

**CITY OF NATALIA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS  
NOVEMBER 18, 2013  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Roll Call**

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

**Call to order**

Mayor Ruberta Vera called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 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**

- Alderman Jaime Gomez thanked the Council members, citizens and staff for the opportunity to serve them as Alderman for the last two years.

**City Council Comments**

**Mayor - Proclamation for Municipal Court Week** - Mayor Vera read a proclamation declaring the week of November 4 – 8, 2013 as Municipal Court Week.

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

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes from:  
September 09, 2013 Special Meeting  
September 18, 2013 Special Meeting  
September 30, 2013 Special Meeting  
October 21, 2013 Regular 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.

**Presentation to Alderman Jaime Gomez in appreciation for his years of service to the City of Natalia.**

On behalf of the entire City Council, Mayor Ruby Vera presented Alderman Jaime Gomez a plaque in appreciation of his service to the City of Natalia as Alderman from 2011-2013.

**Administer Oath of Office to newly elected City Officials.**

Medina County Judge, James Barden administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Ruby Vera, Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and Alderman Ruben Juarez.

**Discuss and consider action on the appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to re-appoint Sam Smith as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action on the appointment Municipal Court Judge Richard Loza and Alternate Judge Jason Cruz.**

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 to a future agenda. The motion carried.

**Presentation from Chief of Police on the employment of Cecil Hunter to the Natalia Police Department with possible Council action.**

Chief of Police, Gilbert Rodriguez introduced new hire Police Officer, Cecil Hunter.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to affirm the hiring of Officer Cecil Hunter to the Natalia Police Department. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action to authorize the City Administrator to upgrade the security system at City Hall.**

City Administrator, Sandra Passailaigue presented this item asking that Council approve of a \$6,194.00 upgrade to the security cameras at City Hall. The current system would then be moved over to the library. This upgrade would be funded with the assistance of the Court Security Funds.

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 authorize the City Administrator to move forward with the security upgrade as presented. The motion carried.

**Mayor's Report:**

- a. Downtown Natalia Christmas Lighting Event – December 2, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.**
- b. Farmer’s Market & Christmas Bazaar – December 7, 2013 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
- c. Haywood Park Update**

Mayor Vera reported the following: a) there will be a lighting of downtown Natalia on December 2, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. All business owners are encouraged to decorate. Students from Natalia ISD will be singing carols and Santa Claus will visit with children at City Hall after his arrival on a fire truck; b) December’s Farmer’s Market will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> along with a Christmas Bazaar; c) Medina County Commissioner Jerry Beck and his crew will be working to clear Haywood Park and we are looking for volunteers to form a committee to get the park project moving along.

**City Administrator’s Report:**

- a. Lift Station Pumps**
- b. Upcoming Holiday Closures**
- c. Water Bill Notices**
- d. Employee Status**
- e. Bulk pickup**
- f. Staff Christmas Luncheon**

City Administrator Passailaigue reported the following: a) the 2 pumps Council approved to be purchased for back up at the lift stations have arrived; b) City Hall and the Municipal Court will be closed on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving; c) we are using the backside of the water bills as a way of informing the community of important events and dates such as water bill due dates, shut off dates, brush pick up and City closures. We hope everyone gets used to looking here for important notices and that they find it helpful; d) Joe Arellano will be coming back to work as our new Code Compliance Officer; e) Bulk pick up will begin Monday, December 2, 2013; and f) the City Staff Christmas party will be a luncheon held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 from noon to 2:00 p.m. We will be shutting down the office during this time.

**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 Regular City Council meeting at 7:43 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013. The motion carried.

**The minutes approved on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013.**

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

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**RUBERTA C. VERA  
MAYOR**

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