

**CITY OF NATALIA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2078 STATE HWY 132 NORTH, NATALIA, TEXAS
MARCH 17, 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). Alderman Sam Smith led the pledge of allegiance and Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr. the invocation.

Citizens to be heard

- Fernando Corona – 615 Fourth Street – Mr. Corona asked the City Council to consider placing speed bumps at the intersection of Fourth and Aubrey.

City Council Comments

None

Mayor’s presentation of a proclamation declaring the week of April 13-19, 2014 as National Library Week.

Mayor Vera read aloud a proclamation declaring the week of April 13-19, 2014 as National Library Week in the City of Natalia.

Mayor’s presentation of a proclamation declaring the month of April, Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Vera read aloud a proclamation declaring the month of April 2014, Child Abuse Prevention month in the City of Natalia.

Chief of Police Introduction of Reserve Officer Rene Cervantes, Jr.

Chief of Police, Gilbert Rodriguez introduced the newest Reserve Officer, Rene Cervantes, Jr. to the City Council and audience.

Request by Ann Marie Juarez of 404 Seventh Street, Natalia, TX for the City Council to consider a special meeting for the purpose of a variance to the Zoning Ordinance.

Ms. Ann Marie Juarez asked for City Council consideration to hold a special City Council meeting for the purpose of hearing her variance request. The reason being that there is a deadline on the loan they are attempting to get on the purchase of a new mobile home they wish to purchase and that the regular April City Council meeting would be too late.

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 with Alderman Ruben Juarez abstaining from the vote to consider holding a special City Council meeting as requested by Ms. Juarez. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider action to change the date for the May 2014 Regular City Council meeting.

Due to a scheduling conflict for Alderman Smith the City Council considered dates for the purpose of rescheduling the Regular City Council for the month of May 2014.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and as second made by Alderman Sam Bluemel, Jr., the City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed to move the Regular City Council meeting from May 19, 2014 to May 20, 2014 at the same time of 7:00 p.m. The motion carried.

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

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes from:
February 17, 2014 Regular Meeting**
- b. Acceptance of the Animal Control Activity Report**
- c. Acceptance of the Code Compliance Activity Report**
- d. Acceptance of the Financial Activity 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**

Mayor Vera requested that Item b and f be pulled from the agenda for discussion.

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 Items a, c, d, e and g of the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

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 Items b and f of the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried

Utility Director Smith's update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant System Improvements and water main repair at Fort Ewell Creek.

Utility Director, Art Smith gave City Council a brief update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant System Improvement Project saying that we are on schedule and that the State had been out to the plant recently going over details of the project. Mr. Smith added that the four month conference call had not occurred as stated on the schedule of events but that we are just waiting for the date and time of that call to be given to the engineer by the State. Mr. Smith also updated City Council on a water main repair that was done at Fort Ewell Creek that had been there for what seems to have been a while that has now been repaired. The water loss should be greatly decreased by this repair and should be reflected in next month's Utility Department Activity Report.

Discuss and consider action on Ordinance No. 14-0317-1, an ordinance of the City of Natalia, Texas adopting certain 2009 and 2011 International Codes and standards and local amendments thereto; providing for a repealer, severability, cumulative; and savings clauses and providing an effective date.

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 adopt Ordinance No. 14-0317-1 as captioned and presented. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider action on Ordinance No. 14-0317-2, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Natalia, Texas regulating the keeping of cats, dogs and other animals so defined herein as domestic pets within the city limits of Natalia, Texas; providing for the appointment of an animal control officer; providing for vaccination, licensing and impounding of cats, dogs and/or other domestic pets as defined herein; providing for definitions of vicious and nuisance animals; providing rules and regulations for domestic animals running large; providing control for domestic animals and pets that have bitten persons; providing a penalty for violations of this ordinance; and providing for an effective date.

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 adopt Ordinance No. 14-0317-2 as captioned and presented. The motion carried.

Discuss and consider action on Ordinance No. 14-0317-3, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Natalia, Texas amending the City of Natalia Personnel Policy Manual, Chapter 4.5 Policy on Holidays; providing for a repealer, severability and establishing an effective date.

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 adopt Ordinance No. 14-0317-3 as presented and by adding the Friday after Thanksgiving to the list of official holidays. The motion carried.

Acceptance of resignation of City Administrator, Sandra Passailaigue.

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 accept the resignation City Administrator, Sandra Passailaigue. The motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

- a. Update on the March 9th Barbeque Benefit for Officer Mireles in Sabinal, TX**
- b. Update on the Bluebonnet Festival**
- c. Haywood Park Committee**
- d. IH 35/FM 471 Construction Project Update**
- e. April 3, 2014 Special Meeting**

Mayor Vera announced that a) the "Friends" of Officer Ben Mireles held a benefit barbeque for him in Sabinal, TX on March 9th which generated \$1600.00 in sales. The proceeds from the benefit were given to the Mireles family; b) Mayor Vera invited all Council members and citizens to the next meeting which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20th to discuss preparations for the festival. So far 30 parade entries have been submitted but more are encouraged; c) Mayor Vera asked again for everyone to pass on to friends and neighbors that the Haywood Park project is ready for the next phase which is development. Mayor Vera is still looking for volunteers to serve on the Haywood Park Committee and were encouraged to contact her; d) the IH 35/FM 471 construction project began on March 10th; and e) a Special City Council meeting has been set for 7:00 p.m. for the consideration of a variance as requested by Ann Marie Juarez earlier this evening as well as to wrap up any final items from City Administrator, Sandra Passailaigue.

City Administrator's Report:

- a. Natalia Newsletter – 2nd Quarter (April, May, June).**

City Administrator, Sandra Passailaigue informed the City Council that she did not receive one article for the newsletter and suggested that they re-visit the newsletter with the new city administrator to see if it is even a desire to continue having it.

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

a) Interview and possible hiring of a new City Administrator/City Secretary.

The City Council entered into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Reconvene into Regular Session and take action on issues discussed in Executive Session if necessary.

The City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 9:01 p.m.

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 offer Lisa S. Hernandez the position of City Administrator/City Secretary with a two year contract, salary of \$52,500 with health, vision and dental benefits for herself effective immediately. The motion carried.

Ms. Lisa Hernandez stated that she would gladly accept the offer and position of City Administrator/City Secretary.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Alderman Mike Fernandez and a second by Alderman Tommy Ortiz, the City Council voted five (5) and none (0) to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 9:03 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2014. The motion carried.

The minutes approved on the 3rd of April, 2014.

A P P R O V E D

RUBERTA C. VERA
MAYOR

Attest: _____
SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Administrator/City Secretary