



**CITY OF LEON VALLEY
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**
Leon Valley City Council Chambers
6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, TX 78238
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

MINUTES

5:30 PM Call to Order; Determine a Quorum is Present, Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status
Chris Riley	City of Leon Valley	Mayor	Present
David Edwards	City of Leon Valley	Council Place 1	Present
Josh Stevens	City of Leon Valley	Council Place 2	Present
Jed Hefner	City of Leon Valley	Council Place 3	Remote
Rey Orozco	City of Leon Valley	Council Place 4	Present
Will Bradshaw	City of Leon Valley	Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5	Present

Mayor Chris Riley welcomed everyone and asked Councilor Rey Orozco to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Council Shall Meet In Executive Session To Discuss The Following:

Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.071 Consultation with Counsel on Legal Matters: To Receive Legal Advice with Respect to Pending Litigation Regarding – Cause No. 2018-CV-00594, Robert and Gail Tribble v. Leon Valley Board of Adjustment (M&C # 2021-04-06-01)

Mayor Riley read aloud the item caption.

The City Council went into Executive Session at 5:37 PM

Reconvene Into Regular Session And Take Action On Issues Discussed In Executive Session If Necessary

The City Council reconvened into Open Session at 6:12 PM

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to direct staff to review Section 15.02 of the Zoning Code. The motion was seconded by Councilor David Edwards.

Mayor Chris Riley took a moment to briefly go over the newly amended Rules of Decorum.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
SECONDER:	David Edwards, Council Place 1
AYES:	David Edwards, Josh Stevens, Jed Hefner, Rey Orozco, Will Bradshaw

PRESENTATIONS

Certificate of Achievement to Diana Sarfin for 16th Anniversary of the Red Hats Society of Leon Valley (Mayor Chris Riley)

Mayor Riley presented a Certificate of Achievement to Diana Sarfin for the 16th Anniversary of the Red Hats Society of Leon Valley.

Ms. Sarfin then presented Mayor Riley with her very own red hat.

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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Certificate of Achievement to Rita Burnside for 25th Anniversary of the Tai Chi Chih of Leon Valley (Mayor Chris Riley)

Mayor Riley presented a Certificate of Achievement to Rita Burnside for the 25th Anniversary of the Tai Chi Chih of Leon Valley.

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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Presentation and Direction on a Drive-Thru Resource Fair Event for Seniors Sponsored by WellMed (M. Mendoza, Special Events Coordinator)

Maribel Mendoza, Special Events Coordinator introduced Jessica Ramirez from WellMed.

Ms. Ramirez gave a presentation on a Drive-Thru Resource Fair Event for seniors sponsored by WellMed.

Direction was given to Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Mendoza to work together to get the program set up and the City Council said they would do all they can to get citizens to attend.

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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Presentation of the 2020 Texas Municipal Library Directors Association Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award (Mayor Chris Riley, Library Director Regina Reed, Assistant Library Director Theresa Brader, and Library Staff)

Mayor Chris Riley presented the TMLDA Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award 2020 to Library Director Regina Reed, Assistant Director Theresa Brader and Library staff Rosemary Tijerina, and Angelina Corona.

RESULT: PRESENTED

Discussion and Direction of Adding Fluoride to the Leon Valley Public Water Supply (M&C # 2021-04-06-02 M. Moritz)

Councilor Josh Stevens and Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director presented this item.

Those who spoke on this item were: Erick Matta (Leon Valley); Cassie Rowse (Leon Valley), and Garrett Heaton (Leon Valley)

RESULT: PRESENTED

Presentation of the Huebner Creek Hike & Bike Trail Update April 2021 (Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director)

Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director presented an update on the Hike & Bike Trail.

Those who spoke on this item were: Erick Matta (Leon Valley)

RESULT: PRESENTED

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Those who spoke at this time were: Jack Miller (San Antonio), Cassie Rowse (San Antonio), Karen Seiffert (Leon Valley), Andy Guerra (Helotes) gave his three (3) minutes to Jack Miller (San Antonio)

Mayor Riley read a citizen comment submitted by: Lydia Bransell (Leon Valley)

Mayor Riley had one other comment that was submitted but this one did not comply with the Rules of Decorum which states you must list your name and where you live. The comment was not read but will be included with the minutes.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Crystal Caldera reminded everyone of this Saturday's Preliminary Budget and Water Workshop at 9:00 AM here at City Hall; and the April 20th City Council meeting will now begin at 5:30 PM due to Executive Sessions that have been scheduled.

Upcoming Important Events:

- Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:00 PM, Regular City Council Meeting in Council Chambers.
- Wednesday, April 07, 2021 at 5:30 PM, Special City Council Meeting in Council Chambers.
- Saturday, April 10, 2021, at 9:00 AM, Special City Council Budget and Water Workshop in Council Chambers.

- Monday, March 29, 2021 - Monday, April 5th, 2021 at 9:00 AM, Leon Valley Police Department Vehicle Impound Online Auction.
- Saturday, April 17, 2021, at 9:00 AM, League of Women Voters hosted Candidate's Forum, at the Community Center.
- Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 8:00 AM, Audie L. Murphy Memorial Parkway Clean-up on Evers road - Sponsored by American Legion Post 336 Leon Valley, meeting place is the Leon Valley Public Library.
- Monday, April 19th - Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, Early Voting for the General Election, (Leon Valley site - Conference Center).
- Friday, April 30, 2021, beginning at dusk, Movies in the Park featuring Disney's Onward, at Raymond Rimkus Park.
- Saturday, May 01, 2021, from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM, General Election, (Leon Valley site - Conference Center).
- Miscellaneous other events and announcements.

RESULT: PRESENTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor David Edwards thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Councilor Josh Stevens also thanked everyone for coming and said he would try to add an agenda item to add more chairs to Chambers.

Councilor Jed Hefner thanked everyone for the well wishes.

Councilor Rey Orozco said "Happy belated Vietnam Veterans Day".

Councilor Will Bradshaw offered congratulations to the Baylor Bears for their win last night; spoke about Easter; "Get Well Soon" to Councilor Hefner; and offered condolences to Mayor Riley for the recent loss of her mother.

Mayor Chris Riley spoke about the Bandera Redevelopment Update; Upcoming Virtual Bandera Road Meetings - more info coming; Candidates Forum is on April 17th at 9:00 AM at the Conference Center; the positivity rate update; April 7th at 10:30 AM will be a ribbon cutting at Crystal Hills Park; Carvajal Pharmacy is providing COVID vaccine to homebound people; and thanked Public Works staff for cleaning up the park Sunday and adding more picnic tables.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Jed Hefner asked to pull Consent Item 8.2 for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Josh Stevens to adopt Consent Agenda Items 8.1, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.5 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jed Hefner.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2
SECONDER:	Jed Hefner, Council Place 3
AYES:	David Edwards, Josh Stevens, Jed Hefner, Rey Orozco, Will Bradshaw

Consideration of the Following City Council Minutes:

- a. Special Meeting- July 2, 2019 5:30 PM
- b. Special Meeting- July 18, 2019 5:30 PM
- c. Special Meeting- August 8, 2019 5:30 PM
- d. Special Meeting- August 13, 2019 5:45 PM
- e. Special Emergency Meeting- March 18, 2020 5:30 PM
- f. Special Meeting- March 25, 2020 6:00 PM
- g. Regular Meeting- April 7, 2020 6:00 PM
- h. Special Meeting- April 8, 2020 5:30 PM
- i. Special Meeting- April 13, 2020 5:30 PM
- j. Special Meeting- July 7, 2020 6:00 PM
- k. Special Meeting- August 4, 2020 5:15 PM

Presentation and Discussion on Racial Profiling Report for 2020 (M&C # 2021-04-06-05 D. Gonzalez)

Discussion and Possible Action by the City Council of the City of Leon Valley, TX., Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Leon Valley Police Department and the City of San Antonio Police Department (M&C # 2021-04-06-06 D. Gonzalez)

Discussion and Possible Action Cancelling the Saturday, April 24, 2021 Coffee with the Mayor & Council (M&C # 2021-04-06-07 S. Passailaigue)

REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation, Discussion, and Action to Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Ardurra Group, Inc. to Provide Professional Engineering Services to the City of Leon Valley. - *Item Removed from Consent* (M&C # 2021-04-06-04 M. Moritz)

A motion was made by Councilor Jed Hefner to adopt the item as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rey Orozco.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Jed Hefner, Council Place 3
SECONDER: Rey Orozco, Council Place 4
AYES: Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw

ORDINANCE

Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Business Regulations, Removing Article 8.10, Rental Registration & Inspection (1st Reading was Held on 03-23-21) (M&C # 2021-04-06-08 B. Melland)

A motion was made by Councilor Jed Hefner to adopt as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rey Orozco.

Councilor Orozco stepped away and was not present for the actual vote.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Jed Hefner, Council Place 3
SECONDER: Rey Orozco, Council Place 4
AYES: David Edwards, Josh Stevens, Jed Hefner, Will Bradshaw
ABSENT: Rey Orozco

REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation and Discussion on the Ordinance Appointing City Manager Gilbert Perales and Approving His Contract with the City of Leon Valley (1st Read as Required by City Charter) (M&C # 2021-04-06-09 C. Caldera)

Crystal Caldera, Acting City Manager introduced Gilbert Perales, incoming City Manager who will begin on July 05, 2021. Council Members welcomed Mr. Perales and expressed their excitement to his joining Leon Valley. Mr. Perales thanked everyone and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity.

Those who spoke on this item were: Benny Martinez (Leon Valley); Erick Matta (Leon Valley); and Jack Miller (San Antonio)

RESULT: **FIRST READ**

Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Recommendation on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 15, Zoning Regarding the Following: Short-Term Rentals in Residential Zoning Districts; Mobile Food Units in Non-Residential Zoning Districts; Permanent Makeup aka. Cosmetic Tattooing in Non-Residential Zoning Districts; Restaurants in the B-1, Zoning District; and Gymnasiums/Physical Fitness Facilities in the B-2, Zoning District; and a Public Hearing on Said Amendments (1st Reading as Required by City Charter) (M&C # 2021-04-20-10 B. Melland)

Brandon Melland, Planning & Zoning Director presented several amendments to Chapter 15 of the City's Code, for City Council consideration. The specific amendments are as follows: short-term rentals in residential zoning districts; mobile food units in non-residential zoning districts; permanent makeup, also known as cosmetic tattooing in non-residential districts; restaurants in the B-1, Small Business Zoning District; and gymnasiums/physical fitness facilities in the B-2 District. This was a first reading of the purposed amendments.

There was a lengthy discussion on each of the mentioned items.

Mayor Chris Riley opened the Public Hearing at 9:07 PM

Those who spoke on the item were: Danielle Bolton (Leon Valley); Evan Bohl (Leon Valley); and Jack Miller (San Antonio)

There being no further public comment; Mayor Riley closed the Public Hearing at 9:16 PM

RESULT: FIRST READ

Presentation and Discussion on an Ordinance of the City of Leon Valley, TX, City Council Accepting the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council Trauma System Grant in the amount of \$7,034.75; and Amending the General Fund Budget of The City of Leon Valley, Texas Municipal Budget for The Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to be Increased in the Amount of \$7,034.75, to Provide Funding to Purchase Supplies and Equipment Used for Providing Emergency Medical Care in Leon Valley (1st Read as Required by City Charter) (M&C # 2021-04-06-11 M. Naughton)

Michael Naughton, LVFD Chief presented the item which is a request for a budget adjustment to accept the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council trauma system grant of \$7,034.75 to purchase supplies and equipment for the Leon Valley Fire Department Emergency Medical Service.

RESULT: FIRST READ

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Declaring Intent to Phase Out Red Light Cameras (M&C # 2021-04-06-12 Councilor Josh Stevens)

Councilor Josh Stevens presented a proposed resolution declaring intent to phase out the Red-Light Cameras.

Those who spoke were: Erick Matta (Leon Valley); Evan Bohl (Leon Valley); Benny Martinez (Leon Valley); Jack Miller (Leon Valley); and Cassie Rowse (Leon Valley)

Councilor David Edwards read comments submitted by: Shirley Jonas (Leon Valley); and Paul Ottavio (Leon Valley)

Councilor Josh Stevens read comments submitted by: Bill Henning (Leon Valley); and Matthew Hodde (Leon Valley)

Mayor Riley read comments submitted by: Loretta Hodde (Leon Valley); and Ray and Sharon Hendricks (Leon Valley)

Councilor Rey Orozco read comments submitted by: Michelle Alonzo (Leon Valley); and Liz Maloy (Leon Valley)

Councilor Will Bradshaw read comments submitted by: Donna Charles (Leon Valley); Cindy Henley (Leon Valley); and Billie Ford (address unknown)

A motion was made by Councilor Josh Stevens to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Will Bradshaw.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2
SECONDER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw

A motion was made by Councilor Josh Stevens to have an Executive Session at 5:30 PM on April 20, 2021 to discuss this resolution further. The motion was seconded by Councilor Will Bradshaw.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2
SECONDER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to suspend the rules and take agenda item 10.5 before adjourning. The motion was seconded by Councilor Josh Stevens.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
SECONDER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Authorizing Staff to Adjust the Required Certificate of Occupancy Fees for the Updating of all Certificates of Occupancy at 5405 and 5504 Bandera Road (M&C # 2021-04-06-13 B. Melland)

Brandon Melland, Planning & Zoning Director presented on behalf of Robert Boe, President JFB Construction, LLC. Mr. Boe represents the owners of the properties located at 5504 and 5405 Bandera Road, which are Timco Bandera EPA LLC. and West Loop Distribution Center EPA LLC., respectively. Both are owned by the same holding company.

Director Melland went on to say that the owner recently acquired these properties. Due to

the underlying ownership of these properties having changed, the Zoning Code requires that the individual certificate of occupancy (CO) for each business be updated because each CO specifies the owner of the property, as directed by the International Building Code (IBC). Because the City is updating the CO, which represents a recertification by the City of Leon Valley that the facility is safe to occupy, the City must conduct inspections. Therefore, the process of updating a CO expends the same City resources as issuing a new CO, which generally includes an inspection by the building inspector and fire marshal. This process costs \$125 per CO. However, there are approximately 35 tenants within these two facilities combined. This would cost the property owners approximately \$4,500.

Director Melland stated that Mr. Boe feels that the fee is excessive and is requesting some form of relief from the fee.

Director Melland added that staff also believes that this is excessive for the following reasons: It is not necessary to inspect every suite in this instance because the fire marshal already conducts an annual inspection once a year to ensure International Fire Code (IFC) compliance; and an inspection by the building inspector is most necessary at the time a business opens; and a general inspection of each building, in this case, will be sufficient.

Councilor Josh Stevens announced that he would be abstaining from the vote on this item.

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to adopt the resolution waiving the fees. The motion was seconded by Councilor David Edwards.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
SECONDER:	David Edwards, Council Place 1
AYES:	Edwards, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw
ABSTAIN:	Stevens

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Appointing Committee Members, Alternate Committee Members and City Council Liaisons to the Capital Facilities Oversight Committee (M&C # 2021-04-07-02 S. Passailaigue)

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to continue this meeting of April 06, 2021 to tomorrow, April 07, 2021; adding this item to the already posted items to be discussed as allowed by the Local Government Code. The motion was seconded by Councilor Josh Stevens.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/7/2021 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5	
SECONDER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2	
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw	

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Appointing Board Members and Alternate Board Members to the Leon Valley Board of Adjustment (M&C # 2021-04-07-01 S. Passailaigue)

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to continue this meeting of April 06, 2021 to tomorrow, April 07, 2021; adding this item to the already posted items to be discussed as allowed by the Local Government Code. The motion was seconded by Councilor Josh Stevens.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/7/2021 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5	
SECONDER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2	
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw	

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Appointing Committee Members and Alternate Members to the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee (M&C # 2021-04-07-03 S. Passailaigue)

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to continue this meeting of April 06, 2021 to tomorrow, April 07, 2021; adding this item to the already posted items to be discussed as allowed by the Local Government Code. The motion was seconded by Councilor Josh Stevens.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/7/2021 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5	
SECONDER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2	
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw	

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Appointing Two (2) City Council Members to the Records Management Committee (M&C # 2021-04-07-04 S. Passailaigue)

A motion was made by Councilor Will Bradshaw to continue this meeting of April 06, 2021 to tomorrow, April 07, 2021; adding this item to the already posted items to be discussed as allowed by the Local Government Code. The motion was seconded by Councilor Josh Stevens.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/7/2021 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5	
SECONDER:	Josh Stevens, Council Place 2	
AYES:	Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw	

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None

REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL TO ADD ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Chris Riley requested that an item be place on the next agenda for the NW San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to give a presentation.


Councilor Rey Orozco once again requested an update on the Sign Code Amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Riley announced that the meeting adjourned at 11:06 PM.

These minutes approved by the Leon Valley City Council on the 20th of April, 2021.

APPROVED



CHRIS RILEY
MAYOR

ATTEST: 
SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
CITY SECRETARY



On March 23, 2021, the Leon Valley City Council unanimously voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-13, amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinance, Section 1.04.001 (d) (2) saying that “All written comments shall be included in the meeting minutes.”

The Presiding Chair, the Mayor, has sole discretion on the appropriateness of which comments are and are not allowed.

The following comments have been reviewed and approved as “appropriate” to be included in the April 06, 2021 Leon Valley City Council Meeting Minutes by Mayor Chris Riley.

From: [Elizabeth Maloy](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Agenda item 4.Declaring Intent to Phase Out Red Light Cameras (M&C # 2021-04-06-12)
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 5:59:27 PM

I am strongly opposed to phasing out the Red Light Camera program in Leon Valley. The program does not affect any drivers who obey the speed limits. If you plan on speeding through our City I hope it does affect you.

We also have a contract. I am really irritated and disappointed that this Council seems to have no qualms in considering the breaking of a contract. That is not representative of the ethics held by Leon Valley voters and residents.

The red light cameras have served to slow down those driving through our city and have served to educate those who work and/or live in our city. If you are behind the wheel, follow the law and follow the speed limits or you will be identified and you will pay a fine.

I do agree that it is a shame we had to reach the point red light cameras were needed to address the unlawful driving we have all seen and experienced in our City. But we reached that point and the red light cameras have served as a deterrent.

Persons who are serving on Council but never lived in Leon Valley prior to the implementation of the red light camera program cannot speak with any knowledge or credibility of the before and after re the red light camera issue.

The added advantage we have gained by having the where with all to hire some more Leon Valley Police has also been a major benefit for our City, its residents, and its businesses. Sadly, It appears we have persons serving on City Council who are opposed to keeping our city safe and are opposed to continuing Leon Valley's reputation "Do Not Speed in Leon Valley".

When my company, General Homes, and I were considering building a neighborhood in Leon Valley, we considered how well Leon Valley was living up to their responsibilities mandated by the State of Texas. We were particularly impressed by the pride Leon Valley showed in living up to its responsibility of providing a police force to protect its people and businesses. The support that Council had for its force and the assumption that support would be ongoing was extremely instrumental in our decision to come to Leon Valley and build the neighborhood of Pavona Place. I am very sure businesses continues to factor in the local Police Department and its relationship with the City Council in making decisions whether or not to move their business to Leon Valley.

This council is going down the wrong road with their intention to eliminate the red light program and their determination to denigrate and diminish the Leon Valley Police

Department.

From: [michelle alonzo](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Red light Camera citizen to be heard
Date: Saturday, April 3, 2021 10:36:45 PM

Dear Council,

In spite of my receiving two tickets on the same corner from turning right without coming to a full stop, I fully support the red light camera and guess what I no longer take a right on that corner without stopping.

Please consider the safety of all citizens and maintain our red light camera lights.

Michelle Alonzo,
Leon Valley Park commissioner

From: [Matt Hodde](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Email to city council regarding photo-enforced traffic lights
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 11:11:30 PM

When I saw the agenda item on the topic of "Declaring intent to phase out red light cameras" I was bewildered. Why? These currently installed cameras are not illegal. But running a red light is most definitely illegal.

This system was put in as a result of the Citizens Police Advisory Committee and the former police chief's desire to reduce the number of red light-running incidents and associated wrecks. And you know what? It is working, despite the ridiculous claims by naysayers that it isn't.

The State of Texas, the camera system company, and the City of Leon Valley each receive a percentage of the fines collected. The portion of funds that Leon Valley receives can only be used for public safety-related expenses. It is not a money-making scheme to fill the city's coffers.

The resolution on this subject found in the agenda packet begins with; **WHEREAS, The City Council of Leon Valley ("Council") believes the number one priority of Leon Valley City Government is to ensure the safety of its citizens and the public;**

Phasing out red light cameras seems like the **opposite** of ensuring the safety of Leon Valley citizens and the public.

Furthermore, whomever authored this resolution accidentally on purpose left out an important fact. It should have read, "**WHEREAS, Existing red light systems currently under contract are completely legal despite the passing of House Bill 1631;**"

If you are unsure of this, check with State Representative Ray Lopez. He is familiar with the subject.

And some final thoughts, if you eliminate the camera system, what are you going to tell the parent of someone laid up in the hospital after their car was t-boned by a red light runner at Bandera and Seneca? How will you feel after a pedestrian crossing Grissom Road is run over by a driver rushing through a red light to turn left from Bandera?

Please think about public safety, not just what you want.

Matthew Hodde
Concerned resident of Leon Valley and daily traveler on Bandera Road

From: [Paul Ottavio](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Proposed reduction of police manpower
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 8:18:59 PM

Dear Ms. Passailaigue, I am writing this letter to you on the evening of April 5, 2021. I would like this letter to be read at the Mayor and Council meeting on Tues. evening, April 6, 2021.

I have heard that two of the items on the agenda for the City Council are to remove the red light cameras and then to reduce the size of the Leon Valley Police force. Both of these issues are mis-guided at best. The red light cameras have brought in much needed revenue to the City in the form of fewer accidents, safer streets and additional officers on the streets. It's nice to see a police vehicle in the neighborhood on a regular basis now that the City has the manpower to do so. Prior to the added manpower, if I saw a police vehicle in Pavona Place I assumed the officer was lost. That's because they were seen so rarely. I have never heard a citizen of any city call to defund the police unless they were part of a group of protesters who were intent on protecting criminals. Listening to the rhetoric from around the country you would think the general consensus is to defund police depts. That is not the case. The vast majority of citizens like to know they can call 911 and get a response. If the police are defunded who do I call? The City Council? I'm sure they'll all come running. I have had trouble trying to contact LVPD on the non-emergency line, most recently during the power outage, ever since our 911 call center was moved to Bexar County. Some of the money from these red light cameras could be used to re-instate our call center so we can once again contact our own police.

Speaking of the red light cameras, the City has a long term contract, apparently some 20 years, with the company monitoring the cameras. At the current time these cameras cost the City nothing and bring in revenue which can only be used for public safety. That means that our Police Dept. can hire more officers to protect the citizens of Leon Valley, update their equipment, have better radio communication, and, essentially protect the residents of Leon Valley and themselves. Reducing LVPD manpower puts our officers lives in even more danger than they already face daily. The revenue from the traffic cameras means our police don't have to depend on San Antonio for back up, which could take too much time and get our officers injured or killed. To me, as a retired police sergeant, this is not acceptable.

Another consideration is how much would breaking this lengthy contract cost the taxpayers of Leon Valley? Because I know the money to break this contract

is not coming out of the pockets of the City Council. Everything they do or spend money on has a direct effect on the City taxpayers. As I recall, when the red light cameras were contracted for, the City Council was all for it. If they get some complaints from LV residents about the fines as I have read on the Next Door website, those residents should be informed that they should have stopped for the red light. If you stop, you don't get a summons. It's that simple. The red light is not a suggestion, it is the law. It seems though, that the vast majority of summonses are sent to people driving through Leon Valley in a hurry to get home after work.

So in closing, from my point of view, the red light cameras are all upside. It would be, to put it politely, non-sensical to remove them.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Paul Ottavio
7415 Chenal Pt.



From: [Ray Hendricks](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Red Light cameras
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:58:43 PM

Mayor Riley & City Council Members,

We are in favor of continuing with the red light camera program. We feel it has increased the safety & decreased accidents on Bandera road, while increasing revenue for the city.

Ray & Sharon Hendricks

6015 Aids St.

From: [Shirley Jonas](#)
To: [Mayor Riley](#); [Will Bradshaw](#); [Crystal Caldera](#); [Saundra Passailaigue](#); [David Edwards](#)
Subject: agenda item
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 5:38:25 PM

Please cast your vote for the best interest of the Citizens of Leon Valley NOT your personal interest regarding the RED Light System.

Records show there have been less accidents since we approved the Red Light System. And I understand most people who are caught on the camera do not live in Leon Valley. So why do you want them removed? Let those who do not live in L V and get caught help pay for LV's safety.

The lights are not costing the City any money but are making money for related items for the Police and Fire Departments.

Please vote for all citizens of Leon Valley not just a few have gotten on the Red Light Camera? How many of the Council have gotten caught?

Shirley Jonas
Shadow Mist Sub

April 4, 2021

Chris Riley
Mayor of Leon Valley,

Received by
CITY SECRETARY
Date: 04-05-2021
Time: 9:45 AM SD
in mailbox

While I can say that while you have been in office, you have done some wonderful things for the city of Leon Valley, but as of the last couple of years, I can say you are quickly bringing the city you lead to their proverbial knees. Your insistence to abolish "anything" related to prior City Manager Kuenstler and prior Police Chief Salvaggio is absolutely "disgusting". Both of those individuals are esteemed and you consistently have dragged and soiled their good names and its unconscionable. Both of those leaders did the best they could representing the city despite minimal to no support from you and the current sitting council representatives. Do you truly realize how you are ruining the city with your acts of petty revenge?

What is it going to take as Mr. Martinez repetitiously points out "stop the insanity?" You have allowed the auditors to come in and slander the prior council, not to mention the staff of this city. You firsthand saw the actions of Mr. Bradshaw when he viciously attacked the now sitting Police Chief Gonzalez, and you just walked by and said NOTHING! What kind of leader allows such abuse to take place against your police department and you merely look the other way? I can only attribute those actions to a weak leader who has long overstayed her welcome. Like many more before me have mentioned, please excuse yourself for your actions and step aside so a "true" leader can assume the position you are failing at.

I call for the reinstating of Chief Salvaggio, and the hiring of a competent City Manager and not one that filled this role to do the "dirty" work of the sitting council. Many comments have been made as to the "joke Leon Valley has become" and how the prior council contributed to this problem. Yet, what many do not realize is that "YOU" are the leader and you set the standard for the subsequent actions taken and being allowed. By your total disregard for your staff and department leaders, you have allowed the ridiculousness to take place and further destroy the city.

Hoping for positive change,

Amy Montoya

From: [Billie Ford](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: photo traffic signals
Date: Saturday, April 3, 2021 5:33:38 PM

I have heard that LV might be considering discontinuing photo-enforced ticketing. Although I don't particularly care for them, I think they have probably reduced wrecks at intersections because people tend to try to "beat the light". Traffic in the town is extremely frustrating and that's part of the reason people try to get out of it as quickly as possible, thus running lights if they think they can "make it".

Why not allow that flyover for people headed to/from work and ease up the highway for people who want to shop here without being totally frustrated by the time they get here and then have to "fight their way out" again when they leave. I think that would alleviate a lot of the problems in that stretch of Leon Valley. Some people take residential streets just to miss the mess on SH16. This is probably causing headaches for people living on those streets where their kids are playing outside.

Just letting you know my opinion of the traffic situation. Maybe the law enforcement could spend some time on graffiti and crime that seems to be on the rise.

From: [Bill Hennig](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: [?] Stop cameras
Date: Saturday, April 3, 2021 5:54:18 PM

Leave the cameras as they are. Any one who is observant can tell they are doing more good than harm!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [C Henley](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Citizens to be heard
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 10:55:13 PM

I have been a life long resident of Leon Valley. I don't have a problem with the red light cameras. I think the city should keep them. Also I have a concern regarding the walking/biking trail that will be in the drainage ditch that runs along El Verde. When it was first brought up we were told the path would be in the base of the ditch. Now there are stakes marked more towards the top. I along with many of my neighbors would prefer the path to be in the base. Otherwise people walking/jogging will get out of their boundaries and into my property. I'm concerned about people walking a dog won't be respectful of my property. I am requesting that the Mayor along with Council come to our street and meet with citizens to discuss a plan that will work for all citizens.

Than you,
Cindy Henley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Donna Charles](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Email to be read during the Topic of Terminating the Contract of Red Light Cameras, 4/6/2021 CC Agenda
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 6:59:03 PM

Please stop and think about what you are doing! The red light cameras have proven to be an asset to the City of Leon Valley. Not only have they reduced the number of accidents on Bandera Road, mostly involving persons who are traveling through Leon Valley, allowing our police and fire department to be free to respond to Leon Valley citizens' issues. In addition the funds obtained from the tickets have been used to enhance the safety of crosswalks, stop signs, and street signs, all public safety concerns. More importantly, the funds have been used to purchase some major safety equipment such as the Jaws of Life for the Fire Department. None of these improvements and equipment cost the City and taxpayers a cent!

Why would you want to rid the City of red light cameras when they have proven to be beneficial? It seems that a majority of the Council is leading this charge because it is a program of the Police Department. They jumped on the bandwagon of the Auditors against the Police Department and anything that is connected to them. This is not a majority of citizens' view, it is the majority of the Councils' who are not willing to actually consider the benefits of the cameras or the desire of the majority of the citizens. You are ruling without thought, without long term consideration, without weighing the benefits, and without considering the taxpayers. When you say, "We are doing what the citizens want?" I ask you who, how many, a majority, a few, can you list names. The response would be that you, the Council, are acting on your wishes, not the citizens. It is evident that you do not give a flip about the citizens!

This city is headed for bankruptcy, anarchy, and ruin!

Donna Charles
Leon Valley

From: [Lydia Bransell](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Citizens to be heard
Date: Sunday, April 4, 2021 2:37:59 PM

Good evening Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of Leon Valley,

You may have heard that the City of New York is the latest to remove Qualified Immunity from their police force, it has been proved that police officers who know that they will be held personally responsible if they break the law are less likely to assault, batter, illegally detain, search, seize, jail or perform unwarranted traffic stops on the public.

This also has the added bonus of less lawsuits being brought upon the City of Leon Valley because of corrupt officers who feel they have free rein to do what they please to whomever they please.

I would ask that removing Qualified Immunity from the City of Leon Valley PD be placed on the agenda for the next council meeting, and I am sure that our councillors being honest and fair minded people will be keen to do this for their citizens.

Yours in hope of a safer city

Lydia Bransell

Northwest Hills
Leon Valley

From: [Loretta Hodde](#)
To: [Saundra Passailaigue](#)
Subject: Citizens to be Heard
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:59:47 PM

I am strongly in favor of our red light camera system.

Before they were installed, traveling on Bandera Rd. was even more of an ordeal.

Cars were moving at top speed, trying to beat the next light.

Cynics claim that the red light cameras cause more rear-end accidents.

Even if that were true, I say t-bone accidents, caused by speeding red light runners are a lot more dangerous.

Bandera Road is our access road to everywhere.

Please keep it as safe as possible, for everyone.

SAFETY FIRST.

**Loretta Hodde
Leon Valley**