

**City of Natalia, Texas**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**June 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

Roll Call: Alderman (Mayor Pro-Tem) Sam Smith – Present Mayor – Position Vacant  
Alderman Mike Fernandez – Present Alderman Tommy Ortiz - Present  
Alderman Sam Bluemel – Present Alderman Ruben Juarez – Absent

Call to Order:

- 1) Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Smith called the regular city council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Citizens to be Heard:

- 2) None.

City Council Comments:

- 3) Alderman Fernandez thanked the Natalia Police Department for their assistance with the NLL Tournament. Alderman Ortiz addressed the accumulation of trash at residences, including the trash that was once clean and cleared at the corner of Cresson is slowly returning back.

Consent Agenda:

- 4) a. Approval of Minutes: May 15, 2017 Regular Meeting  
b. Approval of Financial Activity Report: May 2017  
c. Approval of Police Department Activity Report: May 2017  
d. Approval of Municipal Court Activity Report: May 2017  
e. Approval of Code Compliance Activity Report: May 2017  
f. Approval of Utility Department Activity Report: May 2017

Action: Alderman Bluemel made the motion approving the consent agenda, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Consideration of Action Items:

- 5) **Old Business - Discuss/Consider engaging into an Emergency Interconnect Agreement with East Medina County Special Utility District for emergency use access to each party's water system through an interconnect.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez explained that EMCSUD and the City negotiated the terms and rates of the contract during a joint meeting. Negotiations determined tiered rates for the use of the interconnect, depending on the length of use, and to be re-evaluated every two years; and included terms of responsibility of both parties. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith noted the rates determined are reasonably lower than what was previously suggested from estimates.

Action: Alderman Bluemel motioned to approving the agreement; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

- 6) **Discuss/Consider swearing in Dale P. Juarez as a Reserve Police Officer for the Natalia Police Department.**

Discussion: Chief Rodriguez explained that Juarez will be replacing Reserve Officer Desiree Reyes, as she has accepted a full-time position with an outside law enforcement agency.

Action: Alderman Fernandez motioned to accept the hire of Dale P. Juarez as a Reserve Police Officer; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith swore in Dale P. Juarez to serve as a Reserve Police Officer for the City of Natalia Police Department.

Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

- 7) **Discuss/Submission of Notice of Deadline to File Application for Place on the City of Natalia, Texas Regular Election Ballot for the November 7, 2017 Election Date.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez has submitted the notice of deadline to file to the newspaper and is so posted on the city's website and bulletin board; eligible persons may file an application between July 24 and August 21, 2017 during regular office hours with the City Secretary, the positions available to file are for Mayor, currently vacant, and two Aldermen seats, occupied by Samuel "Chip" Bluemel and Ruben Juarez.

Action: None taken.

8) **Discuss/Consider providing budgetary funds of \$1,000 to the Bluebonnet Children’s Advocacy Center Program for Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez requests City Council postpone action on item until such the next budget workshop, to assign and calculate the request in next years proposed budget.

Action: Alderman Bluemel motioned postponing the item to city council budget workshop, scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

9) **Discuss/Consider approving Ordinance amending Fiscal Year 2016-17 General Fund and Utility Fund Budgets.**

Discussion: City Administrator Hernandez outlined the amendments made to General Fund: The major impact of the General Fund decreased the revenue projected for #10-40600 Court Fines/Fees by \$18,000; the amount of citation activity continues to reduce each year, with only collecting \$26k within the 8-months of this fiscal year; the loss in revenue generally impacts the funding of court and police department operations, and essentially reallocates the use of tax revenues to continue offsetting such expenses, which cuts the costs dedicated for general operations, which also yields the fulfillment of the vacant police officer position.

Utility Fund: No major impacts of the Utility Fund budget reflects the reasoning for a \$9,750 reduction in revenue, other than removing the transfer-in of Utility Reserves for the cost of grant match expenses. These funds were transferred throughout the year into the Grant Fund which allowed for the separation of program and operational expenses for grant management purposes. However, reduction in expenses were necessary to offset major unexpected infrastructure failures, which also yields the fulfillment of the part-time vacant position.

Action: Alderman Fernandez made a motion approving the budget amendments; and Alderman Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0; Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

10) **City Administrator’s Reports:**

- i. The Proposed FY 2017/18 Budgets – Draft 1 was issued to City Council for review of current actuals and future assumptions, and reminded council of workshop meeting dates and suggested times.
- ii. The 2016 Consumer Confidence Report is available for review on the city’s website, in the city hall lobby, and will be mailed to each customer along with this month’s water bill.
- iii. The Utility Department has commenced to summer hours, being 7am – 4pm, the man-on-call will continue to operate during regular business hours.

11) **Adjournment.** Alderman Bluemel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm, and Alderman Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Passed and Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.**

Approval:

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Sam Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:

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Lisa S. Hernandez,  
City Administrator/Secretary