

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 19/10-21

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

Date/Time: October 21, 2019/6:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL Mayor Marcia Sablan
Council Member Freddy Valdez
Council Member Brady Jenkins
Council Member Felipe Perez

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Elsa Lopez

OTHERS: City Attorney Jim Sanchez; City Manager/Acting Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos; Deputy Clerk, Rita Lozano; Finance Director, Pio Martin; Police Chief, Sal Raygoza; Fire Chief, John Borboa; Linda Espinoza, Chris Gutierrez, Wanda Breshears, Manuel Trujillo & others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Council Member Valdez led pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Introduction of the new K-9 dog Kona with Officer Monay, Kona will be a narcotics only dog, but no cannabis, she is one and a half years old. Officer Monay has only had her, since Friday, but she is doing very well. The only person she has barked at was when I made an arrest today. They will start training in Livermore or Dublin, & will attend for about a month & a half before they will be on duty. Officer Monay was very thankful for the opportunity. PD already has an SUV that is available for them to use. Police Chief stated Kona & Officer Monay will be making public presentation.
- Linda Espinoza, reported a lot of fast drivers in her neighborhood & would like to know how to get speed bumps, also by Maldonado Park it's like a race way with people always speeding it is a safety issue with so many kids near that area. Some street lights are out throughout town, the incident that past about three weeks ago, a gang member our in my area, I just want to report these concerns to keep the community safe. Police Chief stated some street lights belong to the City & other lights are PG&E's, people can report the pole number of the street light that is out, to PG&E by phone or online or call the Police Department. One of the Officer has made contact with the person speeding in Mrs. Espinoza's neighborhood but unless a resident, or a witness is willing to sign the citation, that person will not be cited, if an Officer doesn't witness him comment the violation. Mrs. Espinoza added the Police Department is doing a wonderful job, we see their patrol Vehicles in our neighborhood. City Manager Gallegos & Council Member Valdez learned of a system to deter speeders, it solar powered and about \$2,000 to \$3,000 each. Council Member Valdez would like to discuss in a future agenda.

PRESENTATION

- Fresno County Rural Transit Agency presentation for the agency's 40th anniversary of service. Bus services provides three transits to the Firebaugh area, Westside Inter-city Transit, Mendota- Firebaugh Inter-City Transit & Firebaugh Inter-City Transit. Seniors & disabled ride free with their fees being paid by other resources. The City of Firebaugh was honored with a plaque for their support & participation to Fresno County Rural Transit Agency. They thanked the City for allowing them to park their buses locally on city property & in turn provided funding to help secure the facility. City Manager Gallegos shared what a great partnership it is has been, the improvements & services they have provided to our community, has helped our facilities, security, charging units and residents that need the transportation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council Special Meeting on October 7, 2019.**
- 2. **WARRANT REGISTER – Period starting September 1, and ending on September 30, 2019.**

Sept 2019	General Warrants	#38719 - #38833	\$	523,646.38
	Payroll Warrants	#71127 - #71143	\$	<u>222,952.29</u>
TOTAL			\$	746,598.67

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- 3. **ORDINANCE NO. 19-06 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AMENDING SECTION 2-2.10 OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE FIREBAUGH MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO COUNCIL SALARIES – SECOND READING.**

City Attorney stated the two changes: 1) pay is per month, instead of per meeting & 2) a 5% increase (\$15) will be added to Council’s salary, a change in compensation does not apply to any current council members during their current term of office.

Motion to approve Ord. No. 19-06 and added Language the each Council Member must select health Insurance or Compensation but they are not eligible for both by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Perez; motion pass by 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS: None

STAFF REPORTS

- **Police Chief Sal Raygoza** – One Officer will be returning from Family Medical Leave Act and one officer is out on Workers Comp, we are short staff and we have been busy. A discussion will take place with the Manager of the Housing Authority to see why a lot of people are being relocated from town to their Facility, when Firebaugh has residents that need to places to live. It seems that many of the people being relocated here from Sanger, Fresno, Los Banos and other communities have affiliations or gang relations. AS a result of this matter, we believe that is why we are seeing an increase of stolen vehicles. Linda Espinosa, stated she feels that a lot residents are not aware of the problems & if the city can find a way to inform the public, maybe everyone can be aware and look out for unusual things to report to PD. Police Chief Raygoza added, he would like to have a Facebook for the Police Department as a way to inform the residents of incidents in the community that are going on but not allow any comments to be added or any way to reply, no conversations will be allowed to be posted. Council Member Sablan replied the City has one, should we use the current Facebook. Finance Director Martin, responded the Police Chief’s Facebook would more informative, immediate & he would have more control, vs calling our consultant & asking her to post the information. Council Member Valdez reported he would be in favor, if the information posted on the site was a positive response, & the public will not be allowed to post comments, Social media is the future and staff training would be required. Council Member Sablan is also in favor of the idea, but would like to see more info on how the Facebook will operate. The site must have a disclaimer that there is no public comment to avoid discrimination or violation of the Fifth Amendment, freedom of speech. Finance Director Martin stated a staff member has showed interest in taking of the City’s’ Facebook, but training would be best and we must make sure the disclaimer is posted. Police Chief added with proper monitoring, it would be a good thing for the community, & he will research all aspects prior to creating the account.
- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – there was a vehicle fire and it was a stolen vehicle, not sure where it was from but the vehicle was stripped and the tires were gone.

- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – Auditors will start the Audit, I'm hoping they will be done by the end of November or December, doing routine day to day work. The Dog clinic was successful, Veterinarian was happy with the turn out, so hopefully she'll return. She was from Los Banos, the clinic was held Saturday from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, about 90 dogs were registered and paid for dog tags within the City.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – Nothing to report.
- **City Attorney, James Sanchez** – At the last meeting the question of eminent domain was mentioned, so information was emailed to council, there are some restrictions on residential occupied homes, but other than that Council has some authority to proceed with eminent domain.
- **Council Member Sablan** - asked about more information on SB5, which becomes in effect by 2021. We are doing everything, everyone else should be doing as far as our Cannabis applications, among other things. The San Francisco Kindergarten to College (K2C) Program is a college savings program by the City and County of San Francisco in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). A K2C college savings account is automatically opened for each SFUSD student entering kindergarten, or a participating program year. The City and County of San Francisco starts each account with \$50, and families have the opportunity to earn additional incentives. The idea is, if students start their college savings for tuition, they are more likely to attend college in their future.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Final Map of the new subdivision will be an agenda item for Nov. 4, 2019. The plan was to have a last dance for the VFW members before the construction begins but PG&E is ready to start work on the project & I don't want to delay the project. Bids will be held in November for the project. Resources Fair was successful, there were over 40 vendors. Joaquin Arambula was present and took pictures with members of the public. The clean-up event was successful, the Firebaugh is the only city that man's itself, and so we allow residents to dump more than once. State Foods is open, they started with a soft opening but will host a Grand Opening soon.
- **Council Member Jenkins**– Requested paving the alley behind Don Pepe's and at Pacifica Pizza, and asked staff to request a quote. City Manager Gallegos replied, he will request a quote but estimate will be over \$92,000. Public Works has place gravel or base rock at Don Pepe's alley every year, but seems to disappear or ware away. If Council wishes to do such projects, it should be brought up at the budget workshop so the city can budget for it.
- **Council Member Valdez** – Attended the League of Cities conference, spoke with colleagues from other cities, it was a good thing and it seems that the City is doing everything right. We are proud of the staff and all the work they've been doing. We meeting various people at the conference and had a chance to try electric powered tools. The conference gives a chance to go & talk and network with others to learn some of the things they do. Meet with a lady that offers a program to provide free kindles for kids in our community.
- **Council Member Perez** – The third week of November the 2020 census will start to reach out to residents in the community and will continue until March or April to keep reminding the people how important it is to reply, There will be kiosk in the community to help make it easier for residents to participate, as well as many other services available to them. Global Warming will educate the kids in our community to teach them about saving electricity and may raffle a Toyota.
- **Council Member Lopez** – Asked for an update on the Solar & on the Electric Meeting update.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM ONLY

CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion adjourn by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Perez; motion pass by unanimous 5-0 vote at 7:20 p.m.