

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 21/01-19

**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 19, 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, Mr. Sandoval, Patricia Miller & others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Council Member Jenkins led pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda by unanimous 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on January 4, 2021.
2. WARRANT REGISTER – Period starting December 1, and ending on December 31, 2020.

December 2020	General Warrants	#40508 - #40640	\$ 1,075,515.11
	Payroll Warrants	#71412 - #71428	\$ 123,110.32
	TOTAL		\$ 1,198,625.43

Following checks #'s were pulled for additional information by Council Member Perez:

**40559 – Salvation Army, \$10,000 for City of Firebaugh Food. Staff's response, it is a donation for food distribution paid with grant funding.*

**40579 – Firebaugh Glass, \$630 for Batteries of the \$1,195 total amount. Staff's response, purchased two batteries for a Fire truck.*

- *40594 – ACME Rotary Broom Service, \$1,357.06. Staff’s response, City purchased gutter brooms for Street Sweeper.
- * 40597 – Quill, \$317.34. Staff’s response is purchase was for office supplies.

Motion to accept Consent Calendar by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

3. RESOLUTION NO. 21-03 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING COVID-19 PREVENTION POLICY.

Council Member Sablan asked, “If the COVID-19 Pay hours will be extended for employees in 2021?” City Manager Gallegos replied, “No, City must seek other types of leave pay, possibly through Workers Comp. That is the reason for adopting this policy and putting something in to place.”

Motion to accept Res. No. 21-03 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

4. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS & AWARD CONTRACT TO ARDENT GENERAL INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FIRE STATION.

Bid was over budget, CDBG has awarded additional funding, this contract is just for base bid of building only, and any additions will go to bid in the future as needed.

Motion to award contract to Ardent General by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

5. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS & RECEIVE INPUT FOR THE DESIGN OF MALDONADO PARK, PHASE III.

Public comment: Mike Daniels, league President of Cal Ripken, inquired if phase III, would include more baseball fields. City Manager Gallegos replied no plans to include, proposed plan is an all-weather track, outdoor gym, soccer field, Tennis Court, Basketball Court, new playground & more lighting, but this item is for public input, and the City can redesign to include other requested options. M. Daniels replied, additional lights will be awesome, would like the city to consider a softball & possibly more football fields. Mr. Fernando Campa stated he has seen the plans, & agrees with Mr. Daniels input, but as a rep for PAL that runs the Soccer League, he suggested the one proposed soccer fields be turned into two soccer fields but which the one field sideways. With so many kids participating in the PAL soccer league, more soccer fields are needed. Council Member Lopez, suggested seeking more possible funding for additional soccer or football fields & possible naming the new football field after Josh Allen.

6. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS & RECEIVE INPUT FOR THE DESIGN OF AQUATIC CENTER.

Public comment: Council Member Jenkins, stated he would like to be more involved with the planning of the Aquatic Center design, City Manager replied the school, Mr. Anderson is the main rep for the school, is leading the design, you should contact them to see when they have the meeting to discuss.

7. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS THE RECOGNITION OF JOSH ALLEN.

Public comment: Mike Daniels stated, “There’s been a lot of discussion that recently has progressed with Josh Allen & the Bills being so close to making it to the Super Bowl this year. I know flags were being purchased to be placed on the

main street of the City to show our support to him, I personally purchased a flag. My recommendation is to have a parade with the flags up, someone can video record it, possibly even with a drone from various angles & post it on social media. I know the mayor is good at posting on social media, so maybe he can help, to get the word out to show Josh's success." Joey Reyes added, "Everything Josh has done and accomplished is so awesome, I've been a Bills fan my whole life and I just want to honor him in some way. The flags that were sold were by an idea Nicole Molina had to show our community support to him. I would like to honor Josh by having a firework show, naming a park after him, a parade or some other way, I would be willing to help with any event." Council Member Lopez said she was able to speak with Nicole, Nicole was able to purchase 46 to 43 flags and raised \$6,000. "I wish I was asked, because I would have purchased a flag." Nicole will be contacting the City to see where the flags can be placed, she stated they are willing to put them up & take them down throughout the city. We reached out to the family because we need their permission to use his picture and/or name. Council Member Perez, "I'm not a big football fan but I'm proud of him, the community is excited and we should honor him." Council Member Sablan, "I'm the same as Felipe, I'm not a big football fan, but would like to honor him as well. Under COVID policy is a car parade possible?" City Manager replied, "Yes". Council Member Jenkins stated, "I asked to place this item on the agenda, because I was thinking of having a parade once the football season was over, possibly in February, more of a welcome home for Josh, I've been talking to his parents about it. I believe the school is considering renaming their football field to name after Josh, so we might want to check so that we don't have two fields named after him." Mayor Valdez added, "We need to recognize Mr. Allen, not just because of how he is doing or does in the NFL, but just for making it to the NFL. One percent of the top one percent is able to make it to the NFL, & being overlooked again & again but still making it to the NFL in an honor in itself." City Manager Gallegos stated, "I would love to see the flags throughout the town, have it recorded, with no group gatherings but get the event to him as a good luck wish for Sunday's game." Flags are scheduled to be delivered by Wednesday (tomorrow).

Motion to direct the City Manager to allow flags downtown or on the bridge throughout town to accommodate the 46 flags by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

8. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS & DIRECT STAFF ON LANDFILL OPTIONS & PRICING.

There are three options to consider as stated in the staff report: 1: Main Lift Station Canopy - \$180,451, 2: Sewer Plant Ground Mount Addition - \$184,087, 3: Police/Fire Station Building Canopy - \$266,437. City Manager Gallegos recommends option 1, which is an estimated additional \$180,000.

Motion to approve option 1, by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS

- **City Attorney James Sanchez** – Nothing to report.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – Working with the Auditors, Utility rates are going up.
- **Police Chief, Sal Raygoza** – AS predicted the COVID cases have gone up, we've had close to 700 cases, no new case numbers are being reported to us from the County Health, since there are too many to count in our County. Our department has had two reserves resign & one full-time officer will be going to Los Banos with a \$15,000 sign on bonus just to transfer. Crime is low, currently, working on two grants: 1) DUI Enforcement & speeding in City Limits. 2) Prop 64 funding for a Full-time officer that will do marijuana enforcement.
- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – we've been busy with vehicle accidents, one fatality in Madera County, last night there was a car under water in the canal, we thought it was a water rescue, but the individual had been in the canal since December. We are getting training with CalFire.
- **Council Member Lopez** – Nothing to report.

- **Council Member Perez** – I will be in charge of the Census for the Westside, banners will be placed to get the word out, & we will be knocking on doors but continue to keep our 6 feet distance due to COVID to try to inform everyone how valuable it is to participate in completing the census.
- **Council Member Sablan** – Thanked Mark & Supervisor Pacheco for helping to get the vaccine to our local farmworkers.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – Nothing to report.
- **Council Member Valdez** – Thanked everyone who participated in the meeting & like their involvement & input, hope they will join us again. Look forward to recognizing this young man Josh Allen. He’s an inspiration to the other kids in our community what hard work can do.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Gave an update on the COVID testing clinic, turned the light around to the west direction at Maldonado Park. The reported leak was not a sprinkler but a valve, sprinklers have been off since October, and so something else is going on. Code Enforcement letters have went out to residents in Del Rio, most have been resolved.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan; motion passed by 5-0 vote at 7:18 p.m.