

# MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 20/07-20

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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:** July 20, 2020/6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order by Mayor Lopez at 6:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Mayor Elsa Lopez  
Mayor Pro Tem Freddy Valdez  
Council Member Marcia Sablan  
Council Member Brady Jenkins  
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. Sablan was absent at the time.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None, no public comment was submitted/received.

## PRESENTATION

*Karen Paolinelli, of the Madera Hospital provided an update and expressed their interest in establishing a Rapid Care Clinic in the City of Firebaugh. Operational hours would be open after 5 pm most days, but because the plan is to operate 7 days a week, the weekend hours will be modified from 8am to 5pm.*

## CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on July 6, 2020.**

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

June 2020	General Warrants	#39801 - #39919	\$ 671,981.67
	Payroll Warrants	#71299 - #71317	\$ 130,220.45
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 802,202.12</b>

**Motion to accept consent calendar by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passed by 5-0 vote.**

## PUBLIC HEARING

*None*

## NEW BUSINESS

3. **RESOLUTION 20-35 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING A DENSITY BONUS (FOR THE FRESNO HOUSING AUTHORITY'S FIREBAUGH FAMILY HOUSING COMPLEX PROJECT (SITE PLAN REVIEW 2020-02)).**

*Motion to accept Resolution No. 20-35 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Valdez; motion passed by 4-0 vote. No vote from Perez.*

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-36 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT OF ANNUAL LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 FOR LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 1.**

*Motion to accept Resolution No. 20-36 by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Valdez; motion passed by 4-0 vote. No vote from Perez.*

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-37 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF FIREBAUGH , CALIFORNIA ("CITY") AND FRESNO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ("EDC") FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021.**

*Motion to accept Resolution No. 20-37 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Jenkins; motion passed by 4-0 vote. No vote from Perez.*

6. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS THE PLACEMENT OF CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM SIMPLOT PAVEMENT & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

*No Action taken, item pending for additional information to be submitted: a written assurance letter from the Water Resources Quality Control Board stating the contaminated dirt is of no danger, harm or concern of future issues.*

7. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE 2020 CANTALOUPE ROUND-UP.**

*Ben provided an update, after contacting the Fresno County Health Department to ask if such an event will be allowed & if there will be any restrictions. Staff was informed due to COVID19, these type of events are not currently allowed.*

## STAFF REPORTS

- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – the call volume is up 22% compared to usual, held training on Wednesday & Saturday, “this cadet group has been best group I’ve had.” Everyone has been re-certified for CPR.
- **Police Chief Sal Raygoza** – an email was sent out to provide an update of the number of COVID-19 cases, which is higher than what is posted on the Fresno County website. In last two weeks the number of cases has increase quite a bit, we have about 110 cases currently. Code Enforcement is continuing to inspect business to make sure they are all complying. The Police department has done over 100 inspection, Fresno County came to our community to visit restaurants’ and provide additional education and check for compliance. Officer’s has been getting various training, only 3 to 4 Officers are still waiting to complete their training. Council Member Valdez stated his concern about the increase of COVID19 cases, the city is trying to set the standards, & believes Council need to be more involved , so Council can create policies, without violating HIPPA laws, to make sure everyone is complying with state and city orders. City Attorney Sanchez recommended creating a sub-committee, with possibly two Officers’, two Council Members, and community members to enhance focus of the COVID19 matters and provide regular status updates to Council Members. Do not have any names or addresses in any public view, of any individuals that tested positive for COVID19 to avoid violating HIPPA Laws. Council Member Valdez, would like the City Manager and Police Chief establish the committee. Council Member Sablan added, looking at businesses were HIPPA laws aren’t a concern, “I’ve seen businesses not wearing mask, the Council needs to come up with an idea & a way to deal with the people violating the

rules.” “How about Family gathering with large groups, how are we dealing with it?? Chief replied, a big group of family members has a gathering and a number of their family members have tested positive, some of the cases are from field workers car sharing to work. Chief agrees with Council Member Valdez on the sub-committee and would like to have more testing available to the community. City Manager Gallegos mentioned, he has seen & knows Mayor Lopez is always handing out mask to community members at various locations, to help reduce the spread of the virus. Council Member Sablan & Valdez volunteered to be a part of the sub-committee. Council Member Sablan suggested the City work with Madera Hospital to provide testing to the community. City Manager Gallegos stated Valley Health team is also providing COVID19 testing & San Joaquin United Health is also interested in providing testing to the community if the public/residents are willing to show up.

- **City Engineering Mario Gouveia** – nothing to report.
- **City Planner, Karl Schoettler** – nothing to report.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – working with the Fresno County Election Office, it is the first time that candidates will pick up and file paperwork at City Hall, which is a little nerve wrecking, but the county made several changes and modification of the forms over the past few weeks which is making the process more confusing. We have been receiving several Public Request Acts of various information & been working on recording the subdivision agreements. The League of Cities sent out the form for Cities to select the Primary & Alternate Member to vote on the City’s behalf, at the league’s conference, which I believe will be held via webinar or teleconference due to COVID19.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – nothing.
- **City Attorney James Sanchez** – nothing.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Working with Paul on the CDBG CARES Act loan, estimated \$98,000, to help businesses’, with a 6 month forgiveness. Housing Authority reports no one has asked for renters assist. Received a letter from FMAAAA, there is no contract for FY2020-2021, so Anita is being fully funded by the City. Demo started on the VFW, in one or two days to complete the demo, the budget for the courthouse is estimated as a 2 million project. Attended a tour of at a cannabis facility, if anyone would like to look at the facility let me know, possible similar business at Perez Packing in Firebaugh.
- **Council Member Valdez** – requested a moment of silence for City of San Joaquin Council Member Jose Ornelas, who passed away, he was a good man and prayers to his family. The cannabis tour, we attended was a result of the business that is interested in doing business in Firebaugh, the facility we toured is in Salinas.
- **Council Member Sablan** – thanked everyone with the City for working hard on the COVID19 matters.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – I’ve always been against the cannabis business but the tour really changed my mind.
- **Council Member Lopez** – has the Great Plates bill been submitted & have we received anything. Ben & Pio responded, the bill wasn’t been submitted for reimbursement, staff needs to gather the information to submit.

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

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Sablan; motion passed by 4-0 vote at 7:56 p.m.*