

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh Vol. No. 18/03-05

Location of Meeting: Andrew Firebaugh Community Center
1655 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622

Date/Time: March 5, 2018/6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order by Mayor Perez at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL PRESENT: Mayor Felipe Perez
Mayor Pro Tem Marcia Sablan
Council Member Elsa Lopez
Council Member Freddy Valdez
Council Member Brady Jenkins

ABSENT:

OTHERS: City Attorney Meggin Boranian; City Manager/Acting Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; Finance Director, Pio Martin; Police Chief, Sal Raygoza, Fire Chief, John Borboa; City Engineering Mario Gouveia & others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Council Member Valdez led pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Conklin, inquired why there is no Flag Flying at City Hall, because there should be one and requested one many times in the past. City Manager apologized for not resolving the request since it has been brought to his attention before but stated staff will order a flag pole tomorrow to install as soon as possible.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert Bruch spoke for and represented USS Cal Builders and Delta Vector USA LLC (Veteran Owned Business) to provide a presentation for a proposed Lake Joallen Subdivision – Veteran Inspired Community. Also attendance was Rick Mummert, CEO and Sergio Carrera, PE of Benchmark Engineering, Inc. from Oakdale, both worked on the draft and created the original subdivision plans for Lake Joallen that were submitted to the city in 2004. Mr. Mummert added that a lot work was done on this project and he would like to see it completed, since the project was delayed due to the market crash, among other issues. The revised proposed project being presented tonight has many amendments compared to the original plan, the homes were too small before. This newly proposed project is a Veteran inspired community, but it will be open to everyone to enjoy and purchase homes because it offers a variety of homes and services. The City is aware if five funding sources but the developers are aware of ten funding sources and economic development & city tax benefits will be used to help with funding this project. The plans include: Green LEED Housing & solar power, and will be built in four phases. It will have a bigger dog park, community garden, home finding center, Camp Champion Club House (Veteran Inspired), Center of Excellence (available for rent), pool, gym, workout classes for seniors and adults, a Warrior Built Foundation this partnership will provide vocational and recreational therapy for combat wounded veterans. The vocational rehabilitation is a peer to peer veterans program that offers skills to build ePower, eVehicles for off-road transportation to help get the veterans out and become active. Project includes walking trails, bike trails, information platforms on ecology, grey water reclamation, lakeshore improvement, directional signage with Firebaugh welcome signs, doc pads (fishing), docks for paddle boards – paddle boats, kayaking and lake access. Smart Growth elements for Agricultural education, green house food generation (vertical farming), and small business development (Pop Up Patch). Infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, storm water, blowales), free community Wi-Fi, ecosystems, and drought resistant plants. This veteran inspired community is modeled after Holmstead Ranch in Utah. The plan is to include an Interpretive Wild Life Trail and hopefully, partner with the school district and West Hills College. Mr. Conklin was disappointed to learn that land downtown that was previously proposed to be a Veteran’s Plaza a few years ago was sold and suggested Council support the proposed Lake Joallen project (Veteran inspired Community), which aimed to assist Veteran’s as a replacement project of the eliminated Plaza.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council special meeting on February 21, 2018.

Motion to approve minutes by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Sablan; motion pass by unanimous 4-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS**2. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL APARTMENTS IN AN AREA DESIGNATED FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Motion to cancel rezone change and proceed with the proposed project by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Lopez; motion pass by unanimous 4-0 vote.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 18-13 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH SUPPORTING THE REDUCING CRIME AND KEEPING CALIFORNIA SAFE ACT OF 2018.

Motion to approve Res, No, 18-13 by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan; motion pass by unanimous 4-0 vote.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 18-14 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH STATING ITS INTENTION TO BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENDITURES INCURRED AHEAD OF THE APPROVAL OF THE DISBURSEMENT OF CWSRF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FROM THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD.

Motion to approve Res, No, 18-14 by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan; motion pass by unanimous 4-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – Still looking for a Fire truck to purchase.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – Council Member Lopez asked if staff has a plan after the auditor's report regarding OPEB (unfunded liability). Finance Director stated the city currently pays as we go, paying about \$500,000 a fiscal year with half of it for the unfunded liability (\$250,000). Companies have approached the city are interested in investing our money to offsite liability, but CalPERS is an investor. CalPERS charges 7% but is only making 1% to 5% in return. Another option might want to consider is to work with a Financial Advisor, such as Albert Peche. Council Member Lopez recommended creating a fund to the budget and place unspent funding in to that account to save for the unfunded liability cost. City Manager agreed, with a similar idea. Council Member Valdez agreed as long as it doesn't cut community services. Council Member Sablan, added fund should be include in the budget to save. Finance Director said the city must be careful that the money being is invested, make money, and not lose it.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Apologized to Mr. Conklin about the flag pole, and state he wasn't aware of the Vets Plaza, and added he would like to bring the community back to what it used to be. City Manager reported he will be on vacation the last week of the month (5 days). Meeting with a developer on Wednesday for a tour of town.
- **Council Member Valdez** – Attending ICSC on Thursday, along with Ben and a developer to help bring projects to the community.
- **Council Member Sablan** – Inquired if about regulations regarding chicken coops, if they are not allowed, would like to change the ordinance to allow them in the city. Deputy Clerk answered they are not, it is in the city municipal code. Police Chief will have Officer Rubio to research because he believes there is a loophole.
- **Council Member Perez** – When asked, "What is the difference between Firebaugh and other cities, because crime is low here?" His response is "the People, it is a caring and helpful community".

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM ONLY**CLOSED SESSION**

ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT *Motion adjourn by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Lopez; motion passes by unanimous 4-0 vote at 7:21 p.m.*