

# MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 20/05-18

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**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 18, 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 at 6:02 p.m.  
Council Member Felipe Pérez

**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 & City Engineer, Mario Gouveia.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Council Member Perez led pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*Motion to approve agenda by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Perez; motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*None, No comments were submitted.*

**PRESENTATION:** None

✓ *Council Member Jenkins entered the meeting.*

## CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on May 4, 2020.

2. WARRANT REGISTER – Period starting April 1, and ending on April 30, 2020.

April 2020	General Warrants	#39608 - #39692	\$ 367,745.50
	Payroll Warrants	#71261 - #71279	\$ 231,568.43
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 599,313.93</b>

*Motion to approve consent calendar by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Perez; motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

**PUBLIC HEARING** None

## NEW BUSINESS

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-19 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE CARES ACT AIRPORT GRANT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS FOR SUCH AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH.**

City Manager Gallegos reported the City of Firebaugh was awarded \$20,000 to use over the next four years.

*Motion to approve Resolution No. 20-19 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

4. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE BASE BID CONTRACT AND AWARD TO ARDENT GENERAL INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VFW REHABILITATION PROJECT 17-CDBG-12016 AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH.**

City Manager Gallegos reported the project which included four different Alternate items was over estimated budget, so the city will reallocate some funds \$100,000 from the General Admin within the grant to the VFW Rehab, to help offset cost. As well as, request a funding increase of 20% Allocation (\$432,840) from CDBG to add Alternate No. 4, (furnish & install all kitchen equipment) to the project.

*Motion to award contract to Ardent General Inc. for Construction of VFW Rehab Project, by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – FY 2020/21 ENTERPRISE FUNDS BUDGET – Preliminary Presentation.**

Finance Director Martin reported no major purchases are budgeted for FY 2020-2021. Auditor recommends the City move the Airport Fund to General Fund, because it isn't currently covering itself, the biggest cost in the insurance. Water Fund is at 1.9 million, most of the revenue comes from residents water bill usage, ½ million in expenses for salaries. Budgeted PG&E as usual until solar project is operating. Solar payment is a new bill in August for \$134,520, City must meet 2% ratio, and bond payment is \$328,032. Sewer Fund is 1.6 million, purchase of two laptops to upgrade needed software. Bond Payment is 3.74%, a required 2.5% ratio for sewer bond. Solar payment of \$83,630, with the General Fund paying the remaining 7% for the solar payment in August. Sewer fund is showing a high net revenue, so staff will research. Mayor Pro Temp Valdez, asked how the city can get proper rate to customers to avoid over charging customers & having a surplus in the net revenue. City Manager Gallegos added, sewer may show higher net revenue because the city has been successful at getting grants for sewer projects, instead of using the budgeted funds. Finance Director will consult with C. Tuckfield to review rate/study and report response at the next meeting.

*Informational Item only*

6. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS THE 2020 CANTALOUPE ROUND-UP.**

City Manager Gallegos, recommends cancelling the event this year due to COVID-19, no prediction or estimate of what kind restrictions will be allowed for large gatherings & the event scheduled two months. Majority of the City Council is to proceed as planned, as a possibility, but if needed, delay the event to later in the year, if possible.

*Informational Item only*

## STAFF REPORTS

- **Police Chief Sal Raygoza** – The city has seen 22 cases of COVID-19 cases, but most individuals have recovered, with only 2 active cases. Code Enforcement Officer continues to work and educate the community, during this difficult time. Crime has been low, but on Friday, a car chase persuade, Officers recovered methamphetamine, which led to warrant as a house, where more methamphetamine was recovered. Many of the Officers got tested for COVID-19, with negative results, seventeen individuals tested at the community center, but there were 100 test available. Council Member Sablan asked, about more local testing events, & if there is a better way to get more people tested. City Manager Gallegos stated, he will be reaching out to Toma-Tek to ask if any of their employees would like to get tested.

- **Fire Chief John Borboa** – reported Fire Activity are up, Vehicle Accidents are up, but Ambulance Activity is down for both Fresno County and Madera County. Mayor Lopez, congratulated John for 30 years of Fire service, it the longest volunteer service.
- **Mario Gouveia, City Engineer** – submitted three grant application to the CMAQ program, and the city was awarded two of the three submitted application for paving on J St & 10<sup>th</sup> St., paving for alley at Saipan, Beehive, and behind Soares property. (\$500,000). The unsuccessful project was M St Improvement of \$130,000, it's the second or third time applying for M St Project.
- **James Sanchez, City Attorney** – have two cases: Hill case was delayed six to nine months due to COVID-19 & Ground Water Plan case.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – United Health team were very pleased how the city worked with them, if we could get twenty more people committed to being tested, they will be will to come out for testing again. Working with the Housing Authority on the CARES Act, so we reached out to the County to help local businesses and will allocate money to provide to Salvation Army to continue with the food drive. Greystone Estates reported eight homes are in contract for purchasing. Cen Cal is still working on the subdivision agreement and final map. Staff has been working on the Great Plates Program, two businesses are interested in participating (Don Pepe's & Blue Flame), the program aims toward mid-income seniors that don't qualify for low-income programs, they will received three meals a day, estimated cost to the city is about \$2000. Mayor Pro Temp Valdez will promote the program. Mayor Lopez requested update on the solar project. City Manager replied, Maldonado is up & running, 90% complete at the river site, the other sites are ready but are waiting for PG&E to turn on, there has been a lot of change orders (\$30,000) & still more to come.
- **Mayor Pro Tem, Valdez** – Thanked all of the elected official for attending the event this weekend to provide mask, food & hand sanitizers to the community.
- **Council Member Sablan** – asked Council about advertising, the UFW is distributing a stimulus package of \$500 per family or person, to undocumented people. They can apply & seek info or help regarding this opportunity. City Manager recommended advertising at the food distribution events.
- **Mayor Lopez** – would like Council to discuss, allowing individuals to call in to join the council meeting.

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

*Motion to enter Close Session @ 7:18 pm, by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan; motion pass by 5-0 vote.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **7. Government Code Section 54957.6.**

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS: ALL REPRESENTED AND UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

City Negotiator: Ben Gallegos

Employee Organizations: Police & Public Works bargaining units and all unrepresented positions

*Motion to enter Open Session @ 7:22 pm, by unanimous vote.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

No action to report

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion adjourn by unanimous vote at 7:23 p.m.*