

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
and the Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District
Vol. No. 19/03-11

Location of Meeting: Andrew Firebaugh Community Center
1655 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622
Date/Time: March 11, 2019/6:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL City Council Members: Mayor Marcia Sablan
Mayor Pro Tem Elsa Lopez
Council Member Freddy Valdez
Council Member Brady Jenkins
Council Member Felipe Perez
School Board of Trustees: President Fernando Campa
Board Member Ronnie Parker
Board Member Eliseo Gamino
Board Member Abel Serrano
Board Member Gilbert Coelho

ABSENT:

OTHERS: City Attorney J. Sanchez; City Manager/Acting Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; Finance Director, Pio Martin; Police Chief, Sal Raygoza; George Conklin & others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: *School Board Member Parker led pledge of Allegiance.*

Motion to approve agenda by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Perez; motion pass by unanimous 5-0 vote.

Motion to approve agenda by Board Member Serrano, second by Council Member Parker; motion pass by unanimous 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None*

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. JOINT USE OF FACILITIES & GREEN SPACE**
- 2. PARKS & RECREATION**
 - **Agenda items #1 & #2 to be discussed together**

Council Member Sablan & Valdez attended a Parks & Rec Meeting, along with City Manager Gallegos, to learn about available funding. There is \$8.5 million for projects, that don't compete against each other, the city would like to apply for three projects for various parks. City Manager Gallegos stated the proposed projects for the following: 1) Indoor soccer field at the back of the enclosed area, new bathrooms and additional Parking at the graveled area at Dunkle Park. 2) An all-weather track behind the Maldonado Park, since the pedestrian trail ends there. 3) Golf or shooting range at the old dump site. School Board Member Serrano suggested the City consider improvements at the enclosed area at Dunkle Park to install shade structures and BBQ pits. Council Member Sablan asked about a Joint Powers Agreement between the

School & City. School Board Member Coelho asked which facilities are being considered for the joint agreement. Superintendent Freitas, with a Joint Agreement, the two entities could apply for a new swimming pool, pick a park or project that both are willing to work on & come up with the use schedule of the project/facility. School Board Member Campa asked, "Where would these facilities be on school or city property?" Superintendent Freitas said it depends on the project, who uses it, when and who will pay for the maintenance. One of the requirements for the funding is the project/facility has to be open & free to the public, so the terms would be negotiated between the City & School to reach an agreement. Each project or facility would have its own Joint Agreement based on the project/facility. City Attorney agreed it could be on either property, City or School. Council Member Sablan recommended holding a Parks and Rec Committee to discuss the matter and work together and Joint Agreement and projects. School will have the following serve on the committee: Superintendent Freitas, Board Member Coelho, Director of MOT Danny Barragan. Volunteer Citizen George Conklin. City Council Member Brady Jenkins, City Manager Ben Gallegos. The recommendation for the 1st meeting on a Thursday or Tuesday at 11:00 am, to be in April 2019.

3. PESTICIDE POLICY

Council Member Sablan stated as leaders & caretakers of children, to keep children health we should be aware and cautions of the pesticides we use. A \$7.8 Million law suit was given to a victim due to the hazard of round-up use.

School Board Member Coelho reported the school must comply with the KIDS ACT by law, only licensed personal can apply chemicals. Manager Gallegos advised round-up is only used on streets, we don't spray around school during the week. School MOT Director Barragan added the school also only sprays on weekends, personal use coveralls for extra protection, no knows when the County will do a random inspection & the school hasn't received any complaints.

4. VAPE PEN USAGE

Police Chief Sal Raygoza, PD has currently seen a problem with an increase of kids using vape pens. Currently, there is an Officer investigating & watching for anyone who may be supplying kids with vape pens. There was an arrest already & all Officers continue to look for others. The Police department has done research and got materials to help educate parents and kids of the dangers on the use of such products. We need the help from the school to be aware of any use & report anything suspicions, just want to continue to fight and reduce the issue. Council Member Lopez asked, "How do you know if it's tobacco or marijuana in the vape pen?" Police Chief Raygoza, replied, "Most seized products have been marijuana." Superintendent Freitas reported, "Staff does a good job in searching and reporting it, it is on the rise though, because vape pens don't smell. I agree with Sal to be proactive on the issue and catch the supplier to the kids. When something drastic happens, an example is valedictorian becomes a drug users or alcoholic two years later, we have to ask why? Did something tragic happen in their lives and does the school have anything in place to assist and help them?" High School Principal Anthony Catalan stated, "At parent meeting, the first question from parents is "What are you going to do about the drug use?" I say educate them, show parents what to look for, some don't know. Next, educate the kids, most kids believe smoking is harmful because they've been educated for several years now, compared to years ago when it was normal, seen on movies; but don't believe vaping is as harmful. So educating they is important because statistics show that almost every kid will be offered some drug before the leave High School, by educating them they could make good choices." Police Chief added, the Department would like to place an Officer on campus, full-time but can't afford it, so we are currently looking for grants & hope the school seeks grant funding too. We want to address these issue to reduce the use because we don't want to lose the battle and have more kids become users. School Board Member Serrano agrees, it not an easy battle & it can't be fixed overnight, but we can't stop fighting and working together is a good approach. PD is working on the suppliers and the School is working on the demand, to address the problem. School Board Member Gamino informed the school has many cameras to help assist with any problems on school campus. Chief Raygoza advised of new equipment where cameras aren't allowed, a device similar to a smoke detector that sends an alarm when someone is using a vape pen and they can be put on buses, too.

5. DEVELOPER FEES, CONSULTANT SCOTT ODELL, ODELL PLANNING & RESEARCH

Mr. Scott Odell or Odell Planning & Research completed the impact study for Firebaugh and various other schools. Mitigation Fee Act passed in 1987, allowing the charge of Impact fees for new development. SB 50 offers different levels: level one has a \$3.79 sq. ft. cap, level 2 allows a charge as much as needed (no cap), but the rate does have to be justified, level 3 is only allowed when the State runs out of money – fees can be doubled only when the State doesn’t have money- which is very rare and only during that time frame. Once the State has money some fees collected will be returned to the developer. Schools don’t have to charge fees but will lose funding, and/or claiming a hardship, the State will provide more than the required 50% but you have to charge the max allowed before the State pays for funding. The school impact fees is based on student generation rates, which is the ratio of the number of students enrolled in the district to the total number of dwelling units in the city, over the past five years, which dries the rate of the impact fees. Firebaugh School District used the City of Kerman because there has not been any new development in Firebaugh. City of Mendota has completed an impact study in the past 7 years. Central School district is not in comparison with Firebaugh, and Madera rate is at \$4.10 per Sq. Ft. A draft for the school district came out to \$4.80 average, so the school fees will be reduces but haven’t been approved. Once the new homes are built in Firebaugh the study would be using Firebaugh student generation rate for the next study. Board Member Gamino suggested reducing the fees for a limited time only. Board Member Serrano recommended maybe a certain rate for one year. Mr. Odell stated, “The only time a problem would occur is if the school applied for a hardship.” Mr. Freitas asked, “If the school filed a hardship how far would they look in to the school history or do they just research the current year?” Mr. Freitas will check with the Attorney, since the Attorney has always advised that is was not an option.

6. FUTURE SCHOOL SITE POTENTIAL LOCATION

The school is land locked, there aren’t many options to build a new school, since the city has almost reached its growth capacity.

7. FUTURE VACANCY OF CITY FACILITIES

The City has purchased the courthouse, police department will be relocating to that location in the future. Police Chief is seeking additional funding, the library is moving to the new building that West Hills College is going to construct. The goal is to have all of the City Operations to that location. City received \$2.5 million to rebuild 8th Street to hopefully attract new businesses. Information on the old Ford Facility has been provided to recruit businesses but the stated concern that it is not on the Highway. RFQ is out for bid to rebuild the VFW Hall, it will be bigger, no new parking, so Board Member Parker recommended change to angled parking instead of parallel parking. A memorial will be placed to honor the VFW members. Council Member Valdez, advised the median income for per household has increased about\$10,000 to about \$46,000, which will take the city out of disadvantage community status.

8. REGULAR JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT & CITY OF FIREBAUGH

Quarterly joint meeting to be held, next meeting is 6:00 pm, September 16, 2019 at Firebaugh High School Library.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Pesticides, Vape Pens, Park & Rec update.

STAFF REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion adjourn by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Valdez; motion pass by unanimous 5-0 vote at 8:10 p.m.