

City of Natalia, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting
March 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Minutes

Roll Call: Mayor Ruby Vera - Present Alderman Sam Smith - Present
Alderman Mike Fernandez - Present Alderman Tommy Ortiz - Present
Alderman Sam Bluemel - Present Alderman Ruben Juarez - 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, and the invocation led by Alderman Sam Bluemel.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) Amy Edge, Natalia Librarian, presented the 2015 Bluebonnet Court: Queen – Christa Garcia, Princess – Sierra Gonzales, Duchess – Carmela Juarez; the Bluebonnet Court raised over \$1,300 this year. Edge also mentioned that volunteers, donations, vendors and parade entries are still needed. Alderman Fernandez stated that anyone interested in community involvement the next Bluebonnet Festival meeting will be held Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Library, and anyone interested in assisting with decorating the float can attend on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 10:00am at the Library.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Mayor Vera announced the invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony of Devine Medical Clinic on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 5:15p.m. for any councilperson whom would like to attend; and also mentioned that Mission Devine is taking applications from Medina County residents which includes Natalia to assist in cleaning up or making repairs, there is no income requirements but will be determined on most-needed basis.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- 4) A. Recognition of Police Officer Louis Casals for his Life Saving Actions. Mayor Vera recognized Officer Casals for his emergency response and life savings actions performed at Natalia ISD High School of an unresponsive student; Casals quick reactions ultimately saved the student's life and who was then transported to a hospital for medical treatment. Police Chief Rodriguez presented Officer Casals with a medal and a certificate of bravery.
B. Mayor Vera read a Proclamation declaring the month of April 2015 Autism Awareness Month.
C. Mayor Vera read a Proclamation declaring the week of April 19-25, 2015 Administrative Professionals Day.

Consent Agenda:

- 5) a. Approval of Minutes: February 17, 2015
b. Approval of the Financial Activity Report: February 2015
c. Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: February 2015
d. Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: February 2015
e. Approval of the Code Compliance Activity Report: February 2015
f. Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: February 2015
Discussion: Alderman Fernandez questioned the payments made the Christa Santa and Storage Solutions; City Administrator Hernandez explained the payment to Christa Santa was for evidence/investigations by the Police Department and Storage Solutions was for the purchase of three weed-eaters for the Utility Department.
Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion approving the consent agenda. Alderman Smith seconds the motion.

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

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 6) **Discussion/Consider the appointment to fill the vacancy of a Board of Director to the Natalia Municipal Development District.**

Discussion: Mayor Vera pulled the item from the agenda. No action was taken.

- 7) **Discussion/Consider Action on adopting Resolution No. 15-07; Designating authorized signers of Certificate of Deposits with Community National Bank.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that the City of Natalia has a Certificate of Deposit of \$30,000+ with the Community National Bank that currently has two authorized signers who are no longer with the City of Natalia, and requesting to remove those signers and designate Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith and City Administrator Hernandez along with Mayor Vera as signers on the C-of-O. Mayor Vera added that the C-of-O was made in 2011 and matures annually on October 18th, and discussed with City Administrator Hernandez about moving the monies out at on maturity. Alderman Smith asked if this is the bank that we will be banking with for our accounts. City Administrator Hernandez explained that Community National Bank is not the City's depository bank; funds were deposited into this bank specifically for a Certificate of Deposit to earn interest, and funds were said to be placed into this account as grant funding reservation for utilities.

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving Resolution No. 15-07, and Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

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

- 8) **Discussion/Consider Action on Resolution No. 15-08; Requesting Texas Legislature to Amend Texas Local Government Code §1.005(3), to define "municipality" to include all types of municipalities in existence within the State of Texas.**

Discussion: Mayor Vera explained that several cities are filing a resolution requesting for the Texas Legislature to include all types of cities, General Law and Home-Rule, in the definition of municipalities; and not by the Fort Worth Court of Appeals interpretation that only defines municipalities as Home-Rule.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion to adopting Resolution No. 15-08; and Alderman Fernandez seconds the motion.

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

- 9) **Discussion/Consider Action on Resolution No. 15-09; Opposing the passage of Senate Bill 182 by Bettencourt, that would provide a municipal revenue cap by lowering the property tax rollback rate from 8% to 4%, and requiring cities to hold an election to ratify a tax rate that exceeds the 4% rollback tax rate.**

Discussion: Mayor Vera explained that the Texas Legislature is proposing Senate Bill 182 that would limit cities main revenue source which is ad valorem taxes by capping the rollback tax rate at 4%. Mayor Vera noted that many cities are also opposing this Bill by adoption of resolution which will be submitted to the State's Capitol.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion adopting Resolution No. 15-09; and Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

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

- 10) **Discussion/Consider Action of Resolution No. 15-10; Designating Security State Bank as the City's Depository for a term of three (3) years beginning March 17, 2015 and ending March 17, 2018.**

Discussion: None.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion adopting Resolution No.15-10; and Alderman Fernandez seconds the motion.

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

Reports:

- 11) **City Administrator's Report:** 1) Natalia Municipal Development District *was reported by Mayor Vera, mentioning the Oaths of Board of Directors and a meeting of the Natalia MDD to be held on Monday, March 23, 2015, and asked if any Councilmembers would be in presence so proper posting could be made.*

- 12) **Mayor's Report:** 1) The Bluebonnet Festival is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2015, all donations are to be received no later than Monday, March 23, 2015 at City Hall or Library; and volunteers are still needed. 2) The Natalia Little League is hosting a community event which will include a car show and Easter egg hunt at the ball fields on Sunday, March 29, 2015 starting at 11:00am. 3) The Walk for Autism will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 starting at 9:00am from the Natalia High School and ending at the Natalia Jr. High School.
- 13) **Executive Session:** The City Council convened into executive session at 7:34pm, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 to discuss the following:
- a) **§551.071; Consultation with Attorney:** Update on advice received by Attorney with respect to pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers, or contemplated administrative proceedings.
- 14) **Regular Session:** The City Council reconvened into regular session at 7:50pm, and took the following actions on items discussed in executive session.
- a) **Consultation with Attorney:** Update on advice received by Attorney with respect to pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers, or contemplated administrative proceedings.
- Action: None.
- 15) **Adjournment.**
- Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion to adjourn at 7:51pm. Alderman Fernandez seconds the motion.
- Vote: 5-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

Passed and Approved this 18th day of May, 2015.

Ruberta C. Vera, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa S. Hernandez,
City Administrator/Secretary