

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 14/03-16

Location of Meeting: Andrew Firebaugh Community Center
1655 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622
Date/Time: March 16, 2015/6:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL *PRESENT:* Mayor Craig Knight
Mayor Pro Tem Freddy Valdez
Council Member Brady Jenkins
Council Member Felipe Perez
ABSENT: Council Member Marcia Sablan

OTHERS: City Attorney Gary Bell; City Manager, Kenneth McDonald; Interim Police Chief Sal Raygoza; Finance Director, Pio Martin; Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; Fire Chief John Borboa; City Engineer Mario Gouveia, Rainbow Orellana and others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Valdez led pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Baltierra submitted a letter proposing a History/Welcome Center for the City of Firebaugh at the building next to the aka Old Pizza Factory on 11th Street (old Public Works Director's office). It is currently vacant, the cost the city would occur is only utilities, and he would like to work from there through volunteers that will operate it. To celebrate the history.

Joe Rodriguez, "This is not about me, let me start with this. The subject that I am about to bring up has nothing to do with me, but I am very disappointed with Council on how the procedures are going on for the Police Chief. This is good oh boy politics, again, I've seen it over the years and it's still going on. The person that you put in charge, Mr. Raygoza, I know him because I worked with him. You guys would say he is a good person and he is, but in the working area of the criminal justice system, he's not very well trained in that area. So that is why I am going to bring certain examples and I can't say examples because people are treated in a way where they are targeted. If though this is a small city, I don't want it to see it turn in to a hidden dark area of Fergusson. An example: six months after I left the police department I had approximately eight reports filed against me and my family, with his wife involved. Filed citizens' complaints, detectives were put on, investigated, some things were found to be not proper/unethical, and then there was an attempt to get a restraining order on us, I have paperwork, if no one believes it. The judge puts a stay away order not just on myself and my family, we didn't say a thing. I'm saying it is an ongoing patter, I seen it as a police officer, I seen it when I left and I'm sure it continues, because I have people knocking on my door telling me and I tell them the proper procedure. The wrong person has been put in that position and the reason I am saying that is because approximately 12 people applied, filtered through only a couple of people, one person in charge, "City Manager, this is coming from some you guys in the community, that he's just there as a puppet, that's quotes. I know who's in charge and I know what they are trying to do but he is the wrong person, he is not qualified for the position. Like I said I applied for it but it is not about me. I'll take my application out but we need someone that is qualified, that knows the laws. There are two things missing: leadership and training. We need someone to start leading this men. It's not our officers, it starts from the top. They are not doing anything wrong, just working and doing what they believe is the law. It's going to be a real liability and I guarantee if something happens, I'll come back up here and say I told you so."

Rainbow Orellana, "I would like to make comment. I don't think that it's been said enough. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to our local Police Department and Fire Department, despite political opinions I just want to say thank you to our police officers out there. I don't thing that it is emphasized enough, I know you just hear a lot of complaints but I wanted to say thank you.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council meeting on March 2, 2015.**
2. **WARRANT REGISTER – Period starting February 1, and ending on February 28, 2015.**

February, 2015	General Warrants	#31646 - #31784	\$ 546,145.76
	Payroll Warrants	#65190 - #65291	\$ 236,368.28
TOTAL			\$ 782,514.04

Council Member Jenkins inquired about check # 31678 – Valley Network Solutions on if staff is still having issues. Finance Director and City Manager replied that there are still some issues since the software was so outdated and it takes the company a while to correct. Have had some headaches and hassles but believes we got a very cheap price since other may spend that just to replace the server.

Motion to approve consent calendar by Council Member Jenkins, seconded by Council Member Valdez; motion passes by 4-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 15-07 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING A 2015 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

Community Development Block Grant aka CDBG grants come from Federal Government pass to HUD pass down to CDBG and they in turn make a NOFA process. In the past the City has been very successful in applying for funds. It is a 100% grants funds, no loan attached, attached are 3 activities that the city can apply for, the max a city can apply for is up to \$2 million in funding. The City last applied in 2012, CDBG requires the applicant to spend at least 50% of what they were previously awarded before you can apply again.

<u>APPLICATION FUNDING:</u>	
Water Line Improvements	\$1,207,700
Senior Center Rehabilitation	\$692,300
Code Enforcement	\$100,000
Total	\$2,000,000 (maximum allowed)

Public Hearing open at 6:26 p.m. – Comments given: John Baltierra, in the 2012 grant, funding was received for Code Enforcement what was the amount for that? Paul Ashby, replied approximately a few hundred thousand but it was cut back because the city didn't have the staff to spend enough so it was cut back and transferred to the Well project that was over budget. Mr. Baltierra asked so if the City doesn't have a Code Enforcement personnel, was some of the funding used for salaries? Staff replied, "Yes, for an Officer the city was using to address code enforcement duties, correct." John suggested the city could have used the funding to hire a person full-time for just code enforcement, not an officer. Mayor responded, "We could have but we may have lost another police officer." City Manager added, "Because general fund cost savings when you don't have to pay another Police Officer out of the general fund." Baltierra recommended, if the city is going to apply for funding of a code enforcement, than one should hire, not to fund a Police Officer because Code Enforcement is important. Staff informed that the funding must be spent in a certain time and the funding was used for the well project. The more you spend on additional personnel, the more it hurts the general fund, which the city still hasn't paid off the debt to the utility fund still owes the general fund, so any additional expenses from the general fund goes further or the repayment can't be made and there is possibilities for creating any reserves. Mr. Baltierra stated, "I don't understand, if the city received a grant in the amount of \$200,000 for a code enforcement person, why couldn't city hire one?" City Manager replied, "Because the drilling of the water Well project cost much more than expected and the city saved the water utility by being able to transfer the code enforcement funding that wasn't being used for the code enforcement activities that are still being addressed just didn't have the length of time to spend, that was initially estimated in 2012. So the all the projects from the 2012 application will be completed at the same time and if the city is awarded we be able to resume it again; but it wasn't a planning to hire somebody as a part-time code enforcement person, it was a way to supplement a police officer's other duties and have a become a savings to general fund, which addresses both issues.

Council Member Valdez stated, “He didn’t think the city got quality for amount of money, regarding code enforcement.” City Manager notified, “If the city starts getting aggressive in code enforcement, the council needs to be prepared for a lot of unhappy property owners that aren’t maintaining and doing the things that they’re supposed to.” Mr. Baltierra stated that the City Manager was proving his point, residents are going to say why now, if they never did it before. The Mayor informed that there has been conversation with the City of Mendota to share an employee to work for both cities to save money. Brad Borboa said. “So what you are saying is basically the money was actually needed more as a priority in another aspect of the city which was the water well over expending it on a code enforcement officer at the time.” The mayor confirmed that was correct. Brad Borboa added, “I can live without another Police Officer but I can live without water.” Paul Ashby did advice that the grant is ongoing until September and Code enforcement hasn’t stopped and is continuing; if the city gets awarded it will be able to continue. - **Public Hearing closed at 6:43 p.m.**

Motion to approve Res No 15-07 by Council Member Jenkins, seconded by Council Member Valdez; motion passes by 4-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

4. AUDITOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) SELECTION.

Motion to approve and award contract to Donald Reynolds in amount of \$88,500 for 3 year contract by Council Member Valdez, seconded by Council Member Perez; motion passes by 3-1 vote, Jenkins - no.

5. RODEO GROUNDS RENTAL UPDATE.

Informational Item only.

SUCCESSOR AGENCY MATTERS

6. DISPOSITION OF THE “N” STREET PROPERTIES UPDATE.

Motion to move forward with commercial realtor by Council Member Valdez, seconded by Council Member Jenkins; motion passes by 3-1 vote, Perez - no.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Sal Ravgoza**- Reported on an incident at the United Security Bank, an individual with mental health issue entered the bank and demanded money, the cops were called and obtained the individual. The incident was recorded through the dash cam of the officer’s car.
- **Ben Gallegos** – Reported a delay on the alley project at 9th Street, contractors hit a PG&E line, so that issue has to be corrected before the project can move forward.
- **Pio Martin** – Preparing the budget, will provide the budget scheduled dates for review at the next meeting.
- **John Borboa** - On March 21st & 22nd of next week, nine volunteer fire department members will be attending a training in Chowchilla via a propane generated mobile unit, along with several others agency members.

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Council Member Jenkins, seconded by Council Member Valdez; motion passes by 4-0 vote at 7:41 p.m.