

# MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 21/05-03

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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:** May 3, 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

**ABSENT:** Council Member Felipe Pérez

**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; Mario Gouveia, City Engineer; Manuel Perez, Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of West Hills College-North District Center; Ramiro Rodriguez & others.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Ramiro Rodriguez, I started an ice cream business, it's a different type of business than other businesses & \$500 for a 3 month city business license is pretty stip. I spent \$700 for start-up fees to Fresno County for required licenses, & \$200 to \$300 to purchases supplies, and there's other individuals that can't afford the \$500 fee to the city for business license. Certain businesses may be able to pay the \$500, because they can make it back faster, but businesses similar to mine will always be in the negative. I try to buy everything locally to help our community, so could you offer a reduction or some kind of wavier to help. City Attorney Sanchez informed Council, they can't take action today, but can direct staff or give staff direction to address the concern. Council Member Lopez recommended a reduction or wavier of fees due to the recent COVID issues and how it has impacted the businesses. Council Members Sablan & Jenkins asked for this issue to be placed on a future agenda to more discussion.

Manuel Perez, Thanked Council for placing his request on the agenda for consideration.

**PRESENTATION** None

## CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on April 19, 2021.**

*Motion to approve consent calendar by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

## PUBLIC HEARING

2. **ORDINANCE NO. 21-01 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 359, OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, RELATING TO ALLOWED AND CONDITIONAL USES IN THE URBAN RESERVE ZONE AND THE DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS – FIRST READING.**

*Open Hearing at 6:11 pm – no comments. – Hearing closed at 6:12 pm*

*Motion to approve of Ord. 21-01 by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

3. **ORDINANCE NO. 21-02 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 359 OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, RELATING TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF USES OF THE ZONE OF PARTICULAR PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY- FIRST READING.**

*Motion to approve Ord. 21-02 by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

4. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR USE OF THE CITY FACILITY (RODEO GROUNDS) FROM VFW WESTSIDE POST 7380 TENTATIVELY ON MAY 28, 2021 FOR ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY EVENT.**

*Motion to approve the use of the Rodeo Grounds & Community Center by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-19 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT TO GRAHAM CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR HELM CANAL AND VALLE DEL SOL SLURRY SEAL PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT.**

*Motion to approve Res. No. 21-19 by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

6. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE NAME OF THE VFW/AMERICAN LEGION HALL POST 7380.**

*VFW Members Manny Perez & George Conklin approve the current name on the building “VFW Post 7380”, the veterans formally changed their name for POST 7380 from American Legion. Council agreed with the current name of the building.*

7. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A MAINTENANCE OR LEASE AGREEMENT OF THE VFW/AMERICAN LEGION HALL POST 7380.**

Council Member Jenkins stated concerns of funding source on how maintain the building and property ownership of the Hall. City Manager Gallegos replied the building is the City’s property, & maintenance has been the City’s responsibility, but some kind of funding source will be needed to do the up keep & repairs when needed, as well as other expenses for the Hall. VFW Member Conklin, asked for a lease agreement between the City and VFW members, he recommended a meeting to discuss the details, to work together and draft an agreement that will work for both organizations. Fire Chief Borboa asked that the lease allow the use of the hall once a year to hold their Firemen’s Dance, which is what was agreed to in the original agreement, & the Fire Dept. would like it to remain. City Manager Gallegos asked for the Christmas pancake event to be added to the agreement. Council Member Sablan asked, if other types of events can be held or included in the lease for health event or such.

*Council Members Jenkins & Lopez, with City Manager Gallegos will work with the Veterans on the agreement.*

8. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A GRAND OPENING OR RIBBON CUTTING OF THE VFW/AMERICAN LEGION HALL POST 7380.**

VFW remold should be complete by May 17, so we’re looking at May 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> to have a walkthrough of the building. Staff will need a list of who should be invited to the event, please provide to us as soon as possible.

9. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RETURNING TO IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.**

*Council Directed staff to contact Fresno Co Health on their recommendations & guidelines to return to in-person meetings & bring before Council for vote.*

## 10. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: FY 2020/21 GENERAL FUND BUDGET PRELIMINARY PRESENTATION.**

Finance Director Pio Martin presented a preliminary General Fund Budgets - Fund (004)

- Revenue projected to receive \$3,741,580
- Salaries \$2,178,754
- Expense projected to spend \$ 951,467
- Net Revenue projected \$ 611,359

### STAFF REPORTS

- **Jose Eduardo of Assemblymen Arambula's office** – Just attended to be present & see what local communities are doing & see if we can assist with anything, please reach out to us, if we can help in anyway.
- **Mr. Mark Benjamin of Board of Supervisor Brain Pacheco's Office** - we will reach out to county about the guidelines to assist Ben with the open in-person meeting. 38.4% of Firebaugh residents have received the COVID vaccine, if the community need help with more COVID Shots, please let our office know.
- **Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of North District Center** – construction is going well at the site, we're very excited. We're starting up advisor board and plan to meet before the summer. Coalinga campus will hold a COVID vaccine event, a bus will be available in Firebaugh to get local residents to the Coalinga campus, if anyone is interested.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – nothing to report.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – still attending the court case, closing agreements have been done, there's no verdict yet, but I will work from home tomorrow, once I get a call that the verdict is made, I will meet Chester at court to hear the verdict. Enterprise budget will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Police Chief, Sal Raygoza** – Four Reserve Officers & one full-time Officer were sworn-in last week. Working on Code Enforcement to get the vacant lots cleaned-up to avoid a fire. Working with the Railroad & businesses to get their areas cleaned-up. I plan to present an amendment to the Smoking Ordinance.
- **Mario Gouveia, City Engineer** – Sewer project is almost done & working on 8<sup>th</sup> St Construction.
- **Fire Chief, John Borboa** – provide a staff report in the agenda packet, at the new fire station site every day, the underground electrical and plumbing is already in.
- **City Attorney James Sanchez** – tracking the ligation case of the Groundwater Statinability Plan (GSP), will discuss another case in close session.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – was asked to be a judge for interviews for some the kids that are part of the Boys & Girls club. Sal, Marcia & I were invited to participate in a Cinco de Mayo event because of our approved smoking ordinance. 8<sup>th</sup> Street has two contractors working on the project, with the improvements we're going to make, we can increase water capacity. We had an emergency repair on the sewer line behind City Hall, which came from the School, but they will also repair the alley. I want to thank Pio for sitting in at court, I was upset with some of the things I heard, so I don't think I could do what he did.
- **Council Member Lopez** – I was at court too. The only thing I would say is may be possibly to avoid any similar issues, we put more signs up as a preventative.
- **Council Member Sablan** – thanked Ben, regarding the ordinance, I received another invitation for another event, can staff check for a water leak at the Rose Garden.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – Thanked everyone, look forward to future meetings & getting back to in-person meetings.
- **Council Member Valdez** – participated wastewater treatment facility, grateful for distance learning. Senator Anna Caballero presented a recognition to businesses for being the Great Plates Participates.

❖ *Motion to enter closed session at 7:46 pm, motion passes by a 4-0 vote.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

**11. POTENTIAL LITIGATION – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(3).**

**One (1) case**

**ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

*Council heard and denied the claim by a 4-0 vote, Councilmember Perez absent.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Lopez; motion passed by 4-0 vote at 7:55 p.m.*