

ORDINANCE No. 2019-48

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TX., CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING RULES OF CONDUCT AND DECORUM FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS HELD BY THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND SAVINGS CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Leon Valley is a Home Rule Municipality located within Bexar County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Leon Valley, as a Home Rule Municipality, derives its powers exclusively from its Home Rule Charter and is limited in authority only by express provisions of the Texas Constitution and the State statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Leon Valley City Council conducts its business at public meetings and hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Leon Valley City Council has a responsibility to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to participate in a public meeting and public hearing and therefore can reasonably limit the length and general nature of public comments so that the City Council and its boards and commission can consider various points of view; and

WHEREAS, while the public may provide information during designated times at public meetings to the City Council, such presentation must be limited to public business in order for the City Council to efficiently and effectively conduct its meetings; and

WHEREAS, to assist with expectations and provide clear guidance to the public as to the proper conduct when presenting public business information to the City Council, boards, or commission, the City Council finds it appropriate to adopt certain rules of conduct and decorum; and

WHEREAS, the City of Leon Valley finds it is in the best interest of its residents and the general public to adopt the following rules of conduct and decorum.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. The following rules of conduct and decorum are hereby adopted and shall apply in all City Council meetings of the City of Leon Valley as follows:

1. A person wishing to address the City Council can provide input during the "Citizens to be Heard" on items that are not on the Agenda and

for items listed on the agenda.

- A person unable to attend City Council meetings may submit written comments, and must include their name and place of residence up to and during the meeting date via e-mail, regular mail, or by fax:
 - i. Email to: leonvalleycitizens@leonvalleytexas.gov and k.kuenstler@leonvalleytexas.gov
 - ii. Mail to: Leon Valley Public Comments
6400 El Verde Road,
Leon Valley, TX 78238
 - iii. Fax to: (210) 684-4476

2. Members of the public may address the City Council during the "Citizens to be Heard" portion of the meeting.

- The "Citizens to be Heard" portion will allow members of the public to address Council on items that are not on the agenda.
- Members of the public will be allowed three (3) minutes to provide comments during the "Citizens to be Heard" portion.
- The "Citizens to be Heard" portion of the meeting will be:
 - i. At the beginning of the meeting; and
 - ii. After any presentation of any item that they are entitled to be heard; and
 - iii. At the end of the meeting.

3. Anyone desiring to speak during any portion of City Council meetings shall be first recognized by the presiding officer.

4. All ceremonial items and informational presentations, if any, will be placed at 6:00 p.m. or at the beginning of scheduled business meetings.

5. A Council member who has spoken should refrain from speaking again until each Council member has had an opportunity to speak.

6. Council members shall not use devices for the purpose of communicating during a City Council meeting.

- These devices include but are not limited to telephone, computer, I-Pad.

- Communication includes but is not limited to e-mails, texts, and messaging.
- This section does not apply to city staff/employees in the execution of their duties to City Council.

7. City Council members, staff and members of the public shall not shout, display unruly behavior, distract with side conversations, use profanity, threat of violence, or disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting.

- When any person is addressing City Council, staff or members of the public, no personal attacks on staff, members of the public or City Council shall be allowed.
- The presiding officer shall warn the person that he or she shall be required to leave the meeting room if the disruption continues.
- If the person is asked to leave the meeting room and the person does not leave the meeting room, the presiding officer may order any peace officer at the meeting to remove the person from the meeting room.

8. Robert's Rules of Order will take precedence for conduct not covered by these Council meeting rules.

Section 2. Such rules shall be administered and enforced by the presiding officer of such City Council.

Section 3. Such rules shall apply to all members of the public presenting information to the City Council.

Section 4. Such rules may be suspended, for good cause, by the presiding officer during a meeting as long as the presentation of information remains related to public business only.

Section 5. The presiding officer may enforce these rules by any means or authority provided to the presiding officer by law.

Section 6. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or section of this

Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any other remaining phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance.

Section 7. The repeal of any Ordinance or part of Ordinances effectuated by the enactment of this Ordinance shall not be construed as abandoning any action now pending under or by virtue of such Ordinance or as discontinuing, abating, modifying or altering any penalty accruing or to accrue, or as affecting any rights of the municipality under any section or provisions at the time of passage of this Ordinance.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Leon Valley this the 17th day of September 2019.

APPROVED

Chris Riley

CHRIS RILEY
MAYOR

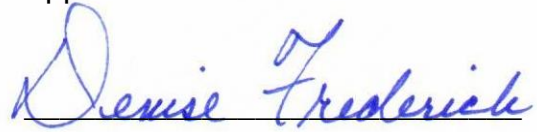


Attest:

Saundra Passailaigue

SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Secretary

Approved as to Form:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Frederick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

DENISE FREDERICK

City Attorney