

City of Natalia, Texas  
Regular City Council Meeting  
July 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm  
Minutes

Roll Call: Mayor Ruby Vera - Present Alderman Sam Smith - Present  
Alderman Mike Fernandez - Absent Alderman Tommy Ortiz - Present  
Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present (7:09p) 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 Smith.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) None.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Mayor Vera invited all interested in attending the joint Medina County Taxpayer Forum which several entities will be available as well; it is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 7pm at the Natalia High School Cafeteria to discuss tax options for payments, exemptions, delinquency and registration. Vera also announced that NISD will be holding their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meet the Mustangs Night on August 13, 2015 at 6pm to meet the Teachers, Coaches, and athletes. Vera mentioned that AEP will be hosting the TML Conference dinner at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio on September 24, 2015 at 5pm.

Public Hearings and Presentations:

- 4) a. A public hearing providing an opportunity for the public to address the adoption of residency restrictions for registered sex offenders, and providing a 1,000 foot distance from premises where children commonly gather or identified as safety zones; and prohibiting property owners from renting real property to registered sex offenders if rental property is within a safety zone was held, and no comments were made.  
b. Presentation of Haywood Park Project and Status Update. Mayor Vera stated the Park Committee elected to have a Park Project Manager and assigned to Juan Gomez, who will be responsible for scheduling and monitoring the construction of the project with the contractors performing the work. Additionally, the next Park meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2015 at 7pm and the Groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for August 3, 2015 at 9am. Donations of materials and labor have been provided by several contractors, and Medina County Pct. 4 will be assisting contractors with doing some site-prep work.

Consent Agenda:

- 5) a. Approval of Minutes: June 15, 2015 Regular Meeting, June 29, 2015 Special Joint Meeting, June 29, 2015 Special Meeting  
b. Approval of the Financial Activity Report: June 2015  
c. Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: June 2015  
d. Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: June 2015  
e. Approval of the Code Compliance Activity Report: June 2015  
f. Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: June 2015

Discussion: Alderman Smith questioned item 5f, that since the city is not under drought restrictions if the 32 acre feet of water reduction would be added back. Public Works Director Smith responded with “no” because at the time of reduction the City was in drought, and to meet reduction demands those acre feet were taken from our allotted annual amount.

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion approving the consent agenda with changes to the minutes to reflect the attendance of Alderman Ruben Juarez and Sam Bluemel. Alderman Juarez seconds the motion.

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

*Mayor Vera moved ahead Item 11. Utility Director's Reports before going into Discussion/Consideration Items:*

**Utility Director's Report:** 1) Director Art Smith stated that the Changer Order for the 2012-13 TxCBD Grant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Generator and Installation was approved by the State. 2) Director Smith mentioned that the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was inspected by TCEQ and received several potential violations and issues such as an on-site audible alarm, the generator is not operable, a legible staff gauge for measuring effluent was not available, the surrounding fence is not intruder resistant, unused ponds needs to be closed, a reclaimed water report needs to be submitted monthly no matter if discharged or not, and chlorine room fan was inoperable.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 6) **Discussion/Consider action on Ordinance No.15-0615-1; An ordinance adopting of residency restrictions for registered sex offenders, and providing a 1,000 foot distance from premises where children commonly gather or identified as safety zones; and prohibiting property owners from renting real property to registered sex offenders if rental property is within a safety zone.**

Discussion: None.

Motion: Alderman Ortiz made the motion adopting the ordinance providing residency restrictions for registered sex offenders; and Alderman Smith seconds the motion.

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

- 7) **Discussion/Consider action on Ordinance No.15-0720-1; An ordinance setting municipal court fines for violations of traffic regulations, public nuisances, and establishing court procedural fees within the corporate city limits.**

Discussion: Court Clerk Nichole Bermea stated the fines and fees are currently being applied, however, the City had not formally adopted an ordinance setting the rates. Alderman Ortiz asked is the Judge has the discretions to reduce or higher the fines. Bermea stated that the Judge may set a different fine amount that does not exceed what is adopted but not the fees; and mentioned that most of the city's current fines are already at the state's max amount.

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion to adopting the court fines and fees; and Alderman Juarez seconds the motion.

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

- 8) **Discussion/Consider action on Ordinance No. 15-0720-2; An ordinance amending the rules and rental policies for the use of the Natalia Ball Fields; setting rental fees, and an effective date.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that last year the City Council adopted rules and procedures for the rental of the Natalia Park Fields with an annual review and consideration of changes to be made. With that, City Administrator addressed issues that were noticed or experienced difficulties with regulating the rules, such as, renting the fields to two different renters during the weekend, lack of cancellation notices and deposit/rental fee refunds, and the use of the ball fields for car shows and benefits.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion to approve the recommendations by amending the ordinance and to also change the language to be more specific to Section 1(10); and Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

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

- 9) **Discussion/Consider action on applying for USDA's Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program for the Public Safety Services for police vehicles.**

Discussion: Chief of Police Gilbert Rodriguez requests authorization to apply, which if awarded, the grant will cover 75% of the cost of a police vehicle. A quote for a 2015 Ford SUV Utility Interceptor with add-ins and installation came in at \$29,771.41, being a grant amount of \$22,328.56 and police cost amount of \$7442.85; additionally, a trade-in value of \$3,500.00 was provided for the 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe (Vin#3923) which would reduce the police costs. Chief Rodriguez also stated that if the funds are not awarded USDA also offers low-interest rate loans for the purchase of a police vehicle.

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion authorizing the Chief of Police to apply for the Grant, and Alderman Juarez seconds the motion.

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

Reports:

- 10) **City Administrator's Report:** 1) City Administrator Hernandez mentioned that BB Inspections, the city's current building inspectors, provided their notice of termination of contract; Hernandez explained that she has looked into who Devine, Lytle, Castroville and Hondo use for their inspections, and all but Lytle have signed up with Bureau Veritas to perform these services; a meeting with Greg Hallmark of Bureau Veritas is scheduled tomorrow. 2) Notice of filing deadline has been posted, and period begins July 25, 2015 and ends August 24, 2015; however the 25<sup>th</sup> is a Saturday so the actual first day to file is July 27<sup>th</sup>; the positions up for election this year are Mayor and two Aldermen. 3) Special Meetings for review of preliminary budget assumptions are scheduled for August 17, September 3 and September 10 all at 6:00pm; additionally, Hernandez provided each Councilmember a budgetary and utility rate structure worksheet which is due by August 3, 2015; this worksheet will assist in determining budget proposal and revenue sources for the general and utility fund.
- 11) **Mayor's Report:** 1) Mayor Vera mentioned status of the City's grant application for the 2015-2016 TxCDBG Wastewater Treatment Plant of \$275,000 with a 5% match (\$13,750) ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> by AACOG; but still needs to be reviewed and ranked by state.
- 12) **Executive Session:** The City Council convened into executive session at 7:50pm, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 to discuss the following:
  - a) **§551.071; Consultation with Attorney: Summons of Civil Action Suit.**
- 13) **Regular Session:** The City Council reconvened into regular session at 8:28pm, and took no action on items discussed in executive session.
- 14) **Adjournment.**

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion to adjourn. Alderman Ortiz seconds the motion.

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

Passed and Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

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Ruberta C. Vera, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa S. Hernandez,  
City Administrator/Secretary