that the rates for Reach Broadband (cable) were increasing.

City Administrator’s Report

a) Employee Status

b) 3rd Quarter Newsletter Deadline – August 15th

City Administrator Passailaigue informed all present that Ms. Lori Garcia had resigned as the new utility secretary and that Mrs. Cathy Touchette-Blevins had been hired as the newest utility secretary. Ms. Passailaigue also reminded Council and staff to submit newsletter articles for the newsletter.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted four (4) and none (0) to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 8:39 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2013. The motion carried.

The minutes approved on the 21st of October, 2013.

A P P R O V E D

RUBERTA C. VERA
MAYOR

Attest: _____
SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Administrator