

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 21/09-20

**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: September 20, 2021/5:30 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 entered at 5:33 pm – left at 6:36 pm

OTHERS: City Attorney James Sanchez; City Attorney Jessica Mejorado; City Manager/Acting Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos; Deputy Clerk, Rita Lozano; Finance Director, Pio Martin; Police Chief, Sal Raygoza; Fire Chief, John Borboa; Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of West Hills College-North District Center; Mr. Mark Benjamin of Board of Supervisor Brain Pacheco’s Office, Luis Martinez, of Senator Anna Caballero’s office, Dr. John Zweifler, Dr. Sukhjit Dhillon, MD, of UCSF Fresno, Rais Vohra, MD, of UCSF Fresno, Linda Espinoza, Anthony Catalan, Linda DeFrancesco, Mathew Garcia, Luis Avila, Aurora Ramirez, Nicole Molina, Amanda Speakes & others.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE City Manager Ben Gallegos led pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

❖ *Motion to enter closed session at 5:32 pm by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

CLOSED SESSION

- Government Code Section 54957.6.**
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS: ALL REPRESENTED & UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES
City Negotiator: Ben Gallegos
Employee Organizations: Police & Public Works bargaining units and all unrepresented positions

❖ *Motion to enter open session at 6:29 pm by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.*

ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATION: Luis Martinez of Office of Senator Anna Caballero presented information on the Youth Summer Program, & the local High School that participated in the program.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on August 16, 2021.
3. WARRANT REGISTER – Period starting August 1, and ending on August 31, 2021.

August 2021	General Warrants	#41485 - #41602	\$ 1,253,308.42
	Payroll Warrants	#71566 - #71582	\$ 136,508.10
	TOTAL		\$ 1,389,816.52

4. RESOLUTION NO. 21-36 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO FROM THE 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM-CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ROUND 2 and 3 (CDBG-CV2 and CV3) NOFA DATED DECEMBER 18, 2020.

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

PUBLIC HEARING *None*

NEW BUSINESS

5. RESOLUTION NO. 21-37 - RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT TO BUSH ENGINEERING, INC. FOR CARDELLA STREET REHAB PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS.

Motion to approve Res. No. 21-37 by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-0 vote.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 21-38 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH MANDATING EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER VACCINATIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AND THE WORKPLACE AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OR THREATENED EXISTENCE OF A COVID-19 LOCAL EMERGENCY.

Several residents stated their concern with the mandated vaccine for employees and had questions for the Council and Doctors regarding the vaccine. Some of the resident that spoke were Linda D., Linda E. and Amanda S. Principal Catalan made recommendation to accommodate the employees that wish to not be vaccinated. Dr. John Zweifler, Dr. Rais Vohra & Dr. Sukhijit Dhillon responded to the questions, & explained how important it is, to not only receive the vaccine, but how safe it is. They also stated, they understand that there have been some cases of complications or allergic reactions to the vaccine, but the number of those cases are very small compared to the number of individuals that have received the shot & the amount of lives the vaccines have saved, which is much higher.

Motion to approve Res. No. 21-38 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 3-1 vote. Jenkins – no.

7. RESOLUTION NO. 21-39 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE CITY'S SPENDING PLAN AND APPROPRIATION FOR THE ALLOCATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT CORONAVIRUS AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS.

Some of the resident that spoke, were Linda D., Linda E. and Amanda S, they stated their believe, that all employees should receive the same amount, whether they're vaccinated or not, & added it could be considered a form of discrimination, bribery or even inhumane to make individuals take a vaccine that they aren't comfortable with. They also asked, if Council going to consider the same requirement of themselves, or eventually, ask the public to follow the requirement to attend certain events, and/or the kids attending our local schools? Other comments were made by Silvia R, and Matt Garcia asked why Oct 4, 2021, was the deadline on the resolution & if a different date is possible.

Motion to approve Res. No. 21-39 with the following amendments, Section 1- Change date from October 4, 2021 to October 1, 2021 & Section 3 – Change amount from \$500,000 to \$600,000 by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 4-0 vote.

8. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AND WESTSIDE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES NETWORK.

Motion to approve agreement, by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passed by 3-0 vote. Perez – Abstained.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Firebaugh High School, Principal, Anthony Catalan** – busy with the sports, Band traveled to San Luis Obispo, We had a big win on Homecoming, Thankful to the City & their support.
- **Bethany Matos, Associate Dean of North District Center** – Fall & Spring Semesters will be soft openings, there are several classes to begin, if anyone would like to enroll, West Hills will hold a resources fair event.
- **Mr. Mark Benjamin of Board of Supervisor Brain Pacheco's Office** – 58% of Firebaugh's residents are vaccinated, Mendota rate increased and is a little higher, the youth cases in Firebaugh have gone up in Firebaugh, with about 85 cases, but the average current rate is 111 per 100,000 cases, which is good. 50% of countywide residents has received at least one COVID shot, other stats were also provided.
- **City Engineer, Mario Gouveia** - Nothing to report.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – Carnival will start next Thursday, Olga asked me to relay message to Council, if Council would like to invite any other elected officials or delegates, please email myself or Olga, so we can get the invites out as soon as possible. I will be out of the Office next week, September 27 through October 1, Therefore, I will be working on the agenda for October 4th Council meeting, so please submit agenda items to me as soon as possible. After, Sept 24, any last minute items can be submitted to Olga or Pio to be added to the agenda.
- **City Attorney, Jessica Mejorado** – nothing to report.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – Nothing to report.
- **Police Chief, Sal Raygoza** – attend training in Pismo, a lot of changes for law enforcement, we have two new reserve officers that were sworn in this afternoon, Reserve Officer Kevin Gillum is the Code Enforcement Officer, and he's doing a great job. PD is trying to put together a City wide cleanup in late October. Crime rate is down, the city had a few crimes, but we believe we have identified him, as a criminal from Merced, but we are working on catching him.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Working with Caltrans on several projects, the Beautification, street light and other projects. I would like to thank Wonderful for their donation of \$3,000, which helped buy equipment to do a cleanup, due to COVID, we couldn't paint a home this year, but I think the Wonderful employees that volunteer really enjoy that project. I will be attending the League of Cities Conference Wednesday through Friday, we are receiving a lot of interest from new businesses that would like to come to Firebaugh, more than in the past, so I recommend us attending ICSC in December.
- **Council Member Perez** – nothing to report.
- **Council Member Sablan** – “Is there any tire recycling available?” Ben replied, the fall cleanup will be held in November, Mid Valley will take the tires but there is a fee. Currently, there isn't any grant funding for a free tire collection event.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – nothing to report.
- **Council Member Valdez** – will attend the League of Cities Conference, it offers great opportunities and information on Social Media & other resources to help with outreach to the community and Elected Officials, and so I'm looking forward to attending the conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 pm by Council Member Perez, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passes by a 4-0 vote.