

MEETING MINUTES

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Firebaugh Vol. No. 10/03-15

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

Date/Time: March 15, 2010/ 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order by Mayor Marquez at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Council Member Marcia Sablan

OTHERS: City Attorney, Meggin Boranian; City Manager, Jose Antonio Ramirez ; City Finance Director, Odi Ortiz; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano; Police Chief, Elsa Lopez; Public Works Director Ben Gallegos; City Engineer Mario Gouveia.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Chris DeFrancesco.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chad Correia of the Cal Ripken Baseball League stated that the league consists of 20 teams, and have an issue of accessibility to areas where the teams can practice. Currently the league is using the High School, Middle School, Jr. High School, Bailey Elementary and Dunkle Park to practice. The girl's softball league has six teams and practice at the Maldonado Park. When teams baseball have gone to practice at Maldonado Park they have been asked to leave because the girls are practicing; therefore the baseball league is asking to have access to the Maldonado Park. City Manager Jose Antonio Ramirez stated that a process is in place for rental/reservation of City Public Facilities, it is a first come first service bases system. Rental Agreement applications are available on the city's website and at City Hall. Mr. Correia submitted application for rental of Dunkle Park, for the boys baseball and Mr. Garcia submitted application for rental of Maldonado Park for girl's softball, Park and Recreation Committee will address the issue at the next meeting on March 18th at the Community Center to be held at noon. Dr. Oscar Sablan recommended the use of the City Rodeo Grounds as an additional area for practices.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Stacy Sablan provided a brief presentation regarding the Family Learning Center, which was originally presented in October 2009; the Family Learning Center received a \$50,000 grant for engineering and designing services. The committee is still seeking additional funding to complete the project; the building will provide public services such as: WIC, Birthing Classes, provided in dual languages, a kid's center/playground, preschool, adult classes and other services that local residents must travel out of town to receive. Estimated cost for this project is about one million. Possible funding of \$50,000 from Fresno County and donors are willing to match the funding, but are continuing to work together to receive various funding sources to complete the project. Council Member Lake is concerned about the proposed location along "P", since it is in front of A.E. Mills with traffic congestion

and parking restrictions. Stacy Sablan stated the design of this project allows parking access from the alley, and the Family Learning Center would benefit the community and provide employment opportunities.

Mr. Jim Lanas provided a brief presentation regarding the Senate Bill 726, and requested a letter of support from Firebaugh City Council. **SB 726** Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, restricts the employment of licensed physicians and surgeons and podiatrists by a corporation or other artificial legal entity, subject to specified exemptions. Existing law establishes, until January 1, 2011, a pilot project to allow qualified district hospitals, as defined, to employ a physician and surgeon, if the hospital does not interfere with, control, or otherwise direct the professional judgment of the physician and surgeon. The pilot project authorizes the direct employment of a total of 20 physicians and surgeons by those hospitals, and specifies that each qualified district hospital may employ up to 2 physicians and surgeons, subject to certain requirements. Existing law requires the Medical Board of California to report to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2008, on the effectiveness of the pilot project. This bill would revise the pilot project to authorize the direct employment by general acute care hospitals meeting specified requirements of an unlimited number of physicians and surgeons under the pilot project, and would authorize such a hospital to employ up to 5 licensees at a time. The bill would extend the pilot project until January 1, 2016, would require the board to report to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2013, on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot project, and would make conforming changes. Doctor Oscar Sablan spoke against supporting SB 726, and concern that the bill that may eliminate important legal protection for patients by allowing hospitals to directly employ physicians, certain standard are required, which allows non-profit clinics care for their patients, and the concern is where will the loyalty of the Doctor lay with the group of the clinic they work for their patients.

GRANT

- CaliforniaFIRST program was awarded approx. \$16.5 million throughout 14 participating counties.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council meeting on February 1, 2010.

Motion to approve minutes of February 1, 2010 made by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member DeFrancesco, motion passed; abstain by Council Member Lake.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The City Council meeting on February 22, 2010.

Motion to approve minutes of February 22, 2010 made by Council Member Lake; second by Council Member Lowe, motion passed; abstain by Council Member DeFrancesco.

3. WARRANT REGISTER – Period starting January 1, and ending on January 31, 2010.

January, 2010	General Warrants	#23133 – #23237	\$ 672,634.13
	Payroll Warrants	#57860 – #57965	<u>\$(Included in Total)</u>
TOTAL			\$ 672,634.13

Motion to approve warrants made by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member Lake, motion passed by unanimous consensus vote.

4. REQUEST FOR USE OF THE CITY FACILITY (RODEO GROUNDS & A. F. COMMUNITY BUILDING) FROM HARMONY RANCH MINISTRY-COWBOY CHURCH ON JULY 16 THROUGH 18, 2010 FOR A RODEO BIBLE YOUTH CAMP AND A WAIVER OF FEES.

Motion to approve rental agreement with rental fee for local non-profit rate made by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member DeFrancesco, motion passed by unanimous consensus vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 10-10 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL TAXPAYER, PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2010.**

Motion to approve Resolution No. 10-10 made by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member Lake; motion passed by 3-1 vote, DeFrancesco – no.

6. **REVIEW THE MOU BETWEEN THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH AND WEST HILLS COLLEGE REGARDING THE MALDONADO PARK SOCCER FIELDS.**

No Action Taken, review item only.

7. **FUNDING FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

No Action Taken, review item only.

8. **DOWNTOWN MARKET OPERATIONAL DATES AND HOURS.**

No Action Taken, informational item only, scheduled to operate April 1st through October 28th, hours 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, with a survey to be completed in the business district per Council Member Lake request.

PENDING ITEMS

- The consideration on the removal of the City Clerk's and City Treasurer's position at next Election.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Elsa Lopez, Police Chief** – Nothing to report.
- **Ben Gallegos, Public Works Director** – Nothing to report.
- **Odi Ortiz, Finance Director** – Submitted a grant application to USDA seeking funding of \$25,000 for purchase of tables and chairs for the Community Center, which will be combined with \$20,000 from Cities' budget. Provide a brief description of materials presented at the attended Conference in staff report for review.
- **Rita Lozano, Deputy City Clerk** – Reminder the 700 Forms deadline is April 1st.
- **City Engineer Mario Gouveia** – Reported that construction will begin March 22nd on 13th & 12th Street for repairs of curbs and gutters, paving will begin the following week during Spring Break, estimate time of three days for completion. Future projects: Safe Route to School Project to begin upon approval from CalTrans and water line repairs.
- **Jose Antonio Ramirez, City Manager** – Legal Attorneys are involved with an issue that the City is having with Fresno County. Firebaugh Unified School District and West Hills College will seek about three years of reimbursements from city for Utility Users Tax, which has not been submitted. Park Family would like to donate funding for a new Park in their namesake, they are currently considering KHovnanian subdivision for the location, and it will include a playground. San Joaquin River Repair Project is postponed due to weather conditions.

- **Julia of Proteus** – Provided a presentation regarding the Firebaugh Community Garden’s success thanks to the volunteers and community participation. Currently Thirty families are growing various crops on thirty lots, with a goal to promote a healthier community; many more would like to participate so they have been placed on a waiting list. The Agreement with the City of Firebaugh and Firebaugh Promotores for the Community Garden was approved for a three year lease and will expire this year; therefore the Promotores wanted to provide an update regarding this project and may ask council in the future to extend the agreement. Future goal for the Community Garden project is to involve local schools and other organizations to participate.

COUNCIL ITEMS

- **Council Member Lowe** – Inquired if staff could try to address noise reduction of generators during the Downtown Market event.
- **Council Member Lake** – Inquired weeds at the Kwock Apartments, which is an entrance to the City.
- **Mayor Marquez** – Inquired in regards to funding for repairs at Dunkle Park. Inquired if City could look at the various driveway entrances along HWY33 in front of Manuel’s Tire Shop. Staff informed that it is a CalTrans issue, since it is along the Highway.

**Motion to enter to closed session with five minute break at 9:37 pm with 5 minute break by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member Lake.*

CLOSED SESSION

1. **REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATION – REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – Pursuant to Government Code Section #54956.8.**

Owner or Designative Rep.	City Negotiator Jose Antonio Ramirez			
APN	008-010-22	008-010-23	008-010-24	008-074-10

- *Motion to enter open session at 10:15 pm by consensus vote.*

ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

No Action Taken

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Lowe; second by Mayor Marquez, motion carries by unanimous consensus vote, Meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.