

MEETING MINUTES

**The City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Firebaugh
Vol. No. 09/06-13**

Location of Meeting: Andrew Firebaugh Community Center
1655 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622
Date/Time: June 13, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order by Mayor Sablan at 10:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

OTHERS: City Manager, Jose Antonio Ramirez; Assistant City Manager, Laura Rios; City Finance Director, Odi Ortiz; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; Police Chief, Elsa Lopez; Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, John Borboa; Public Works Director, Ben Gallegos; Community Service Coordinator, Phyllis Baltierra; City Engineer Mario Gouveia; John Baltierra; Fernando Campa, and other community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Lake

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment given.

WORKSHOP

1. CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR FY 2009/2010.

City Manager Jose Ramirez informed council that a detailed outline of items to be addressed regarding the budget is enclosed in the agenda packets and would like to review these options prior the workshop. City Finance Director Ortiz provided Council with a Budget Update, reflecting the changes requested by Council, to address the City's next fiscal year budget shortfall currently in the amount of \$274,413.00. City Manager Jose Ramirez and staff recommended the following actions to reduce the financial deficit; the reorganization of the Senior Citizens position to a ¾ position and eliminating the part-time Code Enforcement position, Building Inspector's position, and Special Events/Cantaloupe positions. Other recommendations to consider were eliminating health benefits to Elected Officials for a savings of \$33,000 (potential Annual City Liability of \$156,000+ if all elected officials enroll), Police Department contract with the City of Mendota in the amount of \$57,000 for dispatching services, Union Negotiations to propose 12 Furlough days/giving-up 14 holidays per year -savings of \$93, 002 along with no Cost of living adjustments (COLA) savings of 30,853, which produce a balanced budget and allowed the saving of the elected officials benefits to off set any potential impact from the State of California budget issues. The State may borrow up to 8% of local property taxes such as: regular prop tax, Vehicle Licensing Fees, Swap, & Trip flip and taking gas tax revenues for 1-2 years (3 out of every \$4=75%, which will impact street funded projects.

2. **REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR FY 2009/2010.**

City Finance Director Ortiz provided Council with a Budget Update, reflecting the changes requested by Council.

3. **REORGANIZATION OF CITY EMPLOYEE POSITIONS AND POSSIBLE LAYOFFS- RESOLUTION NO. 09-03 RESOLUTION TO REORGANIZE AND ADJUST PARTICULAR POSITIONS (HALF-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT; BUILDING INSPECTOR; SENIOR/SPECIAL EVENT/CANTALOUPE COORDINATOR) AND DIRECTION TO NOTIFY AFFECTED EMPLOYEES OF LAYOFF.**

City Manager Jose Ramirez and staff stated that reorganization of the Senior Citizens Position to a ¾ positions with the elimination of the Special Events and Cantaloupe Positions would result in a savings of \$34,475.00 with Health Benefits included, which equals a 42% decrease of the current expenditure for the employee.

Motion to reorganize the Senior Citizens position to a ¾ position and eliminate the Special Events and Cantaloupe Coordinator positions by Council Member Sablan, seconded by Council Member Lake; motion passed by 3-2 vote; Sablan – yes, Lake – yes, Marquez – no, Lowe – yes, DeFrancesco – no.

Motion to eliminate the Code Enforcement position and create a Full-time Fire Chief Position, which will require the Fire Chief to fulfill duties of both positions at a total salary cost in the amount of \$68,000 supported from the General Fund and the Redevelopment Fund by Council Member Lowe, seconded by Council Member Lake, motion fails by 2-3 vote; Lowe – yes, Lake – yes, Marquez – no, DeFrancesco – no, Sablan – no.

Motion to eliminate the Assistant City Manager's position by Council Member Lowe, Seconded by Council Member Lake; motion passed by 3-2 vote; Lowe – yes, Lake – yes, Marquez – yes, DeFrancesco – no, Sablan – no.

Motion to eliminate the Part-time Code Enforcement position by Council Member Sablan, seconded by Council Member DeFrancesco; motion passed by 4-1 vote; Sablan – yes, DeFrancesco – yes, Marquez – yes, Lowe – no, Lake – yes.

Motion to increase the Fire Chief's current part-time position to a full-time position and increase his current income by \$17,000 for a total salary equaling \$49,000 by Council Member Lake, second by Council Member Lowe; motion fails by 2-3 vote; Lake – yes, Lowe – yes, Marquez – no, DeFrancesco – no, Sablan – no.

Council Member Lowe inquired about the requirement of the State regarding the spending cap before approving the budget. Finance Director Odi Ortiz will research this matter and will provide the information to council.

Fernando Campa inquired about the Senior Citizens position on why council approved the position to be a ¾ position which entitles the employee to receive benefits, if they are going to eliminate other positions. Why not vote for all the positions to be equal.

John Baltierra added that Council voted to keep health benefits for the elected officials that could have saved funding and reduces the budget deficit.

Finance Director Odi Ortiz asked Council to provide an effective date for the amendments and actions made to be enforced.

Motion for amendments to be effective by July 1st by Council Member Lowe, seconded by Council Member Marquez; motion passes by censes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Lowe, seconded by Council Member Marquez ; motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.