

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 21/08-02

**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: August 2, 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 Felipe Pérez

ABSENT: Council Member Elsa Lopez

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 Planner; Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of West Hills College-North District Center; Mr. Mark Benjamin of Board of Supervisor Brain Pacheco's Office, Mathew Garcia, Hector Marin, Mike Daniels, member of Ag & Industrial & others.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Daniels, representing Cal Ripken Baseball, reported the season finished, league held a strict protocols. Wanted to thank the City of Firebaugh and especially Matt Garcia & Ben Gallegos for their help. Cal Ripken does plan to continue next year, so if there is anything we can do to improve or raise more funds to help the youth would be appreciated.

Member of Ag & Industrial, stated her concern as a parent, business in our community about the possible shut down of the businesses again and the City Council zoom meetings, instead of open, in-person meetings. I don't think it's my duty or responsibility on asking individuals if they have been vaccinated or to wear a mask. The local business were hit hard last year, when they had to close their businesses, I wasn't impacted, because I have an agricultural business, & it was consider essential. There were only a few businesses that were considered an essential, possible five. Again, my business wasn't hurt, we didn't close, but other businesses were and it was hard to face them. Was I supposed to tell them, change your business from a barber shop or a businesses that wasn't considered essential to a business that was one. I find it hard to believe, when we all go to the same stores or gas pumps, where hand sanitizer or sinks where not available could be different than any other business. I also, feel that Council should hold open, in-person council meetings, so the public can attend & express their concerns about COVID-19 impacts, since the cases are staring to increase again. I sometimes see Council Members out in the public & not always wearing the protected masks, not sure why they wouldn't feel safe holding in-person council meeting, with some safety measures in place.

PRESENTATION

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

2. RESOLUTION NO. 21-31 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF STPL-5224(024) 8TH STREET PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES REHABILITATION & CONSTRUCTION AND STPL-5224(025) 8TH STREET PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECTS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD A NOTICE OF COMPLETION WITH FRESNO COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE FINAL PAYMENT OF RETENTION MONIES TO BUSH ENGINEERING, INC.

Motion to approve of Res. No. 21-31, by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passed by 5-0 vote.

3. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO REVIEW & DISCUSS RETURNING TO OPEN IN-PERSON MEETING OR OTHER OPTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Informational Item only.

STAFF REPORTS

- Mr. Mark Benjamin of Board of Supervisor Brain Pacheco's Office – 52% of Firebaugh residents are vaccinated, if more residents would like to get vaccinated, please let us know, so we may assist the city.
- Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of North District Center – West Hills College held a job fair to help fill out the applications & a movie night in July, there will be education booths available & it will be free to the public. August 19, 2021, a resource fair will be held to provide students services and community services to them. Fall Semester will begin on August 16, 2021, we currently have about 350 students enrolled. Anyone interested in a site tour of our new campus, has any questions, please feel free to contact me, we have an open door policy, or, if you want to meet our new Chancellor.
- Finance Director, Pio Martin – nothing to report.
- Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano – I've received several Public Request Act of the past few weeks, and working on grants as well as other paperwork processing for different issues.
- Fire Chief, John Borboa – has three vehicle accidents, one accident on Saturday had a fatality, & the Fire Station is still moving forward.
- Police Chief, Sal Raygoza – COVID-19 cases are increasing, would like to encourage more residents to get vaccinated. There has been an increase over the last month with DUI arrests and vehicle accidents, some of our youth have been racing outside of the city limits, were we have no authority, because it's County jurisdiction. The police department is applying for a grant.
- City Attorney, James Sanchez – working on a draft policy to present to council on the RV Parks Code Enforcement.

- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Police Chief is working with James regarding an abandon home on Sablan, as well as, how to get access to do Code Enforcement at our local trailer parks. Meet with Self-help regarding the HUD tank grant, we need to build the tank, we will probably work with Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group. Working with Caltrans on different matters, HWY 33 beautification project, hoping to begin construction in 2023 & address the concern at Bueno Comer. Got ahold of the Treasurer’s Office to discuss how the American Rescue Act Funding could be allocated, if some of the funding could be used to pay employees that worked during COVID-19 shut down, as essential employees. They said, yes & directed me to sections to read that states they qualify. The plan is to pay employees an hourly rate for hours worked only. We also, plan to buy a generator & an air conditioning unit that disinfects the air for the new Fire Station & Police Station. Fire Chief Borboa provide a list of items he’ll need at the new facility and so will Police Chief Raygoza, so some of the funding will be used to purchase the things they’ll need. I will be taking a vacation August 5th & 6th. Tuesday at Dunkle Park & Thursday at Maldonado Park, free COVID-19 testing clinics will be held between the hours of 7am – 3pm.
 - **Council Member Lopez** – Thanked staff for all of their hard work, not just during COVID-19, but every day for the services they provide.
 - **Council Member Perez** – Congratulated everyone, City Manager & Staff, and also, thanked them for their services.
 - **Council Member Sablan** – I think the best way to thank staff, is to pay them with some of the American Rescue Act Funding.
 - **Council Member Jenkins** – nothing to report.
 - **Council Member Valdez** – I agree with the comments of my colleagues, & get our employees paid as an appreciation for the hard work. We would not be where we’re at without them.
- ❖ *Motion to enter closed session at 6:43 pm, by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passes by a 5-0 vote.*

CLOSED SESSION

4. **POTENTIAL LITIGATION – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) & (3).**

One (1) case

- ❖ *Motion to enter open session at 6:49 pm, by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passes by a 5-0 vote.*

ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report

- ❖ **ADJOURNMENT** *Motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Perez, motion passes by a 5-0 vote.*