

LETTER TO LEON VALLEY CITIZENS
From Mayor Chris Riley
February 9, 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING –February 6, 2024

The following are highlights of council actions from the February 6th council meeting which began at 6:00 p.m., due to an executive session at the end of the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Discussion on the 2024 Fourth of July Celebration – Council confirmed that the band, *Finding Friday* will perform the evening of July 4th. Council also directed staff to purchase the high aerial fireworks at Raymond Rimkus Park with a possible laser show. The question of the park being over a flight path was brought up and FAA regulations restricting this will be looked into. Council also requested that the fireworks be put to music. Discussion of a Grand Marshall included asking someone from the Spurs Organization and/or an elected official such as Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai. Lastly, the theme of the celebration: Council wanted it to honor our military as well as our city’s designation as Military City USA. More information will be forthcoming.

REGULAR AGENDA

Council Ordered and Established Procedures for a General Election on May 4, 2024 through a resolution– Qualified voters in Leon Valley will elect Council Members in Places 2 & 4 and the Office of the Mayor. This resolution authorized the City Manager to sign a joint election agreement with the Bexar County Elections Administrator, established early voting from April 22nd – 30th and election day voting at the Leon Valley Conference Center. The last day to register to vote in the May election is April 4th. The deadline to vote by mail is April 23rd. though you are encouraged to vote earlier.

Council Approved the Purchase of a 1 year subscription to Place.Ai Software for the Economic Development Department – For \$12,000 , Council approved this new economic development tool for the City. The

software provides cellphone tracking data that provides information on economic activity in the City of Leon Valley. It will allow staff to see leakage (where our citizens go to shop outside of the city), as well as what businesses are drawing people into our city. Staff will also use this tool to recruit new businesses to our city by providing the demographic data which will support this new business. The site example given was Raymond Rimkus Park, which generated 217,000 visitors in 2023. Council requested an update in six months to see how effective this tool has been. If successful, Place.Ai can be programmed for funding in the next fiscal year.

Ordinance Authorizing a General Fund Budget Adjustment in the Amount of \$5,000 to settle the Lawsuit between Vitra D. Frederick vs. the City of Leon Valley – This was our City’s portion of the settlement paid. Texas Municipal League, which insures the City, paid an additional \$95,000 to settle all claims brought by Ms. Frederick. This item will be formally approved at the February 20th, 2024 council meeting in the consent agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of Possible Development of the 21 acres the city owns bounded by Grass Hill, William Rancher, Samaritan and Aids Drive. This topic was discussed at the Town Hall meeting on January 27th. There were two R-6 Garden home concepts presented. Project 1 was from Meritage Homes which would build 121 homes with a 4 acre buffer between the new development and existing neighborhood in Seneca West. Project 2 (Texas Homes) included a combination of a Memory Care Center and R-6 Garden homes (275 homes) with parkland, which also included additional land other than the city’s property. While the survey at the Town Hall meeting showed the citizens preferred the Meritage proposal to the Texas Home proposal, the majority of citizens present preferred the third option – don’t develop the property, to avoid the traffic impact on the existing subdivisions in the area. Both developers’ proposals are on the city’s website at 2024 Town Hall meeting results. Council took no action from executive session.

Council received a briefing on a personnel matter – Council took no action on this item.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Saturday, February 24th – Strategic Planning follow up meeting to discuss vision and mission statement. Additionally, Council will be meeting with the **city’s hydrologist to get answers to questions on a possible flood control project along Huebner Creek from Cherryleaf Drive to the Bandera Road bridge.** We will meet at City Hall at 9 am.

Congratulations to Community Development Director Crystal Miranda for obtaining a \$15,000 grant from San Antonio River Authority for a household hazardous collection in Leon Valley. **Mark your calendar for April 24th, the same day as the Coffee with Mayor and Council, as the drop off date.** More information will be forthcoming.

Congratulations to Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director, who successfully applied for a grant from Bexar County for El Verde Road sewer repair. Commissioner Justin Rodriguez informed me of the award of \$1.3 million from Bexar County’s ARP funds (American Resue Plan).

March 2, 2023 from 9 am to 1 pm – 34th Annual Earthwise Living Day at the Community Center. Start collecting your *E-Waste* (computers, TV’s, cellphones, etc.) to drop off for proper recycling of these items. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next city council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m.** at city hall.

We have received some much needed rain, for which we are all thankful. In spite of this, our region is still in a drought and are still under water restrictions. Citizens on Leon Valley Water company are under Stage 3 restrictions (water once every other week on designated day) and citizens who receive their water from SAWS are under Stage 2 restrictions (water once every week on designated day). Times to water are 7-11am or 7-11 pm.

If we can assist you with any issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or any councilmember. Wishing your team wins the Super Bowl this Sunday!

Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092