

**CITY OF NATALIA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS  
JANUARY 20, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Roll Call**

Honorable, Ruberta Vera, Mayor – present	Alderman Sam Smith – 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).

**Citizens to be heard**

- Dr. Guillermo Mancha, Jr. - Natalia ISD Superintendent – spoke in regards to the need of directional signs on Eighth Street near school campus.
- Liz Cargile – 707 Miller – spoke in regards to the safety of the children on Eighth Street near the school campus.
- Eric Smith – Natalia ISD Board President – spoke about the signage on Eighth Street near the school campus and also thanked Chief Rodriguez for being “visible” throughout the City.

**City Council Comments**

- Mayor Vera announced that there will be a power outage on January 21, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. for about five minutes. This is due to service being conducted by AEP.
- Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. congratulated staff on a job well done by all in improving services and the image of the City.
- Alderman Tommy Ortiz also complemented staff on their good work
- Alderman Mike Fernandez informed all that the signs near the school campus would be replaced once everything needed was complete.

**Swearing in of Alternate Judge Jason Cruz**

Mayor Vera administered the Oath of Office to Alternate Municipal Court Judge Jason Cruz.

**Update by Phillip A. Ruiz, Community Development Management Company, Inc. and Klein Engineering on the Wastewater Treatment Plant System Improvement.**

Mr. Ruiz gave Council a brief update on the project and stated that we were on target with the project and that we are on schedule as previously presented.

**Discuss and consider action authorizing the City Administrator and Community Development Management Company, Inc. to move forward with the bid process for the TxCDBG Project.**

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 move forward with the publication to go out for bid for the TxCDBG Project as scheduled. The motion carried.

**Presentation from Young Professional Resources and its Associates on a proposal to sale the City of Natalia's recycled wastewater for beneficial uses.**

Mr. Leonard Young and Associates gave a brief presentation on how the City of Natalia could benefit from the sale of its recycled wastewater.

**Discuss and consider action authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to work with Young Professional Resources and its Associated in determining the feasibility of selling the City of Natalia's recycled wastewater for beneficial uses. Furthermore, the Mayor and City Administrator will report findings to the City Council and bring forward any viable proposal for the City Council's consideration and action.**

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 authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to move forward with Young Professional Resources and Associates as stated. The motion carried.

**Employment update from Chief of Police Rodriguez and the introduction of Melissa Smith, Animal Control Officer followed by possible discussion.**

Chief Rodriguez introduced Animal Control Officer, Melissa Smith who began employment with the City of Natalia on January 2, 2014. Ms. Smith does have her basic animal control certification and is currently working on her advanced certification. Ms. Smith informed the Council that since her start date she has captured eighteen (18) dogs and six (6) cats. One (1) dog has been claimed by its owner.

**Presentation by Nikki Bermea, Municipal Court Clerk regarding the state of the Natalia Municipal Court and outstanding cases and the collection of those cases; followed by discussion and possible action.**

Municipal Court Clerk Bermea gave a brief presentation on the state of the Natalia Municipal Court pointing out that the outstanding past due court fines were not exactly the amount previously pointed out by Pioneer. Ms. Bermea, along with the aid of the part-time Municipal Court Clerk are sending out letters and collecting past due fines. The City Administrator and Municipal Court Clerk expressed to the Council that it is felt that the collection company is not needed at this time and that it is desired to do the collections in house at this time.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to terminate the contract between the City of Natalia and Pioneer for the collection of past due municipal court fines. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action on the renewal of the License Agreement between the City of Natalia and the Natalia Little League.**

The City Council authorized the Mayor and City Administrator to work with the Natalia Little League to draft a new license agreement and bring it back to Council for consideration.

**Discuss and consider action on safety concerns on 8<sup>th</sup> Street area by the school.**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz and a second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to authorize the City Administrator to draft an ordinance for the placement of directional signs on Eighth Street near the Natalia ISD campus as discussed and to bring back an ordinance for consideration. The motion carried.

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

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes from:  
December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting**
- b. Acceptance of the Code Compliance Activity Report**
- c. Acceptance of the Financial Activity Report**
- d. Acceptance of the Natalia Veteran's Library Report**
- e. Acceptance of the Municipal Court Activity Report**
- f. Acceptance of the Police Department Activity Report**
- g. Acceptance of the Utility Department Activity Report**

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 consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Alderman Sam Smith complemented Utility Director Art Smith and his staff for the decrease in water loss.

**Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 First Quarter Financial Report.**

Finance Director, Beth Leonesio presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 First Quarter Financial Report. Ms. Leonesio told the Council that the MDD Fund is at \$21,000 which is a considerable amount more than expected. These funds may only be used for municipal development; the security camera system has been replaced and this project was paid out of the Court Security Funds; the Utility Fund is in really good shape;

**Discuss and consider action on Ordinance No. 14-0120-1, an ordinance authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a Service Agreement with TrafficPayment.com for online payments for Utility payments and Municipal Court fine payments.**

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 City Administrator to enter into an agreement with TrafficPayments.com as presented. The motion carried.

**Discuss and consider action on Ordinance No. 14-0120-2, an ordinance of the City of Natalia Code of Ordinances repealing Ordinance No. 10-0517-1 and placing the Police Department and Chief of Police under the purview of the Office of the City Administrator.**

No action was taken.

**Discuss and consider action on Resolution No. 14-01, a resolution of the City of Natalia, Texas declaring certain City equipment obsolete and surplus property and authorizing the liquidation of said obsolete and surplus equipment.**

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 accept Resolution No. 14-01 as presented. The motion carried.

**Update on the results of the bidding for the Natalia Police Department Tow Truck.**

City Administrator Passailaigue informed the City Council that a few calls of interest were received but no bids. Council agreed that the next step would be the auction and approved of the Chief of Police moving forward with that in order to sale the tow truck.

**The City Council shall meet in Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 *Personnel Matters* to discuss the following:**

- **To conduct annual evaluation of City Administrator, Sandra Passailaigue as required by contract.**

The City Council entered into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.

**Reconvene into Regular Session and take action and/or give staff direction, if necessary, on items discussed in Executive Session.**

The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 9:55 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Sam Smith and a second made by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to offer Sandra Passailaigue an extended contract of one (1) year as City Administrator/City Secretary with a three percent (3%) pay increase. The motion carried.

**Mayor's Report:**

- a. **February 8, 2014 City Council Planning Session**
- b. **Bluebonnet Festival Update**

Mayor Vera informed the members of City Council that after receiving no responses for a date and time selection for the annual planning session she made the decision to set the date for Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. here at City Hall. Mayor Vera also updated everyone on the progress of the planning for the 2014 Bluebonnet Festival saying that things were falling into place and encouraging citizen participation.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Alderman Samuel Bluemel, Jr. and a second by Alderman Mike Fernandez, the City Council voted five (5) and none (0) to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 9:59 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2014. The motion carried.

**The minutes approved on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014.**

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

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**RUBERTA C. VERA**  
MAYOR

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