

# MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 20/05-04

---

**PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 11 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20,  
EXECUTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA ON MARCH 12, 2020**

City Council Meeting held via teleconferencing

**\*Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (b)(2), all action taken during this teleconferenced meeting shall be by roll call vote.**

**Location of Meeting:** Andrew Firebaugh Community Center  
1655 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622

**Date/Time:** May 4, 2020/6:00 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Elsa Lopez	
Mayor Pro Tem Freddy Valdez	
Council Member Marcia Sablan	
Council Member Brady Jenkins	6:01 pm
Council Member Felipe Pérez	6:03 pm

**ABSENT:**

**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.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *Mayor Pro Tem Valdez led pledge of Allegiance.*

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*Motion to approve agenda by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Valdez; motion passed by 3-0 vote.*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*None, No comments were submitted.*

✓ *Council Member Jenkins entered the meeting.*

## PRESENTATION

*None*

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on April 20, 2020.

*Motion to approve consent calendar by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Valdez; motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

## PUBLIC HEARING

*Nothing*

✓ *Council Member Perez entered the meeting.*

## NEW BUSINESS

2. **A RESOLUTION NO. 20-18 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING AN INCREASE IN FUNDING AND THE EXECUTION OF GRANT AMENDMENTS THERETO FOR THE 17-CDBG-12016 STATE CONTRACT FOR FUNDING YEAR 2017 OF THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM.**

*Motion to approve Resolution No. 20-18 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Valdez; motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – FY 2020/21 GENERAL FUND BUDGET – Preliminary Presentation.**

Finance Director Pio Martin presented the Preliminary budget for the General Fund, due to COVID-19 staff budgeted with a 20% reduction from previous year because we are unsure of the financial impact it will have at this time. Estimated budget of 2,133, 000 million for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez inquired about the joint Tobacco Grant with the School District, Finance Director replied the grant will have a whole separate fund. Council Member Sablan asked if the City is collecting the Tobacco fees from business, Finance Director replied, “Yes, those funds are budgeted under miscellaneous fees in the General Fund.” Mayor Lopez, inquired about all contracts for the carnival scheduled in July, such as Paul Maurer, vendors or entertainment contracts, if, we will be able to cancel them, if needed, without legal repercussions.

*Informational Item only*

## STAFF REPORTS

- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Working with Paul on CARE Act, which is about \$85,000 in funding and will be used for food distribution, and small business loans of about \$2,000. We are also looking to work with Housing Authority to help with food delivery services through Great Plates Delivery Program. Council Member Sablan inquired about submitting application to COG for transportation funding. Ben replied, “Yes, we plan to, I’ll be working with Mario to review the process because we are not sure of the scope of the application. We currently, have Poso Canal Bridge under COG CMAQ funding. Council Member Sablan asked if City staff can use funds to assist the School with kid’s drop-off problems. Ben will research is there are any Safe Route 2 school funding grants available. So Mario & Ben will set up a conference call to discuss possible grant applications.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – Staff started discussing how & when we’ll be able to open City Hall, no date has been set but we are trying to get a plan together. The number of late utility notices this month was higher than usual, I’m guessing it’s probably because of our cash only payers, that weren’t able to come into the office.
- **Police Chief Sal Raygoza** – Some good news, City has had 19 COVID-19 cases, but most individuals have recovered, with only 4 active cases. The hope is we don’t see any new cases, the department made contact with business owners, they reported they are struggling but are trying their best not to have to close their doors for good, so the sooner we can get them open, to will help them. Working with meals on wheels, 6% cost to the city. Mayor stated that the city gets 6% reimbursement, not pays 6%. The kids living at the Housing Authority have been keeping the PD busy with vandalism, but were working to resolve the issue.
- **Fire Chief John Borboa** – We are predicting that the Fire Service will be in over their heads this season, so we will start training in May, we have to, because the department is all volunteers, so it’s important to get them training.
- **Council Member Perez** – 53.4% of the town completed the Census, so we are doing real good compared to other surrounding cities, which have a much lower rate of completing their census.

- **Council Member Jenkins** – Thanked Ben Sal & John for keeping the city to move forward and keeping the community safe. We can only hope for the best.
- **Mayor Pro Tem, Valdez** – Spoke with Karen of Madera Hospital to keep the opportunity of having them develop or coming to the City of Firebaugh, she stated she is longer working with Mr. Davis. Congressman TJ Cox is pushing to help with the needs of PPE (mask) to provide to our community. Senator Anna Caballero is also helping to provide PPE to Farm Labors, due to the laborers ride sharing in vans to work, we want to provide those individuals with mask/protective equipment during this time. We are also, working on trying to get the testing in our community.
- **Mayor Lopez** – Provide more information on Great Plates Delivery Program, the program will provide three meals a day & help local restaurants, we plan to work with the Housing Authority on this opportunity. There is some Pandemic Assistance available to help assist business owners that have been impacted by COVID-19.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM ONLY**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion adjourn by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Jenkins; motion passed by 5-0 vote at 6:54 p.m.*