

**CITY OF NATALIA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS  
DECEMBER 16, 2013  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Roll Call**

Honorable, Ruberta Vera, Mayor – present  
Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. – present  
Alderman Mike Fernandez – present

Alderman Sam Smith – present  
Alderman Tommy Ortiz – 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).

**Citizens to be heard**

None

**City Council Comments**

- Alderman Mike Fernandez thanked the Natalia Volunteer Fire Department for all they do and specifically in their quick response to a house fire in Natalia.
- Mayor Vera thanked Chief of Police Rodriguez for all he has done in a short time as Chief calling him a “breath of fresh air”.

**Swearing in of Judge Richard Loza and Alternate Judge Jason Cruz.**

Mayor Vera administered the Oath of Office to Municipal Court Judge Richard Loza for an additional two year term. Judge Loza has served the City of Natalia as Municipal Court Judge for the last thirteen years. Alternate Judge Jason Cruz was not in attendance and will be sworn in at the January 2014 Regular City Council meeting.

**Acknowledgement of Maria Sanchez for receiving the Alamo Area Council of Government (AACOG) Regional Citizen of the Year Award.**

Mayor Vera recognized Maria Sanchez for all she does for the community and said how deserving Ms. Sanchez is of the Regional Citizen of the Year Award as presented by AACOG. This appreciation was echoed by a standing ovation by members of Council and guests.

**Presentation and acceptance of a \$500.00 donation to the City of Natalia from ACI, Inc.**

Mayor Vera informed everyone of a \$500.00 donation to the City from ACI, Inc. as stated in the contract between the City and ACI, Inc. that would be an annual donation by ACI, Inc. for the City to put towards the charity of the Council's choice.

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 dedicate and forward the \$500.00 to the Second Annual St. Vincent De Paul Operation Santa Program. The motion carried.

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

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes from:  
November 18, 2013 Regular Meeting**
- b. Acceptance of the Code Compliance Activity Report**
- c. Acceptance of the Financial Activity Report**
- d. Acceptance of the Municipal Court Activity Report**
- e. Acceptance of the Police Department Activity Report**
- f. Acceptance of the Utility 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 by Finance Director, Beth Leonesio of the end of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Financial Report; followed by discussion and possible action.**

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 accept the End of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Financial Report as presented. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider a request by Mr. Stephen Mattathill to temporarily place and occupy a travel trailer behind Beverage Express located at 2399 State Hwy. 132 North, Natalia, Texas.**

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 grant a six (6) month variance expiring May 2014 allowing Mr. Mattathill to temporarily place and occupy a travel trailer behind Beverage Express located at 2399 State Hwy. 132 North, Natalia, Texas with the ability to come back to City Council for an extension of said variance. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action on establishing Animal Control Services for the City of Natalia.**

Chief of Police Rodriguez presented this item asking for Council's permission to pursue a certified animal control officer using the remaining \$3,000 that was budgeted for animal control services.

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 authorize the Chief of Police to move forward with his plan to hire a part time animal control officer with the remaining funds. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action to rename the budgeted position of Police Department Sergeant to Sergeant/Investigator as requested by the Chief of Police.**

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 rename the Natalia Police Department's budgeted position of Sergeant to Sergeant/Investigator as requested by the Chief of Police. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action giving the Chief of Police guidelines for the Reserve Officer Force.**

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 place a cap of five (5) reserve officers to be hired by the Chief of Police and assigned accordingly. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action on Police Department inventory discrepancies.**

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 authorize the Chief of Police to continue to decipher the inventory and bring back results of said inventory as well as to move forward to correct any discrepancies using necessary means. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action to amend the current TML-IRP contract to increase coverage for Reserve Officers.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to increase the current TML-IRP contract to increase coverage for the maximum of five (5) reserve officers. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action on the possible renewal of the agreement between the City of Natalia and the Natalia Little League.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. and a second made by Alderman Mike Fernandez, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorizing the City Administer to issue a forty-five (45) day notice of termination of the current license agreement between the City of Natalia and the Natalia Little League. The motion carried.

City Council directed City Administrator, Passailaigue to set up a meeting between City Council and the new Natalia Little League to discuss a future agreement to be brought back to a future agenda for consideration.

**Discuss and consider action on Ordinance No. 13-1216-1, an ordinance regulating solicitors of services, funds, or property for commercial and non-profit purposes regarding additional exemptions to the permitting and bonding requirements and identification badges.**

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 adopt Ordinance No. 13-1216-1 as captioned and presented. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action to set a date, time and location for the annual City Council retreat.**

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 set December 30, 2013 as a deadline to submit to the Mayor dates, times and a proposed location for the 2014 City Council retreat. The motion carried.

**Mayor's Report:**

- a. AEP Rates**
- b. City Administrator's Annual Evaluation**

Mayor Vera reported the following: AEP plans to lower rates to \$0.16 or \$0.18 in the upcoming year; also that the City Administrator's annual evaluation will be held in January.

**City Administrator's Report:**

- a. Employee Update**
- b. TxCDBG Update**
- c. Upcoming Holiday Closures**
- d. Staff Christmas Luncheon**
- e. Natalia Police Department Tow Truck**

City Administrator Passailaigue reported the following: a) Court Clerk Nikki Bermea completed a week long Municipal Court Boot Camp in Austin, TX last week. Came back with a lot of great information and ways to update and improve the Court. Ms. Bermea will be testing for her Level I Court Clerk Certification within the next few weeks. We also have an addition to the Utility Department as Mr. Leo Luevano has joined the team. Leo brings a lot of experience with him and we all look forward to working with him. b) We are right on track with the Texas Community Block Grant Project and will be bringing an item to the Regular January Council Meeting for the Council to consider approval of the bid the project. We will also be submitting the plans and specifications to TCEQ for review in January. c) City Offices and Municipal Court will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas and January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's. d) The annual Staff Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 from noon to 2:00 p.m. We will be shutting down the office during this time. e) We did not receive any bids for the Natalia Police Department Tow Truck so we will be advertising a new bid opening on Craig's List and in the Newspaper in the month of January.

**Adjournment**

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 adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 8:47 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2013. The motion carried.

**These minutes were approved on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.**

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

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**RUBERTA C. VERA  
MAYOR**

**Attest:** 

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**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC  
City Administrator**