

LETTER TO LEON VALLEY CITIZENS

From Mayor Chris Riley

March 22, 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING –March 19, 2024

The following are highlights of council actions from the March 19th council meeting, which began at 5:30 p.m. due to a special meeting set to continue the discussion on the City's Core Values, Goals, and Objectives.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation to the Leon Valley Public Library for their 2023

Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award. This annual award was only given to 84 of the 545 public library systems in Texas by the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. The library had to exhibit excellence in each of ten categories. Our library is now in the top 15% of all public libraries in the state. Congratulations to Regina Reed, Director , entire library staff and volunteers who contributed to earning this award. By the way, this was the third year in a row the Leon Valley Public Library has earned this honor.

Discussion on City's Core Values, Goals and Objectives – *The five core values discussed were: Transparency, Service, Stability, Responsibility, and Resiliency.* City Manager will draft a statement following each core value for council to review and finalize. Regarding goals and objectives, the consensus reached by council was to have each city department draft a set of goals and objectives which will be sent to council for their review for changes and additions prior to discussion at a future council meeting. Thanks also to the citizens who gave suggestions during this agenda item – loved the citizen participation!

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion on Approving Two Variances to Allow Construction of an off-Premise sign (billboard) Loop 410 & Bandera Road and LED and static electronic digital display signs. These are prohibited by the Leon Valley sign code. Burkett Media is the applicant who reported this would be a gateway sign into our city. The company would give free advertising to

the City, and provide discounted ad rates to local businesses. The granting of these variances may increase visitors and tax revenue to the city. The Council voted unanimously to approve the two variances.

Public Hearing on a Request to Re-Zone 27 acre tract of land from R-1 Single Family Home to a Planned Development District (PDD) with R-6 Garden Home District Base Zoning at 6518 Samaritan Drive. On March 12th the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended denial of this zone change. At the council meeting during the Public Hearing, 20 residents spoke against the rezone change to R-6 (166 garden homes with variances) but expressed support for R-1 (104 homes could be built). The residents expressed concerns that they and other residents did not get written notice of this meeting, only hearing about it. The developer reported he had notices placed in all mailboxes in Seneca West. Staff sent out 112 letters, but only 11 total were documented (2 – opposed and 9 undeliverable). I requested my colleagues to direct staff to resend the public hearing notice to an expanded area (all of Seneca West). The council vote was 2-2, and I broke the tie to support the expanded notices. Another public hearing will be determined after the letters are sent out with a date certain.

Public Hearing to ReZone 6-Acres of Land at 7201 and 7205 Huebner Road from R-1 (Single Family) to a Planned Development District (PDD). The developer is planning to build 49 homes (8 homes per acre) reducing the lot size from 4,000 sq. ft. to 3,010 sq. ft, reducing the lot frontage from 45 to 35 ft., as well as reducing side and rear setbacks. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of this zone change. Concerns about children's safety and traffic were expressed by citizens at the public hearing. When asked why this new development could not be developed R-1, the developer said that adjacent development on Huebner already has been approved by council with these variances and consistency is needed between the two phases. This issue will be voted on at the next council meeting, April 2, 2024.

Authorization of a General Fund Budget Adjustment in the Amount of \$50,000 for the Purpose of Completing the Relocation of the Police Impound Lot from Public Works to Jeff Loop Drive. The reason stated for the move was the need for more room and the convenience of being closer to city hall and the police department. Chief Gonzalez reported that the \$50,000 cost will be offset by the receipt of \$53,000 from a recent

auction of vehicles from the impound lot. The Council authorized a budget adjustment to fund this agreement; this authorization will be finalized at the April 2, 2024 council meeting.

Awarding of a Bid and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Contract with San Antonio Pool Management Inc. in the Amount of \$68,529.00 to Manage and Provide Lifeguards at the City of Leon Valley Forest Oaks Pool and Provide Off-Season Maintenance. This was the lowest of three bids received. San Antonio Pool Management Inc. has had the contract with the city for 8 of the last 10 years. The pool will be open six days a week from Noon – 8 pm, closed on Wednesdays. The Swim Team will use the Forest Oaks pool. Council directed the City Manager to add an adult swim time (lap swim and water aerobics on your own) for an hour and half in the morning for up to three mornings per week. Dr. Caldera will bring back an amended contract for council consideration. There was \$130,000 budgeted for this line item for the pools this year.

Council Approved a Budget Adjustment in the Amount of \$100,740 from the Stormwater Fund Reserve for an Emergency Expenditure and to Authorize the City Manager to sign a Contract with TCL Construction for Emergency Repairs to Huebner Creek at Poss and Cherryleaf Roads. Poss Road appears to be collapsing in this area and an emergency expenditure was approved to shore up this area. SAWS has also been working in that area to replace sewer lines and manholes and will contribute to fixing this area as well.

Our next city council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** at city hall, due to a possible executive session.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Saturday, March 23rd from 10 am to 2 pm – 25th Annual NISD Los Leones Art Fair at John Marshall High School. Come browse and see what student art work you'd may like to purchase from the many vendors present. As organizer NISD Fine Arts Director James Miculka told me, this is their annual Fiesta event! Hope to see you there!

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter on March 31, 2024!

We are volunteers here to serve in any way. Please do not hesitate to call me or any councilmember if we can help. It is an honor and privilege.

Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092