

# MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Successor Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 21/12-06

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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:** December 6, 2021/6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order by Mayor Valdez at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pro Tem Brady Jenkins	
Council Member Marcia Sablan	
Council Member Felipe Pérez	6:03 pm
Council Member Elsa Lopez	

**ABSENT:** Mayor Freddy Valdez

**OTHERS:** City Attorney James 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; Hector Marin, Deron Colby of People's Farming LLC, Bernard of People's Farming LLC, Curt Hatton of DOT-Caltrans, Brad Cole of DOT-Caltrans, John Liu of DOT-Caltrans, Curt Hatton of DOT – Caltrans, Mid-Valley, Andrea Suarez, Amanda Speakes, Charles "BJ" Fleming, & others.

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

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT:

Amanda Speakes commended the city of the Christmas event held on the weekend, people were masked, unmasked, most of the Council that attended were unmasked but it was by choice, that's how it should be.

❖ *Council Member Perez joined the meeting at 6:03 pm*

## PRESENTATION:

Curt Hatton, Clean California Coordinator, Brad Cole, Landscape Architecture and John Liu, Maintenance & Operations, of Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), provided a presentation on the Clean California Firebaugh Improvement Project. The program is an \$1.1 Billion initiative through General Fund to clean California on State Route 33, which consist of a three-year Litter Abatement, two-year State & Local Beautification projects, and two-year public education project. It will help create jobs, expand employment social enterprises, create job & career opportunities for veterans, at risk or people exiting homelessness, & re-entering society from incarceration. There is \$296 million, with grants up to \$5 million for local two-year grant programs to Beautify, improve streets, roads, State Highways, tribal lands, parks, pathways & transit centers. Funds should not be used for displaced homeless; projects must be complete by June 30, 2024. There is a quick turn around so call for projects will be December 2021, Project application due February 2022, Project award notification in March of 2022 and a completion deadline on June 30, 2024. Three workshops were held September 1, 2021, October 7, 2021 & November 18, 2021. The State Highway Beautification Enhancements for District 6 received \$26.6 million, also a two-year grant, projects mut be completed by June 30, 2023, so they should be non-controversial, no right-of-way acquisition issues, & needs community support. Firebaugh was allocated \$600,000 to use on State Route 33 projects. Recommended projects are rectangular rapid flashing beacons at uncontrolled marked crosswalks or add marked crosswalks. Radar feedback signs, such as speed limits posting, Gateway monuments at entrances to the city, State Route median improvements, sidewalk gap closures, Art on signal

controller cabinet wraps to give curb appeal, Planting, or replacement of planting with dry scaping along SR 33 to reduce maintenance & converser water. City Manager informed this beautification funding is different that the grant the city received a few years back. Council Member Sablan asked if funds could be used for bike lanes. John Liu replied, "Yes, we would like to assist in bike lanes but would ask the city to pass a resolution to avoid vehicles from parking near or by the bike lanes." Council Member Perez asked if some outreach meeting could be held in Spanish.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council regular meeting on November 15, 2021.

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

## PUBLIC HEARING

### 2. ORDINANCE NO. 21-04 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH REPEALING SECTIONS 9-1.1, 9-1.2, 9-1.3, AND 9-1.4 OF CHAPTER 9 [TRAILERS AND TRAILER PARKS] OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, REPLACING THE HEADING OF CHAPTER 9 WITH THE TITLE "MOBILEHOME PARKS ACT", AND ADDING SECTIONS 9-1.1 THROUGH 9-1.11 RELATING TO THE ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY OF ENFORCING THE MOBILEHOME PARKS ACT AND SPECIAL OCCUPANCY PARKS ACT OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE – SECOND READING.

*Motion to table item by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Jenkins, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

### 3. ORDINANCE NO. 21-05 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AND PEOPLE'S FARMING, LLC – SECOND READING AND CANNABIS REGULATORY PERMIT.

*Opening hearing at 6:42 pm – Amanda Speakes asked if anyone has investigated the allegations that were reported at the last regarding this facility, it was reported the staff was relieved of their duties and several trucks were in and out of the facility to remove what ever was going on & it makes you wonder what they were hiding. One person that lives in that area reported seeing what may have looked like machine guns being moved out, who are we dealing with. Council Member Lopez asked if staff has investigated the reported allegations since the last council meeting. Police Chief Raygoza responded, "NO, the city has no jurisdiction or authority, since the property has not been annexed to the city." Council Member Sablan aske the Fire Chief to do an inspection of the facility. Fire Chief will schedule an appointment by the end of the week. Representatives from People's Farming LLC, Bernard and Frank stated a representative will contact the Fire Chief to schedule a tour of the facility, much of what was reported has a lot to do with the behaviors of staff members, which management addressed with them, but allegations are not true and it's more about them trying to get even, we would be happy to explain or meet with city representatives. – Close hearing at 6:40 pm*

*Motion to waive the first reading and approve the regulatory permit by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

### 4. ORDINANCE NO. 21-06 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH ADDING SECTIONS 13-2.20 of CHAPTER 13 AND SECTIONS 25-24 AND 25-21.9.1 OF CHAPTER 25 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE – FIRST READING.

*Opening hearing at 7:00 pm - no comment given – Close hearing at 7:01 pm*

*Motion to waive the first reading by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

## NEW BUSINESS

### 5. RESOLUTION NO. 21-43 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AUTHORIZING USE OF EMERGENCY REMOTE TELECONFERENCING PROVISIONS.

*Motion to approve Res. No. 21-43 by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Sablan, motion passed by 4-1 vote. Lopez – No.*

6. **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE SAFETY PROTOCOL GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON MEETINGS.**

*Motion to approve & accept recommendations by Council Member Sablan, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 4-1 vote. Lopez – Abstain.*

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-44 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY AS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT.**

*Motion to approve Res. No. 21-44 by Council Member Lopez, second by Council Member Perez, motion passed by 5-0 vote.*

**STAFF REPORTS**

- **Police Chief Sal Raygoza** – nothing to report
- **Fire Chief John Borboa** – had one of two rib BBQ records sales this December, money raised from this event goes to the Fire Association that helps buy fire equipment and offers scholarships.
- **Finance Director, Pio Martin** – nothing to report.
- **City Attorney, James Sanchez** – nothing to report.
- **City Manager, Ben Gallegos** – Thanked all the business that supported the Christmas event, the kids were excited to receive presents, a little girl had to run back to the stage from Burger King to collect her gift.
- **Council Member Lopez** – I just want to echo everyone's comments made earlier, breakfast with Santa and the St. Joseph's Christmas bazaar was a success.
- **Council Member Sablan** – inquired who the winners were, City Manager will provide a list of winners. City Manger informed councilmember Sablan that COVID testing is still being provide at Dunkle Park every Tuesday.
- **Council Member Perez** - nothing to report.
- **Council Member Jenkins** – Parade was a success.
- **Council Member Valdez** – the City Manager, Council Member Jenkins and I will be attending the Innovating Commerce Serving Communities (ICSC), December 5 to 7, to bring businesses to the community.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**      *Motion to adjourn at 7:36 pm by Council Member Jenkins, second by Council Member Perez, motion passes by a 5-0 vote.*