

LETTER TO LEON VALLEY CITIZENS

From Mayor Chris Riley

December 8, 2023

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE A WINTER WONDERLAND!

Annual Holiday Lighting held on December 4th to kick off the holiday season, was a huge success! Special thanks to Timberwilde Elementary, Pat Neff Middle School Band and the Leon Valley Elementary Choir for their performances to brighten the holiday season! And of course, Santa Claus! Sponsors for this event, including the City of Leon Valley, were Dunkin Donuts, and Mom & Son Bakery for providing free hot chocolate and treats to the participants. The Leon Valley staff, led by Dr. Crystal Caldera, City Manager and Crystal Miranda, Community Relations Director, were all there to help. The entire City Council attended and assisted with the count down for turning on the lights! Happy Holidays!

Special Thanks to our Leon Valley Public Works Department for their outstanding efforts to decorate the trees with lights, a huge Christmas tree and a blue lighted tunnel in the Community, Conference and Library areas at 6425 Evers Road. This display will be on nightly until January 2, 2024. Drive by and see Leon Valley's own Winter Wonderland!

Breakfast with Santa held on December 2nd for the 34th year in a row and was a huge success! This annual event is sponsored by the Leon Valley Library and the Friends of the Library for the benefit of the library. Ticket sales from food, silent auction and vendors doubled from 2022. Thanks to everyone in the community/area who came to support this event!

CITY COUNCIL MEETING –December 5, 2023

The following are highlights of council actions from the December 5th council meeting which began at 6:00 p.m., due to an executive session at the end of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on Increasing Water Rates provided by Consultant Waterworth – Calvin Coles, manager at Waterworth, presented two

scenarios for applying a 1% and a 1 ½ % increase annually to Leon Valley water company bills. The main objective is to increase funding to cover replacement of water mains in the city; some are over 50 years old. There are 2600 customers, 300 of those are businesses. An increase of 1% will generate \$500,000 for replacement of water mains annually. When asked what impact this would have on a resident's bill, Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director said for a 1% increase that equates to \$1.00 per year for water only. There are other charges on the bill, including sewer, meters, and stormwater. Council directed staff to come back with more information on the cost of a 1 ½ %, the four tiers of rates for customers, and how these rates would compare with San Antonio Water System (1/3 of our residents are serviced by SAWS).

REGULAR AGENDA

Council Approved an Ordinance Authorizing a Budget Adjustment of \$35,800 from General Fund Reserve for two capital acquisitions that were more expensive than originally budgeted: *The City Hall Storefront Replacement* was budgeted at \$30,000, but the lowest bid plus 15% contingency came to \$43,663.56. *A Crack Seal Trailer* was budgeted for \$40,000, but the lowest bid received was \$55,586.10. The shortfall, totaled \$35,800. Council will approve this budget adjustment at the December 19th council meeting.

Council denied a request to waive the cost of an open records request. This was for \$47.00 to cover the cost of two body-worn camera videos from a car accident because the requestor could not afford to pay the fee.

Council Consideration of an Application for a BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle) permit for Lev Hookah Lounge at 5716 Wurzbach Road. City Ordinance requires the City Council to prove the application before a permit can be issued. At the request by the City Manager, council voted to move to Executive Session to discuss issues surrounding this request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council met in executive session to receive information from the city manager and city attorney regarding the Lev Hookah Lounge and its application for a BYOB permit. A motion to deny the application for a

BYOB permit was read by Councilor Orozco and seconded by Councilor Campos” based on the following grounds since March, 2023: there have been over fifty police calls; three shootings; one or more incidents of blocking the second entrance parking lot in violation of city code; one or more incidents of blocking fire lanes in violation of city code; one or more violations of certificate of occupancy maximum limit of eighty-five persons in attendance and one or more incidents of serving food in the parking lot without a required permit as per city code” The council vote to deny this permit was unanimous.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Friday, December 8th – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. - Leon Valley Historical Society Holiday Open House on the grounds of the Huebner-Onion Homestead, 6613 Bandera Road. Parking at city hall, 6400 El Verde Road (with police officer assistance to cross Bandera Road). Free Admission. Free Tamales and Apple Cider (while they last). Leon Valley Ballet Folklorico at 6:45 pm, Christmas Tunes and Door Prizes. Hope to see you there!

Blue Santa Project is sponsored by the Leon Valley Police Department. This program was created to provide local families who need assistance in providing their children with Christmas gifts, they can apply by contacting Officer Heather Rodriguez, (210) 392-1504 (h.rodriguez@leonvalleytexas.gov). If anyone in the community would like to donate money or gifts to support this annual program, please contact Heather. Thank you for your support and to the Leon Valley Police Department for their generous outreach in our community!

Our next and last regular city council meeting for 2023 is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** at city hall. With the cancellation of the January 2nd meeting due to the New Year’s holiday, our first regularly scheduled city council meeting for 2024 will be held on **Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m.** at city hall.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any councilmember if we can be of service.

Sincerely, Chris
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