

City of Natalia, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting
August 17, 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 – Absent

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 Fernandez, and the invocation by Alderman Bluemel.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) Liz Cargile addressed an error on Agenda Item No. 10, providing notice that the election is for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two Aldermen, and the item posted states for the purpose of electing three Aldermen.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Smith questioned if the TxDOT Construction is done, and when TxDOT was going to mow the grass. City Administrator Hernandez stated that according to TxDOT Ruben Ortiz, the access roads project is complete, because Hernandez disagreed with how the finishing construction appeared, Ortiz stated that he will be visiting the site. Alderman Smith asked when the closures were going to be removed from Miller as previously voted on? City Administrator Hernandez stated that staff will be doing so this week prior to the start of school.

Consent Agenda:

- 4) a. Approval of Minutes: July 20, 2015 Regular Meeting
b. Approval of the Financial Activity Report: July 2015
c. Approval of the Police Department Activity Report: July 2015
d. Approval of the Municipal Court Activity Report: July 2015
e. Approval of the Code Compliance Activity Report: July 2015
f. Approval of the Utility Department Activity Report: July 2015
Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion.
Vote: 4-0; Passed by a unanimous vote.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 5) Discussion/Consider action authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to participate the City of Natalia in the Leak Detection and Lost Water Conservation Program with Edwards Aquifer Authority.
Discussion: Mayor Vera explained that previously the City Council had approved for such program to be conducted by Dr. Calvin Finch of Texas A&M University but the funding did not become available; however, Director of EAA, Rick Illgner stated that EAA has the resources to proceed if the City is still interested. The program will essentially determine if any water is lost and recoverable, and/or will also provide some reporting tools to determine if it is a calculation error. Mayor Vera explained that this program still remains at no cost to the City, and could possibly be implemented with the water and wastewater studies being performed by Tom Turk of M&S Engineering. The City can opt out of the program at any time after the assessment is done, and before any measures are taken for lost water recovery. Alderman Smith questioned if City Council had previously approved to proceed with the program in November 2014 then why do we have to approve it again? City Administrator Hernandez explained that the motion was to engage in the services with Dr. Calvin Finch of Texas A&M, not EAA; this action will authorize the City to move forward with EAA.

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion approving the City's participation in the program with Edwards Aquifer Authority; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion.

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

6) **Discussion/Consider action on the agreement for construction plan review and building inspection services with Bureau Veritas.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that BB Inspection Services had placed their 30-days termination notice, and agreed to extend the services until August 17, 2015, and will perform inspection on permits outstanding until the City makes other arrangements. City Administrator Hernandez mentioned that City of Devine, Castroville, and Hondo all use Bureau Veritas, except for Lytle who uses Troy Martin for all inspection except for plumbing. Bureau Veritas, Sales District Manager Greg Hallmark, discussed the inspection services that can be performed such as fire and health if the City wishes to add those services on at a later time; however, the inspections services will currently include mechanical, electrical, plumbing, building and plan reviews. Applicants will continue to apply for permits through the City, and upon approval of plans, permits can then be issued; after permits are issued, a copy will be submitted either electronically or faxed to the Fort Worth service center office to import the permit information into their database. The information on the database will be available for city staff to review the status of inspections; in addition, the database has reporting tools that can be used for staff reports as well. Permit applicants will be given the contact number to the Bureau Veritas to schedule inspections, this will no longer be done by the City, and the expected turn-around can be as soon as the next day so long as the service-call was received the day prior before 5pm. Inspections are performed during regular business days, but in case of emergency circumstances, a weekend inspection can possibly be determined necessary. The residential inspection fee costs are tier-based by project valuation that includes plan reviews; applicants will pay \$76.92 for valuations below \$10,000, \$234.75 for a \$25,000 valuation, and \$596.25 for a \$100,000 valuation; there are no re-inspection fees, all inspections no matter how many times failed and re-inspected are all inclusive in the same price. The same tiered method is applied to commercial applicants, at different rates levels, and will be charged a separate construction plan review.

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion to make an agreement with Bureau Veritas to perform plan reviews and inspection services for the City; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion.

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

7) **Discussion/Consider action to reimburse Natalia ISD thirteen (13) days of salary from the 2014-2015 SRO Contract for an amount of \$1,456.00.**

Discussion: Chief Rodriguez explained the contracted provided compensation for an SRO to serve 177-days; however, the SRO missed a calculated 13 days for sick leave, and NISD School Board voted to be reimbursed those 13-days coverage was not provided. Chief Rodriguez stated that on the days the SRO was not available, though not present the entire 8-hour day, he made sure morning/afternoon traffic control coverage was provided; in addition he made frequent visits to the school during school hours. City Administrator Hernandez explained that under the City's current financial condition, reimbursing the \$1,456 at this time is not feasible, and mentioned that during a meeting with Chief Rodriguez and School Board President Smith, a question if the City can reduce the first month's billing by 13-days invoiced to the school rather than making payment prior to engaging into a contract; however, the answer was no. As School Board President Smith explained it was because the action to be reimbursed contingent to a contract was made by the School Board and he had no authority to make that decision. City Administrator Hernandez requested if the School Board can reconsider options for reimbursement at their next meeting (August 24, 2015) because the city just doesn't have the funds available to make such payment at this time; School Board President Smith will take this item back to the board for discussion and action. Mayor Vera requested the City Council postpone action until after the NISD School Board Meeting on Monday, August 24, 2015; and in such time, ordered Chief Rodriguez to have officers available to provide traffic control for the first day of school without a contract.

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made a postponing this item until Monday, August 24, 2015; and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion.

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

- 8) **Discussion/Consider action to engage into a contract with Natalia ISD to employ a Natalia Police Officer as a School Resource Officer for school year 2015-2016 for a shared cost amount of \$26,313.53.**

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made a postponing this item until Monday, August 24, 2015; and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion.

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

- 9) **Discussion/Consider action on request by St. John Bosco Catholic Church to close Kearney Street between 4th Street and 5th Street, and a portion of 5th Street between Kearney and Cresson Street, during the annual church festival scheduled on September 6, 2015 from 9:00am to 12:00am.**

Motion: Alderman Smith made the motion approving such request, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion.

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

- 10) **Discussion/Action of the Order of General Election for the City of Natalia, Texas to be held on November 3, 2015 for the purpose of electing three aldermen. Mayor Vera requested the agenda item be withdrawn the agenda.**

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion to withdraw the item, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion.

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

- 11) **Discussion/consider engaging into a contract with Beyer & Company for auditing services for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$12,500.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez stated there is no increase, and costs remain the same as last year.

Motion: Alderman Fernandez made the motion to approve the contract, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion.

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

Reports:

- 12) **City Administrator's Report:** 1) City Administrator Hernandez reported that the last day to file for a place of the City's General Election Ballot is August 24, 2015 for the place of Mayor and two Aldermen; and, 2) the last day to Order the Election is August 24, 2015.

- 13) **Mayor's Report:** 1) Mayor Vera mentioned that copies of the proposed water and wastewater SEARCH projects were included in Council's packet, and asks that they review and prioritize the projects. 2) Mayor Vera announced the declaration of drought stage 2 is immediately in effect.

- 14) **Adjournment.**

Motion: Alderman Bluemel made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, and Alderman Smith seconded the motion.

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

Passed and Approved this 21st day of September, 2015.

Ruberta C. Vera, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa S. Hernandez,
City Administrator/Secretary