

City of Natalia, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting
December 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Minutes

Roll Call: Mayor Manuel C. Saldana - Absent Alderman Sam Smith – Present
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present Alderman Tommy Ortiz - Present
Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present Alderman Ruben Juarez – Present

City Administrator Hernandez informed the City Council of LGC, Section 22.041 – Vacancy on Governing Body Created, Subsection (b) If a member of the governing body is absent for three regular consecutive meetings, the member’s office is considered vacant unless the member is sick or has first obtained a leave of absence at a regular meeting. In such case, if Mayor Manuel C. Saldana is not present at the adjournment of this meeting, the Mayor’s seat becomes vacant; and at the next meeting City Council may appoint someone to the Mayor’s seat, or a special election may be ordered to elect a person to fill the vacancy. During such vacancy, Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith will perform the Mayor’s duties.

Call to Order:

- 1) Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:03 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance, and the invocation by Alderman Bluemel.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) Citizen Laura Gallagher expressed concerns regarding the lack of police; and worried about the continuous break-ins occurring in the city. Gallagher requested Council to really consider hiring additional police force, or enter into a mutual-aid agreement with Medina County Sheriff’s Department to assist Natalia when lacking coverage.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Bluemel addressed Gallagher’s issue; mentioning the numerous burglaries occurring is a problem recognized, but the city has budgetary constraints. Aldermen Fernandez and Ortiz also addressed the burglary concerns, and mentioned that many of these crimes are repeated offenders; they’re booked into jail and released days later. Alderman Fernandez asked again when the installation of the street signs would be completed; PWD Smith replied to Alderman Fernandez that more signs need to be ordered, but they have started mounting up the signs on-hand.

Consent Agenda:

- 4) a. Approval of Minutes: November 21, 2016 Regular Meeting and December 12, 2016 Workshop
b. Approval of Financial Activity Report: November 2016
c. Approval of Police Department Activity Report: November 2016
d. Approval of Municipal Court Activity Report: November 2016
e. Approval of Code Compliance Activity Report: November 2016
f. Approval of Utility Department Activity Report: November 2016
Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 5) **Discussion/Consider Ordinance; amending Chapter 40, Section 53, of the Code of Ordinance to designate FM-471 from 8th Street to 9th Street a School Zones when traffic signal is flashing.**
Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that during a meeting with TxDOT a request to relocate the school traffic signal sign was discussed. TxDOT then performed a traffic study that determined the need to relocate the signal from 3rd & Fm471 to 8th/9th & Fm471; but before TxDOT can move forward, the city must adopt this ordinance approving the relocation and designating its purpose of a school zone when lights are flashing and reducing the speed when the school zone is in effect.
Action: Alderman Bluemel made a motion to approve the resolution; Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

- 6) Discussion/Consider Task Order Agreement with M&S Engineering for Professional City Engineering Services for a two-year term.

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion authorizing the City to enter into the agreement with M&S Engineering; and seconded by Alderman Bluemel. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

- 7) Discussion/Consider approving a Resolution designating and contracting with a qualified Planning Consulting firm to carry out the grant contract activities of TDA's Planning and Capacity Building Fund, TxCBDG Contract No.7216074.

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez requested each member of the governing body to rate the two (2) RFP's received by GrantWorks, and Langford Community Management Services. Three (3) evaluations were performed, and between the three scores, the highest average score went to Langford with an 87; GrantWorks received a score of 78. Additionally, the selected firm shall not exceed the project funds of \$45,986; GrantWorks proposed project cost came in right at \$45,986; and Langford's proposed project cost came in at \$41,690.

Action: Alderman Fernandez made the motion awarding the contract to Langford Community Management Services; and Alderman Bluemel second the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

- 8) Discussion/Consider approving a Resolution; authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and/or extending its:

- a. Water Facility to serve an area lawfully within the City of Natalia jurisdiction; and to raise a portion of the cost of such undertaking by issuance of its bonds in the principal amount of \$1,327,000; and,
- b. Sewer Facility to serve an area lawfully within the City of Natalia jurisdiction; and to raise a portion of the cost of such undertaking by issuance of its bonds in the principal amount of \$584,000; and,
- c. To issue notice to proceed upon entering into service agreement for said project(s) with the following firms:
 - i. Bond Counsel – W.Jeffrey Kuhn, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
 - ii. Legal Counsel – Jameene Y. Williams, Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal Hyde & Zech PC
 - iii. Engineering Firm – Tom Turk, M&S Engineering PE
 - iv. Community Analysis – Raul Gonzalez, Communities Unlimited

Discussion: The City Council held a workshop on December 12, 2016 to discuss the loan resolution, service agreements, construction planning, and loan repayment strategies for these projects.

Action: To move forward with the long-term plans, Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving the loan water and sewer resolutions, and the authorizing the city to enter into agreements with counseling firms to assist the city with execution; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

- 9) **City Administrator's Report:** 1) City offices are closed for the Christmas Holiday on December 23-26, 2016, and for the New Year's Holiday on January 2, 2017.
- 10) **Adjournment.** Alderman Fernandez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm, and Alderman Bluemel seconded the motion. City Administrator Hernandez confirms the third consecutive regular meeting absence by Mayor Manuel C. Saldana, which hereby creates the vacancy of the Mayor's seat. Motion carried unanimously.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of January, 2017.

Approval:

Attest:

Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Lisa S. Hernandez, City Administrator/Secretary