

City of Natalia, Texas  
Regular City Council Meeting  
May 20, 2014 at 7:00pm  
Minutes

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

Call to Order:

- 1) Mayor Vera called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Alderman Sam Smith.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) None.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Fernandez questioned what the issues were at the alley of 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Miller and Palfrey; and the status of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Project.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- 4) Mayor Vera presented a Certificate of Recognition to Natalia High School student, Mario Bermea, for his athletic achievements.
- 5) Susan Freeman with Dramatic Diva Productions introduced the upcoming Medina County Talent Show with auditions scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2014 at the Hondo High School Cafeteria, and advance auditions for top selections. The talent show's main act will be performed Saturday, August 9, 2014 at the Hondo High School Activity Center, winners will be announced and cash prizes will be awarded. The talent show is open to any Medina County resident of any age.
- 6) Mayor Vera declared the week of May 18-24, 2014 by Proclamation for National Public Works Week with this year's theme being "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow".

Consent Agenda:

- 7) a. April 21, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes  
b. April 28, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes  
c. Financial Activity Report  
d. Municipal Court Activity Report  
e. Police Department Activity Report  
f. Utility Department Activity Report

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion approving the consent items. Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

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

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 8) Discussion/Consider Action of Variance Request to Ordinance No.08-042I received by Natalia ISD for the placement of an electronic school marquee on school property located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Pearson Street, and of waiver of variance fee.

Discussion: Superintendent Dr. Mancha explained the electronic sign marquee will assist with communicating to the parents, students, public of school functions, events, and announcements; as well as to be used to inform residents of city matters. The marquee will be lit 24 hours/7 days a week, and will be facing 8<sup>th</sup> Street which will also be directly across residential homes. City Administrator Hernandez made the recommendation to place the marquee on a timer to automatically turn-off the marquee during night hours so that it would not disturb the residents. Dr. Mancha stated that he was unsure if the marquee had timing capabilities, but believes it does not.

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made the motion permitting the placement of an electronic school marquee at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Pearson Street, and to waiver the \$100 variance fee. Alderman Smith seconds the motion.

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

- 9) Discussion/Consider Action of the Replat of Lots 14, 15, and 16 of Block 43 extending Lot 14 by 20 feet into Lots 15 and 16.

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that Council previously approved a variance for Ann Marie Juarez to install her manufactured home on Lot 14 with the conditions that properties be replatted extending Lot 14 by twenty feet to meet the side setback requirements.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion to approving the replat. Alderman Fernandez seconds the motion.

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

- 10) Discussion/Consider Action on Ordinance No. 14-0520-1; Prohibiting the sale, use, and possession of electronic cigarettes, liquid nicotine and associated paraphernalia to minors; prohibiting self-serving merchandising; providing for a repealer, severability clause, penalty, and an effective date.

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that several cities have been implementing this policy due to wrongful use of the electronic cigarettes, and for the safety and welfare of out community youth approval was recommended.

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made the motion adopting Ordinance No. 14-0520-1. Alderman Smith seconds the motion.

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

- 11) Discussion/Consideration Action of Ordinance No. 14-0520-2; Adopting rules and rental policies for the use of Natalia Ball Fields; setting rental fees; providing for a penalty, severability clause, and an effective date.

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained the City has received requests from individuals for rental of the ball fields for one-day use. The City currently has a lease agreement with Natalia Little League until the end of July, so rentals will not be allowed until after that date. Alderman Smith questioned what liabilities would the city have for those that did not sign the rental document. City Administrator Hernandez explained that the policy does provide an Insurance and Liability clause which includes that renters assume full responsibility and liability for all people and damages to property during the time of rental. Alderman Ortiz and Fernandez questioned if this would be open to anyone to rent, and if tournaments would be allowed. City Administrator Hernandez explained that those renting the facilities as a sports association, organization, commercial, or other non-profit group would have to be approved by Council, and at that time Council can set the terms. As for individual renters, the policy allows them to use the facilities for tournaments but does not allow for them to charge fees for such, without Council approval. Mayor Vera suggests City Council accept the ordinance as is and after a year if it needs to be revisited then Council can do so and make the changes then. Alderman Fernandez requested City Administrator Hernandez to review the contract with the Natalia Little League to check if tournaments are only allowed for Little League use.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion adopting Ordinance No.14-0520-2. Alderman Fernandez seconds the motion.

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

#### Reports:

- 12) **City Administrator's Report:** City Administrator Hernandez mentioned: 1) Natalia Veterans Memorial Library summer reading program will begin June 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 28<sup>th</sup>, and those participants that read five books by July 1<sup>st</sup> will receive a free child admission ticket for the Ringling Bros Circus July 2-6, 2014. Also, on June 20<sup>th</sup> the Ringling Bros. is having a clown visit with the children at the Library at 1:30pm. 2) MuniCode has finalized the City's code of ordinances, and should have them by mid-June. 3) A community wide clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, June 28, 2014 between 8am and 2pm for drop-off clean-up only. Residents would be allowed to dispose of any non-hazardous materials, debris, and bulky items, and for residents over 65 years of age assistance would be provided to them. This is a community effort so all volunteers and community service is requested, also ACI Staff will also be providing their assistance and cooking hot dogs as a "meet and greet" for residents. 4) As of May 19<sup>th</sup> the City has sold 102,000 gallons of non-potable water, at .03cents per gallon, this raised \$3060 in revenue.
- 13) **Chief of Police Report:** Chief Rodriguez mentioned: 1) The City of Natalia Police Department is hosting its first pet rabies vaccination clinic June 14<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm; Penny Paws Veterinarian Clinic would be administering the services.
- 14) **Utility Director's Report:** Utility Director Art Smith provided City Council an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project stating TCEQ has delayed the process because of the step screen, however, Brian Cope with Klein Engineering has suggested moving forward with the filtration system without the step screen, and will be providing information of the process if allowed; and the temporary permit has been. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> TCEQ performed a Water Plant Inspection and, other than a few proof of documents needed, no discrepancies have been reported.

15) **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Vera announced: 1) Memorial Day Ceremony will be held Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 11am. 2) Medina County Pct.4 is allowing residents to dispose up to ten tires at the Medina County Bldg. at 317 St. Hwy. 132 N., Devine, through May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am to 4pm. 3) Updated the Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Project. 4) Medina County extended the Burn Ban for another 90 days. 5) A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the new City of Lytle Police Station will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 10:30 am, 15245 Hester St., Lytle Texas.

16) **Adjournment.**

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made the motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Alderman Smith seconds the motion.

Vote: 5-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of June, 2014.

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Ruberta C. Vera  
Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa S. Hernandez  
City Administrator/Secretary