

LETTER TO LEON VALLEY CITIZENS

From Mayor Chris Riley

January 19, 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING –January 16, 2024

It was freezing outside this past Tuesday, but all council members and city staff and two citizens showed up to participate in the meeting. The following are highlights of council actions from the January 16th council meeting which began at 6:00 p.m., instead of 6:30 p.m., due to an executive session at the end of the meeting.

PRESENTATION

The Monthly Finance Report (Oct. – Dec. 2023) – Finance Director Carol Goering reviewed the current status of our annual budget receipts and expenditures. All general and enterprise (water and sewer) funds are tracking appropriately. Ad Valorem tax receipts of \$2.55 million represented 46.6% collected through December which is expected. Sales tax collected for fiscal year (FY) 2023 increased by 5.9% year to date when compared to FY 2022. The average sales tax increase in past years had been tracking between 3-4%.

REGULAR AGENDA

Council Authorized City Manager Caldera to expend \$25,323 for a design services proposal to renovate the Forest Oaks Community swimming pool – The proposal will include three alternate concepts. Design plans, graphics and costs for each option will be included in the cost. These alternatives will be presented to Council at a future meeting for their consideration and possible approval of one of the concepts.

Please note: *The Forest Oaks pool will open this summer as the sole neighborhood pool since the proposals and decision on how to proceed from Council will not be completed prior to the opening of the pool season. More specific information will be forthcoming.*

Direction to Staff on Scope of Work for the Huebner Creek Channel Improvement Project – This was a follow up from the discussion held in November and a city council field trip to the Natural Area Park in December

to see the impact of the proposal, which would remove 403 trees in the process of diverting Huebner Creek from its present banks into the Natural Area Park. During the initial discussion, the majority of the council preferred not to divert the creek and not to take out the trees in the Natural Area Park, but rather to seek alternatives, such as erosion control, exploring a detention pond, or making the necessary improvements within Huebner Creek banks. No decision was made except to direct the city manager to set up a meeting with the city council and the hydrologist to get a better understanding of the situation, including estimated costs. It was discussed to add this meeting to the February 3rd Strategic Planning workshop at city hall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*The City Manager gave a briefing to the council on a federal court Lawsuit, Vitra D. Frederick v. City of Leon Valley, which was settled.

**City Manager Dr. Crystal Caldera's annual evaluation took place following the legal briefing. Council voted unanimously to increase Dr. Caldera's base salary by 8% and to increase her retirement contribution to \$23,000, the maximum allowed. Her total salary will be \$190,000, effective October 1, 2024. This was the second evaluation of her 4 year contract, which ends in January, 2026.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New housing developments in Leon Valley – Citizens have asked about what's going on at Evers/Seneca and Huebner Road next to the elementary school. *Poss Landing* on Huebner Road will develop 88 new homes on 10 acres of land and *Trilogy* subdivision at Evers/Seneca will build 67 new R-6, garden homes on 8 acres of land.

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. More information will be forthcoming.

CALLING ALL CITIZENS – WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION

Two important meetings –

1. **Saturday, January 27th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm – 14th Annual Town Hall Meeting at the Conference Center.** A light breakfast and coffee will be served. Around Christmas, everyone should have received a post card inviting you to this annual meeting. The meeting will be streamed live on Facebook.
2. **Saturday, February 3rd from 9am to Noon – Strategic Planning** meeting to revisit the City’s mission and goals. This meeting will be held in the City Council chambers.

Hope to see you there!

Our next city council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m.** at city hall.

Despite the freezing weather, there were no major problems and no loss of electricity in the City. The solar energy received by the grid during this freeze was three times greater than during Winter Storm Uri.

If we can assist you with any issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or any councilmember. Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092
mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov