

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 21/03-01

**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: March 1, 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	6:05 PM
Council Member Marcia Sablan	6:01 PM
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, Fernando Campa, Joyce Dale of Senator Anna Caballero's Office & others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Council Member Lopez led pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda by Council Member Perez, second by Council Member Lopez, motion passed by 3-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Hall regarding Measure C Funding that didn't get report to the City Mayor's, would like to request the COG Board change the way the Board is organized & who serves on it to push for a transparent process.

Fernando Campa, commend the Mayor and those that serve on the COVID Committee, they make difficult decisions to help keep our community safe. Thank the City Council for bringing back the resolutions on tonight's agenda to seek grant funding for the Aquatic Center and expand Maldonado Park, thank you again for your hard work.

PRESENTATION

None

- Council Members Jenkins & Sablan joined the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council special meeting on February 16, 2021.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 21- 07 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, ORDERING THE ANNEXATION OF TRACT 6252 INTO THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 1, CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT OF ANNUAL LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FOR SAID TRACT, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO FILE THE DIAGRAM AND NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT WITH THE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE.**

Open Hearing at 6:17 pm – No comment – Hearing closed at 6:18 pm (Clerk reported City received 31 votes of approval, with no protest against.)

Motion to accept Res. No. 21-07 by Council Member Perez, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 21- 08 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS.**

Motion to accept Res. No. 21-08 by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 21- 09 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS.**

Motion to accept Res. No. 21-09 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Mr. Herreman of Congressman Valadao's Office** – Working hard to get more vaccines in the Valley & to the Public.
- **Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of North District Center** – Foundation should be done within the next month. Class schedules for summer, fall & spring session are available online to register, open registration to begin on March 18th. WE will offer ESL classes on Saturday through May, we're work to get e-sports to campus.
- **Mr. Mark Benjamin of Board of Supervisor Brain Pacheco's Office** – opened new tier for vaccinations to teachers & other groups in hope of opening schools. Mayor stated, some folks are being told to go to Madera for a vaccination shot but isn't it only of available to people living in Madera County. Council Member Sablan heard from several people they are being charged \$100 for the Covid-19 Shot in Mendota, and asked Mr. Benjamin to look in to the matter.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** –There is an issue with the utility billing system, so two options is the City sun the bills after the 5th , which is the deadline per ordinance, or mail out the bills with flat rate fee only, then bill the usages on the next monthly bills once the system is repaired.
- **City Attorney James Sanchez** – will issues memos to the council.
- **City Engineer, Mario Gouveia** – Project update, projects are going well on the sewer line project, & bids will be held for 8th St Rehab this Wednesday.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – Lozano Smith mailed Council new Brown Act books, they have been placed in your mail boxes at City Hall.

- **Police Chief, Sal Raygoza** – Covid cases are continuing to drop, our department will assist Valley Health team to vaccinate farmworkers on the 9th or 11th, it will provide the 2nd vaccine to the individuals that previously received their 1st shot. Crime is down, Our Code Enforcement Seferino was promoted to a Full-time Police Officer Position.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – “I would like to echo Mario comments”, the sewer project is going well, and it will be crossing the intersection, so there will be a lot of detours at the crossing. Bids will be held March 3rd, & the project will have some change orders due to some line we ran into that we were unaware & will be replaced. Some of the lines being replaced were budgeted for, but others weren’t so the will be added extra fees for street & line work. I received information that mail wasn’t being delivered, but I took pictures & spoke with the post master to explain, I didn’t see where or why there’s an issue that mail couldn’t be delivered, they stated they would get back to me, but I haven’t heard from them. VFW has electricity & gas to the building, so they’re ahead of schedule but I’m still looking at April for the project to be completed. When it comes to the American Rescue Plan, we might be able to get about \$1.5 million for economic recovery, it was passed at the House of Representatives & now is going before the Senate for approval. Hopefully, they’ll vote no later than March 14th, we don’t have all of the details on how the money can be spent, but we will research & provide you with the information once we get it. All Departments (PD, Public Works & Fire) will provide Quarterly reports, as well as, which training employees are attending on a quarterly bases.
- **Council Member Lopez** – nothing to report, but suggest Council start holding in person Council Meetings.
- **Council Member Sablan** – asked for an update on the cannabis applicants & the status of employees that received their Covid vaccination. City Manager Gallegos replied, the committee is scheduled to have interviews with two of the applicants, one on March 8th & the other on March 9th. None at this time, only Fire & Police department are eligible at this time to get the vaccine.
- **Council Member Perez** – nothing to report.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – Inquired about an update on working with Cliff. City Manager Gallegos informed, Cliff is no longer working with them, but some individual interested in the land.
- **Council Member Valdez** – Called on Mrs. Matos, who asked can anyone be on the cannabis committee? City Manager Gallegos replied, yes, but there is only five members & all positions are currently filled, if a position becomes vacant, we can notify her to fill the position, if she is still interested.

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 6:44 p.m.