

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

### The City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Firebaugh Vol. No. 10/03-26

**Location of Meeting:** Andrew Firebaugh Community Center  
1655 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Firebaugh, CA 93622

**Date/Time:** March 26, 2010/ 12:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order by Mayor Marquez at 12:08 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

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

**ABSENT:** Council Member Marcia Sablan

**OTHERS:** City Manager, Jose Antonio Ramirez; Deputy City Clerk, Rita Lozano.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Rod Lake

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment given.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 10-11 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIREBAUGH APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE CALTRANS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM.**

City Manager Jose Ramirez reported that the City of Firebaugh is seeking funds from CalTrans Environmental Justice Planning Grant Program, in the amount of \$150,000.00. A match of 10% is required, In-kind services can make-up the requirement. The following are preliminary components to plan and identify Firebaugh's "DNA" to cultivate specific building prospective for a positive growth, given the city's residential and business core. In order to establish planning projects to form a memorable identity for Firebaugh and develop the area into a unique, thriving place to live, work, learn and play. With two primary goals: first **the San Joaquin River Revitalization** - working to restore, preserve and improve the community of Firebaugh. The proposed River parkway project will provide public access and become a major community asset. The River Parkway project will meet the following conditions: **Recreation** - include nature trail to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and allow more unrestricted public access to the waterfront. **Habitat** - Protect, improve, and restore river to benefit wildlife habitats. **Flood Management** - Maintain or restore lands along rivers that periodically flood, as part of a flood management plan or project. **Vibrant Uses along River Parkways** - Convert existing developed riverfront land into uses consistent with River Parkways. **Conservation and Interpretive Enhancement** - Provide facilities to support stream restoration or other conservation activities. **Second Project regarding the Downtown Revitalization** is addressing **Potential Environmental Studies** (Traffic/ Parking and Infrastructure capacities for new proposed land uses). **Streetscape improvements** (Sidewalks and Landscape), and **Downtown design guidelines** (Architecture and Form based code). Deadline to submit grant is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Council Member Lake inquired: if the project should go through process of bid, if the city is awarded the funds, and what amount of the grant would be received for the city with the in-kind? City Manager Ramirez responded that the grant is designed for the purpose of planning, drafting and drawing services primarily, however the city may receive about \$15,000 for in-kind.

***Motion to approve Resolution No. 10-11 by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member DeFrancesco; motion carries by unanimous consensus vote.***

## PENDING ITEMS

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

## STAFF REPORTS

- **Jose Antonio Ramirez, City Manager** – Working with Queen Gil, they currently have 25 machines operating. The School District will complete an analysis that may decrease the School Development Fees for residential construction. Zebra mussels are a huge pest accidentally brought into the Great Lakes, which may cause serious economic problems, because they have a tremendous impact on facilities that use raw surface water, such as utility plants, factories, and water treatment plants; therefore the Bureau of Reclamation will send a team to complete a study regarding this issue. Fresno Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will host a Real Estate Forecast Event on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm for anyone interested. Working with Tuckfield regarding the consideration of a water/wastewater study to review the current rates for services, he recommended focusing on the industrial rates, which may lower residential rates; the study would cost approximately \$30,000 - \$50,000. Do to the city recent purchase of the Kwock Apartments, the city will draft new lease agreements for the current residents, which will become effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The City will be seeking reimbursement from the Firebaugh Motel for their outstanding water/sewer/disposal service fees.

## COUNCIL ITEMS

- **Council Member Lake** – recommends that if awarded funding from the CALTRANS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM, under the Flood Management component: requests a plan to address and fix the low areas at risk of flooding. These are the same areas over the years that the Corps of Engineers have previously identified. He suggests that Council review and considers the Water Study Analysis with Tuckfield during budget review. Recommends posting a memo/newsletter/press release to inform public of property purchase, so that they are properly informed of details, which may eliminate false information. Inquired if the Public Works Department has intentions of disking City properties soon to keep weeds.
- **Council Member Lowe** – Inquired about the 13<sup>th</sup> Street and “P” Street project, and the zone changes the Planning Commission Committee is considering regarding Del Rio, specifically the Commercial Zone of property previously owned by Firebaugh Disposal, which has been purchased as Commercial Zone, but if any changes are applied to the property the business owner may not be able to operate a business. City Manager Ramirez replied, “That it is a risk of the property owner.”

## CLOSED SESSION

None

## ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

None

## ADJOURNMENT

***Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Lowe; second by Council Member Lake, motion carries by unanimous consensus vote, Meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.***

