

# MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 20/10-19

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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:** October 19, 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  
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.

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

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**PRESENTATION:** None

## CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on October 5, 2020.

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

September 2020	General Warrants	#40163 - #40279	\$ 915,437.69
	Payroll Warrants	#71357 - #71373	\$ 127,048.98
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 1,042,486.67</b>

Motion to approve minutes by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

## PUBLIC HEARING

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-44 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH FOR AN ORDER CONFIRMING ASSESSMENTS TO BE LEVIED AGAINST PROPERTIES THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF DELINQUENT CIVIL PENALTIES.**

*Public Hearing opened @ 6:20 pm* – Comments given: Acct. Tech. I/Code Enforcement Secretary, Olga Flores, provided a presentation and detailed staff report about the listed properties with violations for more than 3 to 4 years. City Manager Ben Gallegos, advised the City is not here to fine residents/owners, but we need to make progress in correcting the violations & is willing to negotiate or reduce fines, if the owners correct the violation with two months of the citation. Caesar Rodriguez represented Case No. 2017-064 (9974 N Dos Palos Rd.). Mr. Rodriguez stated they are waiting for the entrance approval from Caltrans. Mrs. Flores informed Mr. Rodriguez, the City needs Building plans to correct violations this case was cited for, once the conditions are meet, the building plans will go before the Planning Commission for approval & this process will correct the violations. Mr. Gonzalez has spoken with Olga, Ben & Isabel, so he is aware of the conditions and process on which he needs to make to address case. If Mr. Gonzalez wishes to give authorization for staff to speak with you about his case, he may do so & staff will provide a copy to you. City Manager Gallegos, advised Mr. Gonzalez to proceed with the building issues, because the Caltrans matter is a separate process. Mr. Gonzalez asked for an extension. Manuel Duran, Jr., spoke to address the concerns of Case # 2017-238 (9504 N Lyon Ave.). Mr. Duran (son) was unaware of the issues, since he's learned about the violations, he has made progress in correcting them, & in asking one or two more weeks too completely comply. Mr. Carlos Nunez represented Case No. 2017-239 (9512 N. Dos Palos Rd.), asked for fees to be reduced, since it was stated that we are in compliance. Fire Chief Borboa asked Carlos to clear the dry bush area to avoid fires. Mr. Nunez agreed to disk the area within a week. No one attend meeting for Case No 2018-006 (1140 Del Rio Ave.)- *Public Hearing closed @ 6:45 pm.*

*Motion to approve Res. No. 20-44, the amendment to authorize the City Manager full authority to work with landowners/property owners & negotiate fees and conditions, by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

## NEW BUSINESS

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-45 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SIGALA, INC. FOR INFILL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT.**

*Motion to approve Res. No. 20-45, by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 20-46 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO SUMMARILY VACATE PORTIONS OF 9TH STREET AND ADJOINING ALLEY FOR THE WHCCD NORTH DISTRICT CENTER.**

*Motion to approve Res. No. 20-46, by Council Member Valdez, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passed by 4-1 vote. Sablan – Abstained.*

6. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER A CANNABIS REGULATORY PERMIT FOR FIREBAUGH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO CONDUCT COMMERCIAL CANNABIS OPERATIONS INCLUDING MANUFACTURING, RETAIL AND DISTRIBUTION.**

*Motion to deny Firebaugh Development Corp. permit application, by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

## STAFF REPORTS

- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – City will be a distribution center to hand out masks, funded by CARES Act. Working with Paul Ashby & Terry for grant money for Parks. Toma-Tek finished their season, so we are lowering the PSI for the winter to avoid line breaks, replacement part was \$5,000, and so total cost could be about \$10,000 to repair.
- **City Engineer, Mario Gouveia** – held pre-bid meeting for Poso Canal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street project.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – reminded everyone, City Hall will be closed from 9:45 am to 1:00 pm for Diversity in the workplace zoom training, other cities will join the training & the closure has been posted.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – working on the LLMD ballots for Greystone Estates & gathering information for the LLMD for Cen Cal project in Del Rio. Pio & I will be in training Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday morning this week.
- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – High volume of Service Calls, Fire Department is self-funded and purchased a Fire Truck from Illinois, so we will be holding several ribs sales over the next few months to replenish funds spent for the purchase, first one will be held November 14, 2002.
- **Police Chief, Sal Raygoza** – COVID-19 update, we are doing well, this past Thursday, and about 30 people participated in the COVID-19 testing in town. Continue to have an issue with Vandalism, by same kids from the Housing Authority, they have been arrested but are always released. The department has had some staff out but we should be back to full force in November, hopefully.
- **City Attorney James Sanchez** – nothing to report.
- **Council Member Sablan** – nothing to report.
- **Council Member Valdez** – Congratulation to Felipe Perez, who was recognized & honored by Senator Anna Caballero for his hard work. Your service to this community & other surrounding communities with Census and programs is greatly appreciated. Working with West Hills College, in looking to fill their vacancies. There is a new College Director & Dean in Firebaugh North District, but they are also looking for a New Chancellor, the last one at the Coalinga site has resigned. Told Council Member Jenkins the food vending event was great and asked him how he did?
- **Council Member Jenkins** – Thank you for the food vending event, it was actually about 154 tri-tips, & 900 sandwiches sold by Mr. Jenkins, who received a phone call, telling him that is was the best she ever had & she was vegetarian. Many great comments were given about the turn out on the event & Mr. Jenkins, Thanked Ben for getting what everyone needed for the event & for his help.
- **Council Member Perez** – Thanked Council Member Valdez for his comment, and added, “I love what I do, so I give 100%!”

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM ONLY

## CLOSED SESSION

## ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Perez; motion passed by 5-0 vote at 7:47 p.m.*