

**CITY OF NATALIA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS  
OCTOBER 21, 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 Tommy Gomez led the pledge of allegiance and Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the invocation.

**Citizens to be heard**

- Michael Mendez – 523 Bartlett – spoke about his desire to place a mobile home on his property and expressed his difficulty with the City’s approval procedure.

**City Council Comments**

- **Mayor - Proclamation for Municipal Court Week** - Mayor Vera read aloud a proclamation declaring the week of November 4, 2013 through November 8, 2013 as Municipal Court Week.
- **Mayor - IH 35 Frontage Roads at FM 471 rehabilitation** – Mayor Vera announced that TxDOT will be rehabilitating the frontage roads in and around exit 127. This project should begin in the spring of 2014.
- **Mayor – Veteran’s Day Ceremony and Natalia ISD Assembly** – Mayor Vera reminded everyone that there will be a Veteran’s Day Ceremony held on November 11, 2013 at the Veteran’s Memorial with keynote speaker, Wanda Sparks. The ceremony will be followed by a Natalia ISD Assembly to be held at the school.

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

- a. **Approval of the City Council Minutes from:  
August 19, 2013 Special Meeting  
August 19, 2013 Regular Meeting  
August 27, 2013 Special Meeting**
- b. **Acceptance of the Financial Activity Report**
- c. **Acceptance of the Utility Activity Report**
- d. **Acceptance of the Municipal Court Activity Report**
- e. **Acceptance of the Police Department Activity Report**

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 accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

**200 Ninth Street -- Request by Mr. Dana Woodson - Applicant is petitioning the City of Natalia City Council to grant a variance to the Natalia Zoning Ordinance to allow for a "wooden building that will be converted into a single-family home" located at 200 Ninth Street, Natalia, Medina County, Texas.**

- a) Applicant Presentation**
- b) Staff Presentation**
- c) Comments by Proponents and Opponents**
- d) Applicant Rebuttal**
- e) Question and comments by City Council Members**
- f) Deliberation and City Council findings**

Dana Woodson presented for himself. Citizens Karen Wheeler – 901 Palfrey; and Greg Cargile – 707 Miller spoke in favor of the structure and Mr. Woodson’s plans to remodel it and sale it for use as a single-family home.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second by Alderman Sam Smith, the City Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed with Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. casting the negative vote to grant a variance to allow a wooden building that will be converted into a single-family home to be located at 200 Ninth Street, Natalia, TX 78059. The motion carried and the variance was granted.

**Discuss and consider possible action on the leasing of the Natalia Little League Field outside of Little League Season to include a policy and necessary fees.**

Elizabeth Cargile – 707 Miller spoke about the Little League Agreement with the City of Natalia

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 take no action on this item. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider possible action on a request from Ms. Dora Gonzales to "use the baseball and softball field only for personal recreational purpose during the months of October, November, December 2013 and January 2014.**

Dora Gonzales (no address given) and Lisa Ramirez – 300 Aubrey requested that the City Council consider allowing them and their team to use the Natalia Little League Field for tournaments.

No action was taken on this item.

**Discuss and consider action on the Medina County Appraisal District to submit the Natalia City Council’s nominee for 2014-2015 Board of Directors Election.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to nominate Roy Sheetz to continue to serve on the 2014-2015 Medina County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

**Discuss and consider possible action on Ordinance No. 13-1021-1, an ordinance of the City of Natalia, Texas amending the speed limit on IH 35 frontage roads in Natalia; reducing the existing 55 mph zones within the City limits to 40 mph as recommended by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).**

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 table this item until the November 4, 2013 Special Council meeting once clarification has been made on term of this suggested change has been made. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider possible action on Ordinance No. 13-1021-2, an ordinance of the City of Natalia, Texas amending Section Two of the Water Utility Rate Structure to be effective with the consumption for the month of October 2013 as adopted with the 2013-2014 Annual Budget for the City of Natalia, Texas.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to leave the residential water rates as they were presented and adopted in September 2013 which was \$.20 per 100 gallons from 5001 10,000 gallons and not adopt Ordinance No. 13-1021-2 changing the rate to \$.25 per 100 gallons from 5001 – 10,000 gallons. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider possible action on Resolution No. 13-10, a resolution of the City of Natalia City Council designating the Devine News as the City of Natalia's official newspaper for posting of public and legal notices.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Mike Fernandez, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to accept Resolution No. 13-10 as presented. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider possible action to declare the Natalia Police Department Tow Truck surplus and begin accepting bids for sale.**

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 declare the Natalia Police Department Tow Truck as surplus and post for the acceptance of bids for its sale with a starting bid of \$6,000.00. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider possible action on the call for volunteers for the 2014 Bluebonnet Festival Committee with first meeting being held at City Hall on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Vera announced that there would be a meeting Monday, October 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. for all those who wish to volunteer for the 2014 Bluebonnet Festival Committee. The 2014 Bluebonnet Festival has been set to occur on March 29, 2014.

**Mayor's Report:**

- a) Food Policy Council**
- b) December 7, 2013 Market Day**

Mayor Vera informed all present that the Food Policy Council would be holding Market Day on November 9, 2013 instead of November 2, 2013 due to the Fall Festival that is scheduled for that day. There will also be a yard sale from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 19340 Blum Drive in Lytle with all proceeds going to the Medina County Food Council and Pantry. Mayor Vera also informed all that on December 7, 2013 will be the Natalia Market Day which will also include a Christmas Bazar.

**City Administrator's Report:**

- a) Staff Update – Letty Cardenas resignation – now hiring Court Clerk and two Utility Field Staff.**
- b) Codification Process Update – Still in legal review....hope to have a first draft in early 2014 for OUR legal review.**
- c) Family Movie Night – Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6p – Despicable Me.**

City Administrator Passailaigue informed all present that Letty Cardenas has resigned as the Municipal Court Clerk. Ms. Passailaigue added that the City is currently hiring for the one Municipal Court Clerk position as well as two Utility Field Staff positions; Ms. Passailaigue updated the Council on the status of the codification process saying that it is still in legal review with Municode and that we should have a preliminary draft early in 2014; and that Family Movie Night hosted by the Library would be held at City Hall Council Chambers on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second by Alderman Jaime Gomez, the City Council voted five (5) and none (0) to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 9:06 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2013. The motion carried.

**The minutes approved on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2013.**

**A P P R O V E D**

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**RUBERTA C. VERA  
MAYOR**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC  
City Administrator**