

**CITY OF NATALIA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 09, 2013
7:30 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 7:30 p.m. Notice was posted as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551, Texas Government Code). Alderman Mike Fernandez led the pledge of allegiance and Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the invocation.

Presentation from the Natalia Police Chief Citizen Committee on their recommended candidates for position of Natalia Chief of Police followed by possible Council action.

Mayor Vera announced that the Natalia Police Chief Citizen Committee met on September 5, 2013 and recommended the following candidates for Council consideration: Gilbert Rodriguez, Antonio Saucedo and Richard Martinez.

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 accept the slate of candidates as presented by the Natalia Police Chief Citizen Committee. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider a date and time for the City Council to conduct interviews for the position of Chief of Police.

Alderman Tommy Ortiz thanked the Natalia Police Chief Citizen Committee for their time in reviewing the applications and resumes for the position of Chief of Police.

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 set September 18, 2013 as the date for conducting interviews for the position of Chief of Police with the first interview being set for 6:00 p.m. The motion carried.

Budget Work Session – Presentation of the Water/Sewer Department; Capital Improvements Projects; Police Department and Impound Budget.

City Administrator Saundra Passailaigue and Finance Director Beth Leonesio began the presentation by saying that the Impound Budget has actually been rolled under the General Fund and therefore there will be no proposed "Impound Budget" actually presented. The Police Department Budget will remain as last year for the most part until the new Chief of Police is hired and has an opportunity to access his departmental needs. Ms. Passailaigue added that we can always come back with a budget adjustment later on. Ms. Passailaigue went on to the proposed Water/Sewer Department Budget saying that we are not planning for any major expenditures just yet and that what she would like to do is build up some funds and come back to the City Council mid-year with a budget adjustment if needed. Utility Director Art Smith then stepped up to inform the City Council members that the department is on schedule with the TCDBG project and the Texas Agriculture Department will be sending some representative to inspect the plant in preparation for the next step. Mr. Smith did express his concern with some of the pumps at the lift stations and would like to at least be able to purchase a couple as backups which the Council agreed to.

Presentation of proposed water and sewer fee schedule followed by discussion and possible action.

City Administrator Passailaigue presented a proposed water and sewer fee schedule along with a spreadsheet of comparable rates charged by cities similar in size and structure as the City of Natalia. The presentation included a tier for not only residential customers but commercial customers as well.

Direction was given to the City Administrator to work with Alderman Mike Fernandez on reviewing the rates and fees and bring back a final draft of said proposed rates and fees.

Discuss and consider possible action to amend the Application/Contract for Water & Sewer Services to include due date, late fees, shut offs, NSF fees and water adjustments.

City Administrator Passailaigue presented a revised Application/Contract for Water & Sewer Services in order to bring it up to date (the current form has not been amended since 2005) which would give a better explanation of when payments are due, when services would be shut off for nonpayment, NSF fees, deposits for water, garbage and sewer and disconnection/late charges.

There was a consensus among City Council to make the following amendments: the residential water deposit will be increased from \$100 to \$150; commercial water deposit will be \$200; and termination of service due to nonpayment will be increased from \$25 to \$35.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Jaime Gomez, the City Council voted four (4) and none (0) opposed (Alderman Sam Smith left after the following agenda item) to approve of the amended Application/Contract for Water & Sewer Services as amended. The motion carried.

Second Public Hearing: Proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 of \$.9506 per \$100 of valuation and on the Proposed Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

Mayor Vera opened the Public Hearing at 10:02 p.m.

There being no public comment, Mayor Vera closed the Public Hearing at 10:03 p.m.

Discuss and consider action to set September 16, 2013 as the date for the final vote of the City Council for the purpose of adopting the proposed tax rate and proposed budget.

Mayor Vera read aloud the date of September 16, 2013 as the date for the final vote of the City Council to adopt the proposed tax rate and proposed budget.

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 accept the date as stated. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second by Alderman Jaime Gomez, the City Council voted four (4) and none (0) to adjourn the Special City Council meeting at 10:03 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2013. The motion carried.

The minutes approved on the 18th of November, 2013.

A P P R O V E D

**RUBERTA C. VERA
MAYOR**

Attest: _____
**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Administrator**