

**MEETING MINUTES**

**The City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Firebaugh  
Vol. No. 08/12-29**

**Location of Meeting:** Andrew Firebaugh Community Center  
1655 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622  
**Date/Time:** December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order by Mayor Marcia Sablan at 7:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Marcia Sablan  
Mayor Pro Tem Javier Marquez  
Council Member Chris DeFrancesco  
Council Member Rod Lake  
Council Member Jim Lowe

**ABSENT:** City Attorney, Dale Bacigalupi; Assistant City Manager Laura Rios; City Treasurer, Alice Castaneda; Finance Director, Odilon Ortiz; City Engineer, Mario Gouveia;

**OTHERS:** City Manager, Jose Antonio Ramirez; City Clerk, Priscilla Meza; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; Police Chief, Elsa Lopez; Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, John Borboa; Public Works Director Ben Gallegos; David and Lilia Flores; Pete and Esther Ramirez.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Marquez

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Esther Ramirez, 1754 Ramirez Drive, questions the guidelines and requirements regarding the Senior Discount program, since it is based on an age limit and income status. She stated that some seniors may met the age requirement but not the income guideline, therefore she asked council to reconsider the guidelines regarding all senior. Mrs. Ramirez's recommendation is to use the age requirement or the income guideline, but not both.

*Council directed staff to place the Senior Discount Guidelines/Application on a future agenda for discussion.*

**INTRODUCTION**

None

**PRESENTATION**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN MID-VALLEY DISPOSAL AND THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH BY ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 08-55.**

Mid Valley will comply under the same contract and conditions as Firebaugh Disposal Service, with the exception that the city will process the billing of garbage fees and receive a \$1.00 fee per residential customer from Mid Valley for providing the service; also Mid Valley’s contract will be modified to a ten (10) year contract verse Firebaugh Disposal Service’s eight (8) year contract.

City Manager Jose Antonio Ramirez informed council that the MOMs software can be modified to add the garbage fees with the water/sewer billing process, so that customers will receive a bill for all three services, and no additional staff will be required. City Manager Jose Antonio Ramirez suggested placing a designated area in the City of Firebaugh for a drop-off location with a small fee, to prevent illegal dumping.

Mr. David Flores inquired if the residents will receive the recycling bids? Mr. Joseph Kalpakoff of Mid Valley replied, “Yes, along with a schedule of pick for the different containers: green waste, Recyclables, garbage, and a description of what items are allowed to be disposed in each container”.

Mr. Oscar Sablan asked about the type of containers that will be distributed to customers, and recommend metal containers for durability. He added that it maybe helpful if an updated report be completed on the transition of the new company and billing process, to address any issue that may come up.

*Motion to approve Resolution No. 08-55, made by Council Member Lowe, second by Council Member Marquez; motion carries.*

**2. COUNCIL TO APPROVE WAIVER OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 08-05 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AMENDING SECTIONS 13-2.3, 15-1.6 AND 15-1.8 OF THE FIREBAUGH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO CHARGES FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES.**

City Manager Jose Antonio Ramirez explained the Ordinance No. 08-05 would require that every resident within the city limits to use Mid Valley Disposal for garbage services. Mr. Joseph Kalpakoff added the reason that every person is required to open a garbage account is to prevent illegal dumping. Council Member Lake recommended a grace period for the first few months of no late fees to be added to the existing ordinance during the transition of services from Firebaugh Disposal to Mid Valley Disposal to allow residents to get familiar to the new billing process. Mr. Joseph Kalpakoff assured the council that the public will be well informed; notifications will be published in the local newspaper, at City Hall, and mailed with the monthly water/sewer billing, all notices will be in both English and Spanish.

*Motion to approve Ordinance No. 08-05 and waive the first reading with amendments by Council Member Lowe, second by Council Member Marquez; motion passed.*

**3. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AUTHORIZES BID AWARD SANCHEZ GRADING FOR 07-227 SIXTH CYCLE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.**

City Manager Jose Antonio Ramirez stated that Sanchez Grading submitted the lowest bid at \$211,244.30 for the safe route to school project. There was a protest filed and after review there were no bases for the protest; however, as a result the bid can only be awarded through resolution. The lowest bid is below the engineers’ estimate, so there may be funds available to complete another block. Council Member Lake inquired on the contingency funds as to who will decide on how the funds will be distributed, and if there a match regarding the grant, and if the project was budgeted. City Manager replied that staff will decide, but under the guidelines of what is allow, the contract states what type of work/projects are allowed, and the city’s match is about 10%, and it was included in this year’s budget. Council Member Lake requested that staff provide council the information of approved projects regarding the contingency funding of this grant, and dollar amount of budget at the end of the project. Council Member Lowe added that he would like to see all change orders on the project.

*Motion to approve Resolution No. 08-56 with an amendment that the council approves any spending on future projects from the contingency funds, made by Council Member Lake, second by Council Member Lowe; motion carries.*

**4. THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH TO APPROVE THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2009 – LIST OF REGIONAL PROJECT PRIORITIES AND POLICY PRIORITIES.**

The 2009 “One Voice” trip to Washington DC is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff provided council with the Fresno Council of Governments 2009 – List of Regional Project Priorities and Policy Priorities, which was created and agreed upon by the local governments and represented by COG to reiterate its message that the “regional” projects submitted are supported by “One Voice” from the County of Fresno, asking the Congressional Delegation for consideration of funding on the list of submitted projects. Council Member Sablan inquired on who pays for the trip and requested a list of the successful projects which were funded in the past. City Manager Jose Antonio Ramirez responded that sponsors fund a portion of the trip, but other expenditures must be paid by individual’s cities for their representatives. Council Member Lake stated he would like to see projects for the City of Firebaugh on the list, and asked what is the estimated cost for the trip? City Manager Ramirez informed council that the projects must be regional projects to be on the list, and the estimate cost for the trip about \$800.00.

*Motion to approve COG’s list of project and policy priorities, made by Council Member Marquez, second by Council Member Lowe; motion carries.*

**5. SELECTION ON APPOINTMENT OF TWO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSIONERS:**

Per Firebaugh Municipal Code Section 2-5.2a, two (2) of five (5) members will be appointed by City Council for a 3 year term. The City has placed an ad for the vacant positions and received eleven letters requesting considerations for the vacant positions on the Planning Commission from the following individuals; Mr. John Baltierra, Mr. Ray Knight, Mr. Matt Flood, Mr. Alfred Valdez, Mr. Joe Rodriguez, and Mr. Eduardo Oseguera, Mr. Craig Knight, Mr. Joe Monreal, Mrs. Bianca Echeveste, and Mr. George Conklin.

*Motion to approve appointment of Mr. Craig Knight and Mr. George Conklin, Jr. as Planning Commissioners through majority vote by Council Member DeFrancesco, second by Council Member Lake; motion carries.*

**PENDING ITEMS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

None

## **STAFF REPORTS**

- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – 700 Forms must be submitted within 30 Days from Commissioners and Council Members entering and/or leaving office.
  
- **City Manager, Jose Antonio Ramirez** –
  - Toma Tek is considering of relocating their San Benito plant (which may close), and operate completely from the Firebaugh location.
  - Paving of Power Pole by Beehive when weather gets better.
  - Maldonado Park and Ride project will also be paved when weather gets better.
  - Red Rooster was Thankful for receiving tax increments.
  - Working on the other Safe Route to School project.
  - Working with Mario on the Beautification on HWY 33 design.
  - Working on establishing a direct deposit for payroll.
  - City is now 100% metered, just need to install XMU of meters that don't have them.
  - KHOV – FEMA issues spoke with them sent photos of the flood wall and inquired why it is incorrect, and asked if the problem could be addressed with sandbags; they will send something in writing before the February deadline.
  - Will be on vacation December 31<sup>st</sup> through January 12<sup>th</sup> but can be reached via cell phone.
  
- **Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos** –
  - City is about 40 meters short from being completely metered.

## **COUNCIL ITEMS**

- Sablan – inquired if there will be a council meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, John Borboa replied he has a one Public Hearing item to address.
- Lake – stated he will be on vacation January 10<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. He also asked if the Flags for the Bridge have been order, and City Manager Ramirez informed him that the flags have already been ordered. Advised staff to put a package together for newly elected officials and provide; By Laws, Health Insurance information, duties of Council and other required information that council may have a reference.
- Marquez – spoke with school representatives regarding the establishment of a local newsletter, requested that reflectors be placed at the entrance of the rodeo grounds gate, and would like a joint meeting with the School Board Members.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

None

## **ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Council Member Lowe, second by Council Member Marquez, Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.*