

City of Natalia, Texas
Special City Council Meeting
April 28, 2014 at 7:00pm
Minutes

Roll Call: Mayor Ruby Vera - present Alderman Sam Bluemel - present
Alderman Tommy Ortiz - present Alderman Sam Smith - present
Alderman Ruben Juarez - present Alderman Mike Fernandez - absent

Call to Order:

- 1) Mayor Vera called the special city council meeting to order at 7:04 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Alderman Sam Smith.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- 2) Mayor Vera presented a Certificate of Recognition to Natalia High School student, Jorge Saldana, for his achievements as 2nd Place State of Texas winner and U.S. National Powerlifting winner for the 123 Pound Weight Class for 2014.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 3) Discussion/Consider Action of Budget Reallocation of Funds for FY 2013-15 Budget.
Discussion: Finance Officer B. Leonesio explained at the end of six-months the City has an opportunity to review the City's year to date revenues and expenses for reallocation. The proposed reallocation adjustments to the General Fund Revenue are \$652,170.76 with prior year transfer from court security funds; and the General Fund Expenses are \$652,170.76 which is expected to be met by the end of the fiscal year.
Proposed Reallocation Review - Revenue:
Court Fees/Fines – Decrease from \$150,000.00 to \$142,000.00 (Traffic Fines Issuance Reduced)
Misc. Rev-NSF & PIA – Increase from \$200.00 to \$400.00
Proposed Reallocation Review – Expenses:
Legal Fees – Decrease from \$12,000.00 to \$10,000.00 (Reduced Legal Utilization)
Election Exp – Decrease from \$10,000 to \$0.00 (No Election was held in November 2013)
Employee Health Ins. Gen. – Decrease from \$15,858.23 to \$15,300.00
Employee Health Ins. PD – Decrease from \$15,971.60 to \$13,000.00 (Position Open)
Insurance W.C. Gen. – Increase from \$754.37 to \$821.00 (TWC Rate Increased to 2.3%)
Insurance W.C. PD – Decrease from \$6,522.80 to \$5,200.00 (TWC Rate Increased to 2.3%, however, a position is open)
Computers/Software Gen. – Increase from \$3,124.72 to \$5,000.00 (2-Windows 7 Upgrade)
Utilities-Bldg & Street Lights – Increase from \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00
R&M NPD Vehicles – Increase from \$5,000.00 to \$6,500.00 (Age of vehicles requires more upkeep and repairs)
Police Vehicle Fuel – Decrease from \$32,028.58 to \$15,000.00 (Reduced Traffic/Patrol Use)
Police Dept. Uniforms – Increase from \$1,800.00 to \$2,100.00 (New Officer Uniform Costs)
Fuel – Admin & Code Compliance – Increase \$2,300.00 to \$2,600.00 (Removed Mileage Cost of \$300.00 to Fuel Costs, use of city vehicle substitutes paying employees mileage for own car.)
Code Compliance Uniforms – Unbudgeted Expense Allocated \$170.00 (New position, include in uniform cleaning)
R&M Gen/Admin Vehicle – Unbudgeted Expense Allocated \$500.00 (Regular use of Code Compliance Vehicle and Admin. Vehicle)

Wages NPD – Increase from \$140,925.30 to \$165,782.00 (Increase in staffing positions)
Wages Gen. – Increase from \$128,487.30 to \$147,500.00 (Staffing & Certification Increase)
Animal Control – Increase from \$3,000.00 to \$11,910.00 (From Contract to Part-Time)
Council Stipend – Decrease from \$1,800.00 to \$0.00 (Moved funds to Other Expense)

Alderman Bluemel questioned if the costs for Court Fees/Fines should be reduced more, if comparing to the six months actual collected of \$47,768.27. Finance Officer B. Leonesio explained that predicting the costs collected in fees and fines is determined on police activity, and with possible additional staff activity may increase; distribution can be adjusted at another review of actuals-to-date before the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Vera expressed to City Council that any remaining funds is requested to be allocated to Street Maint./Repair Gen. to purchase material for the Proposed 8th Street Project (from FM-471 to Kearney) which labor and equipment assistance has been discussed with County Commissioner Beck, and to be requested assistance from CRG Engineers. Alderman Bluemel mentioned a company wishing to offer their estimates for project. City Administrator Hernandez stated the project is not going for proposals, this an in-house project with assistance from the county at no labor or equipment costs to the city.

The proposed reallocation adjustments to the Utility Fund Revenues are \$570,300.00 with a transfer in from reserves for the grant; and the Utility Fund Expenses are \$573,001.50 including the WWTP Grant expenses, and expected to be met by the end of the fiscal year.

Proposed Reallocation Review - Revenue:

Garbage Service – Decrease from \$131,200.00 to \$110,000.00 (Estimates were made prior to new service company)
Building Permits/Inspections – Increase from \$5,000.00 to \$6,500.00 (Revenue to broken out to separate inspections because revenues are a wash to expenses which are actual inspector costs.)

Proposed Reallocation Review – Expenses:

Utilities Sewer Lift Station – Increase from \$23,000 to \$28,000.00
R&M Sewer – Increase from \$15,141.79 to \$22,026.00 (ACI costs for the sludge disposal roll-offs has increased drastically due to daily use charges rather than a flat monthly fee.)
Sludge Removal – Increase from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00
Lab Samples – Decrease from \$9,500.00 to \$8,000.00
Wages Water Maint. – Increase from \$142,067.00 to \$154,550.00 (Split 50% City Admin. Salary)
Garbage Service – Decrease from \$122,298.00 to \$87,680.00 (Based on previous service costs)

Motion: Alderman Smith made a motion to approve the reallocation of funds for Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budgets. Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

Vote: 4-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

- 4) **Discussion/Consider Action of Ordinance No. 14-0421-1; Establishing construction requirements; requiring contractor registration, permits and inspection, setting a fee schedule; providing for a repealer; severability, and an effective date.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez made revisions to the proposed ordinance based on discussions made at the previously held regular city council meeting. Revisions eliminated permits for replacing existing fences or roofs, and only requiring a permit for outdoor storage/sheds larger than 10x10, and requiring such site plans. The section requiring lock and latch door exits, and the requirement of backflow prevention provisions for filling pools have been removed. Permit fees were added for the installation of manufactured/mobile homes, the fee for residential demolition was removed and so was the moving building/structure fee. Alderman

Bluemel recommended Section III. Fees (1)(c) authorizes the City Administrator to determine, on review, whether payment of extension fee is required, as weather and other conditions may have halted the completion of the project. Alderman Smith also recommended the contracted trash removal service be designated in Section V(1)(g) of the ordinance. City Administrator Hernandez stated designating a company would then require amendments to the ordinance if the City shall retain a different trash disposal company; and suggested the section be rephrased to include the sentence as, “A trash removal service or dumpster shall be required at site, and only to be provided by the disposal service company contracted by the City”.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion to approve Ordinance No.14-0421-1, and to include that permits and plans are required for outdoor storage/sheds larger than 10x10 but not for units 10x10 and smaller; and to add the phrase “permit extension fees are determined on City Administrator’s review” to Section III. Fees (1)(c). Alderman Bluemel seconds the motion.

Vote: 4-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

5) **Discussion/Consider Action on Ordinance No. 14-0428-1; Repealing Section 5. Animal Registration, of Animal Control Ordinance No. 00-0411.**

Discussion: Alderman Smith commented on requiring animal registration and applying fees to register their pet is not needed as Ordinance No.14-0428-1 provides that owners have their pets rabies vaccinated and registered with the veterinarian. Alderman Bluemel disagreed, stating the same ordinance regulates the number of pets allowed, and questioned how would Animal Control and the Police Department determine the number of pets owned if they do not register their pets with the City, and the fee should be imposed to recover any administrative costs. City Administrator Hernandez mentioned if the City chose not regulate registration of animals there is no need for a fee, and Ordinance No.00-0411 is the ordinance the Police Department is using to determine the fees for registration and impoundment.

Motion: Alderman Ortiz made a motion Repealing Ordinance No.00-0411 Animal Control, excluding Section II. Impound Fees, affirming those fees are continued to be imposed as a fee to Ordinance No.14-0327-2 Animal Control Regulations. Alderman Smith seconds the motion.

Vote: 3-1; Passed a majority vote. Alderman Bluemel voted against.

6) **Discussion/Consideration Action of authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with Direct Energy for a renewed term of 24 months at a rate of \$0.0532 or 36 months at a rate of \$0.05227.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained the current contract will expire at the end of April, and recommends we continue to renew with Direct Energy for 36 months at the rate of \$0.05227, which is \$0.00385 cents less per kilowatt than current rate.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion authorizing the City Administrator to enter into the agreement with Direct Energy for the 36 months renewed term at \$0.5227 rate. Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

Vote: 4-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

- 7) Discussion/Consider Action of authorizing the Mayor and Chief of Police to pursue a COPS Grant for hiring of an additional police officer.

Discussion: Mayor Vera explained this grant will pay 75% of salaries and benefits costs and the City must match the remaining 25% for three years, and applies as 5% of actual number of officers currently budgeted which will, if selected, provide one additional police officer to staffing; and will have to retain this position for four years, meaning one full-year is at the city's expense.

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion authorizing the Mayor and Chief of Police to pursue a COPS Grant for hiring of an additional police officer. Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

Vote: 4-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

- 8) **Adjournment.**

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion to adjourn at 9:10pm. Alderman Bluemel seconds the motion.

Vote: 4-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

Passed and Approved this 20th day of May, 2014.

Ruberta C. Vera
Mayor

Attest:

Lisa S. Hernandez
City Administrator/Secretary