

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 21/01-04

**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 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622

Date/Time: January 4, 2021/6:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL Mayor Freddy Valdez
Mayor Pro Tem Brady Jenkins
Council Member Marcia Sablan
Council Member Elsa Lopez
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, Paul Ashby & Don Carr.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda by Council Member Lopez, 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 December 21, 2020.**
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-01 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INCREASE IN FUNDING AND THE EXECUTION OF GRANT CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS THERETO FOR THE 20-CDBG-12000 STATE CONTRACT FOR FUNDING YEAR 2019-2020 OF THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM.**

Motion to accept Consent Calendar with amendment of date on Resolution No 21-01 from 1/4/20 to 1/4/21 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-02 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ANNEXATION OF TRACT 6252 INTO THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 1, STATING ITS INTENTION FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS WITHIN SAID ANNEXATION, AND ORDERING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN ENGINEER'S REPORT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.**

Open for comment at 6:05 – No comment given – Closed at 6:06 pm.

Motion to accept Res. No. 21-02 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – December 28, 2020, the COVID-19 vaccine was offered to our Fire Department, 4 members received the shot out of 20 volunteers. 8 are waiting to see if there is reactions are from the vaccine before taking the shot, with the remaining volunteers saying no, to the vaccine. Council Member Sablan asked, how we address that issue. Attorney Sanchez replied, the City can adopt a policy, but employees may not want to follow or accept the vaccine, Volunteers have different guidelines, & employees have some due process.
- **Police Chief, Sal Raygoza** – We had a quite Christmas & New Year's, regarding crime but had a lot of fireworks and firing of guns, although, there were no accidents to report.
- **City Attorney James Sanchez** – Provided update on the new laws effective January 1, 2021.
- **City Engineer, Mario Gouveia** – update on construction going on the sewer project, crossing at the bridge is complete, there was an issue of the sewer line going through two houses but it all went smoothly and it has been corrected, with now going through Cline. We will have several projects & will address 8th Street.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – Working with the Auditors. It's been a little difficult not working person to person. Bond payments are due in February. We will look at how many people are falling behind on their utility bills, with the new State Law changing the shut off process. Staff will be sending notices to customers on the January 7, 2021 to inform them about the status of their bill because the City is currently still paying the cost of the garbage service until the customer pays their balance in full, since there is no way to stop their garbage services.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Sewer project has gone well as Mario has mentioned, the contract did a very good job. This sewer line project replaced the area where line collapsed at the pump station. VFW is in construction, staff will propose a resolution for an increase in funding for the Fire Station on Jan. 19th Council Meeting. City Hall is still at half-staff, with the other half of the staff working from home and both alternating in & out of the office due to COVID. City is taking a different approach with the Public Works department, they are all wearing mask, & they aren't taking breaks or lunch together. Six members from a local church held a drive, they did an awesome job. Council Member Perez, asked about the lights & sprinklers at the Maldonado Park, he has received reports they are leaking or getting broken by the lawn mowers. Ben is trying to get it scheduled the light to be relocated to face the correct direction & asked where are the sprinklers broken? Perez, replied near the Valle de Paz area, in front of Maldonado. Council Member Sablan reported she received reports that the fog line is hard to see, but they didn't specify what areas. PW Department is waiting for warmer weather so the paint to stick. Rita worked on a COVID Policy & we will be sending to James for review. Asked Council Members for the sizes so staff can order new shirts. Mayor Valdez added, "I appreciate you giving your time & everyone that held or helped with the events of drive of toys & food, which are going back to the community."
- **Council Member Lopez** – "I hope everyone is doing good, and are staying home & safe."

- **Council Member Perez** – Same as Council Member Lopez 7 thanked everyone for everything they are doing.
- **Council Member Sablan** – Thanked Mayor Valdez for his videos & getting Mr. Louie to participate.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – Nothing to report.
- **Council Member Valdez** – Meet with Senator Caballero & Assemblymen Arambula regarding housing cost that are going up & to see if they can help the City research all of the resource available to assist with keeping the cost down. As well as safe practices on COVID & COVID relief for our small business, there should be about \$500 million that may become available & we look forward to this passing by our government officials.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Perez; motion passed by 5-0 vote at 6:40 p.m.