

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Firebaugh Vol. No. 09/01-05

Location of Meeting: Andrew Firebaugh Community Center
1655 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622

Date/Time: January 5th, 2009 @ 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

ABSENT: Council Member Jim Lowe
City Attorney, Dale Bacigalupi; City Manager, Jose Antonio Ramirez ; City Clerk, Priscilla Meza;; Finance Director, Odilon Ortiz:

OTHERS: Assistant City Manager Laura Rios; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; City Treasurer, Alice Castaneda Police Chief, Elsa Lopez; Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, John Borboa; Public Works Director Ben Gallegos; City Building Inspector Wil Van Ryn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Lake

PUBLIC COMMENT

Esther Ramirez, 1754 Ramirez Drive, inquired about the requirements for the \$80.00 deposit on a new water/sewer account, such as; What happens to the deposit when people move?; When is the deposit refunded and Why if an individual has already lived in the city for years, still required to pay the deposit?

Ed Fernandez, stated as a senior citizen, a VFW Member and a person who has lived in the City of Firebaugh for several years, why is he consider a new customer.

Judy Breeden previously owned a home and sold it in the early 80's, no refunded was ever received.

INTRODUCTION

None

PRESENTATION

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. **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 – SECOND READING.**

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 08-05, made by Council Member Marquez, second by Council Member Lake; motion carries.

- 2. **RESOLUTION NO. 08-50 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH LEVYING AND ASSESSING ABATEMENT EXPENSES AGAINST REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1860 EAST CARDELLA STREET, IN THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH.**

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer John Borboa explained that Resolution No. 08-50 allows the City of Firebaugh to collect all expenditures from the demolished property at 1860 E Cardella, through next years tax roll; however Fresno County requires a resolution to be filed before an in-lieu on the property can be established.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 08-50, made by Council Member Marquez, second by Council Member Lake; motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

- 3. **WEST AMERICA REVOLVING LINE OF CREDIT.**

Assistant City Manager Laura Rios stated that the city would like to apply for \$300,000 revolving line of credit with West America to assist with capital fund projects at 3.25% interest rate.

Council Member Lake asked why the contract states line of credit for \$500,000 if the city is only asking for \$300,000.

Assistant City Manager Laura Rios responded that \$500,000 is the maximum amount allowed, but the city is only requesting \$300,000 based on the previous loan of last year.

Council Member Marquez recommended that an elected official sign instead of two office administration employees, he also inquired on how the city operated before the credit line and how important is the necessity of the credit line?

Assistant City Manager Laura Rios explained if the city can not pay the contractor and other individuals that are working on grant projects the city would pay additional late fees, which would be more costly at the end.

Motion to approve Line of Credit with the recommendation of Council Member Marquez requiring an elected official sign along with an office administration employee, by Council Member DeFrancesco, second by Council Member Lake; motion carries.

PENDING ITEMS

- Council of Governments success list
- Consider change of billing due date from last business day to last day of the month
- Review Senior Discount Qualifications guidelines
- Request a report and update of the billing process for garbage collection fees for the first six months
- Work on the selection of a color pallet/scheme for the façade program
- Street lights in Del Rio Area

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

- **Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, John Borboa** –
 - This year was a safe and quite New Year's Eve.
 - Working on year end reports.
- **Police Chief, Elsa Lopez** – agreed with Fire Chief Borboa, that it was safe and quite New Year's Eve.
- **Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos** –
 - Repaired the entrance gate and put reflectors on in so it may be visible at night.
 - Removed all Christmas decorations from City Light Poles.
 - Working on the Safe Route to School Project, will install solar and wireless equipment, would like to recommend should there be funds available work should continue to the next block between 11th Street to 13th Street, the work for the project is around the Mills, Bailey and the High School. Council Member Lake asked staff to find out who the property owner is in-front of the School District Office and inquire if the property could be paved.

- **Building Inspector Wil Van Ryn** –
 - Provide council a report of issued permits, Council Member Marquez asked if the Building Inspector is still working on the Solar Panels issues, regarding cost for installation or program that may allow customers to apply for rebates/discounts for installing them. Building Inspector Wil Van Ryn replied that he has a meeting scheduled next week to research and learn what other cities may be doing. Council Member Lake inquired if the issued permits on the report are still active, because some permits were issued in January 2008 and are still on the list submitted. Building Inspector Wil Van Ryn answered yes, some individuals applied for extensions.
 - De Young Development is working on the Extreme Makeover Home Edition Show for a resident in Fresno and asked me to donate my time to the project spoke with the City Manager and received his approval.
- **City Treasurer, Alice Castaneda** – nothing to report.
- **Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano** – 700 Forms will be issued, the deadline to submit to Fair Political Practice Commission is April 1, 2009.
 - The next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 19th, which is a holiday, so it must be rescheduled.
- **Assistant City Manager, Laura Rios** – match funds for the Safe Route to School Project is 46,000.00.
 - Working with PG&E regarding installation of street lights in the Del Rio Area.
 - Banners for the Bridge have been ordered

COUNCIL ITEMS

- Marquez – Inquired about the status on the tree grant? Assistant City Manager Laura Rios responded that the State requested a hold on spending any funds from the tree grant due to the difficult finances of the State, because they may not be able to reimburse the city. Council Member Marquez asked if the city can purchase trees from the tree grant to use along with the Safe Route to School Project. Assistant City Manager Laura Rios replied the she would have to do some research to find out.
- Lake – Asked staff to research the information regarding the Deposit on New Water/Sewer accounts, according to the Municipal Code Chapter 15-1.4 deposit should be paid by individuals who are not credit worth, so why are all new accounts required to pay a deposit; however, two resolutions have been passed requiring the deposit of all new accounts; therefore please provide information to clarify.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Marquez, second by Council Member Lake, Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.