



**CITY OF LEON VALLEY
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**
Leon Valley City Council Chambers
6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, TX 78238
Friday, February 26, 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	Present
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 then announced a quorum of City Council was present.

City Attorney Charles Zech was remoted into the meeting.

Mayor Riley asked Councilor Jed Hefner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Riley asked for a Point of Privilege. At this time Mayor Riley read into the record a letter of immediate resignation from Acting/Interim City Manager Hank Brummett. The letter also included Mr. Brummett's appointment of ACM/HR Director Crystal Caldera as Acting City Manager until the March 3, 2021 City Council meeting. This appointment was made in accordance with Article V, Section 5.01, E. Acting City Manager of the City Charter.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Those who spoke at this time were: Betty Heyl; and Benny Martinez

Mayor Chris Riley read an e-mail that was submitted by: Rita Burnside

Mayor Riley had another e-mail from Chauck Haugan who says he lives 1,700 miles away in Montana. Mayor Riley added that after reading the fax that came in last evening the decision was made to follow what was adopted by Ordinance No. 2020-33 and that this and other comments from out-of-town citizens and business owners will be entered into the record but not read. The City Council will be addressing this issue at the March 9th meeting

to discuss this further.

Councilor Will Bradshaw read an e-mail that was submitted by: Tina Chasan

Councilor Jed Hefner read a letter that was submitted by: Abigail Hefner

Those who spoke at this time were: Erick Matta

REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation, Discussion, and Action to Consider Approval of an Emergency Ordinance to Provide One Time Relief from High Water and Sewer Bills Created by the February 15 - 19, 2021 Winter Weather Emergency (1st Read as Required by City Charter). (M&C # 2021-02-26-01 M. Moritz)

Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director presented the item with the purpose of providing emergency water bill relief for Leon Valley Water System customers due to bursting private water piping during the February 15 through 19, 2021 Winter Weather Emergency.

The State of Texas was plunged into an historic deep freeze during the week of February 14, 2021. Temperatures in the San Antonio metropolitan area were recorded at 9 degrees and the area was blanketed in snow and ice. During that time, many citizens lost power, and consequently, water service to their homes and businesses. In addition to the lost utilities, many persons and businesses experienced burst pipes due to the extreme low temperatures.

From November through February of each year, the City performs winter sewer averaging in order to set the next twelve (12) month sewer rate for each individual property. This rate is based on the amount of water used during this period, as this is typically the time period in which persons use the least amount of water. During this time period, persons with plumbing breaks are able to request sewer rate adjustments, upon presentation of a bill for parts or repair services; however, we do not adjust the water rate.

It is proposed that, due to this particularly extreme and damaging weather emergency, the City Council allow staff to perform a one-time water rate adjustment in addition to the sewer rate adjustment, which would be based on the previous month's water usage. If a person's water bill for the time period of the emergency is higher than last month's and they can provide receipts and/or invoices for plumbing repairs, we would use the last month's water usage for billing purposes, in addition to adjusting their sewer rate.

The City typically reads all water meters on or around the 15th of each month. The commercial route was read on February 12th and we were programmed to read the residential meters on Tuesday, February 16th. This did not occur due to the weather. The residential routes were read on Monday, February 22nd, after the emergency was over.

Since our commercial users had their water meters read and calculated prior to the emergency, their rates would not be adjusted until the next regular billing cycle. Residential

customers would receive their adjustment on this bill. Each bill would be adjusted on a case-by-case basis, as many of our Leon Valley customers did not lose power or water and did not have busted water pipes. Leon Valley water rates do not increase during times of emergencies, as do electric bills, rather, they are set by City Council via Ordinance and remain the same until a rate adjustment is approved by City Council.

Director Moritz said that it is unknown at this time what the fiscal impact of this adjustment would be; however, we believe the amount will be nominal. Staff will provide the City Council with a report, once all requests have been processed.

It is recommended that City Council approve an emergency Ordinance to allow staff to adjust water bills from damages related to the February 15 through 19, 2021 Winter Weather Emergency.

A motion was made by Councilor Jed Hefner to adopt this ordinance as an "Emergency Ordinance". The motion was seconded by Councilor Will Bradshaw.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Jed Hefner, Council Place 3
SECONDER: Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
AYES: Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw

A motion was made by Councilor Jed Hefner to approve the ordinance with the amendment that staff reduce all Leon Valley Water System customer’s utility bills to either the previous month’s residential billing amount or the current billing amount, whichever is the lesser of the two. The motion was seconded by Councilor Will Bradshaw.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Jed Hefner, Council Place 3
SECONDER: Will Bradshaw, Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Place 5
AYES: Edwards, Stevens, Hefner, Orozco, Bradshaw

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

Mayor Riley read aloud the agenda caption for Item 4.1 and 4.2

Those who spoke at this time were: Benny Martinez; and Erick Matta

The City Council went into Executive Session at 6:26 PM

Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney: To Discuss Offer of Agreed Departure of Chief of Police (M&C # 2021-02-26-02 Councilors J. Stevens and W. Bradshaw)

Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney: To a Demand Letter Received on Behalf of Denise Frederick (M&C # 2021-02-20-03)

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

The City Council reconvened into Open Session at 7:35 PM

Mayor Riley made the following statement.

“On agenda item 4.1: Mr. Salvaggio has rescinded his offer to resign; and no further action will be taken; And on agenda item 4.2: No action will be taken by this Council at this time.”

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Those who spoke at this time were: Evan Bohl; Erick Matta; and Benny Martinez

Councilor Jed Hefner read an e-mail submitted by: AOL - Lyn Joseph

Councilor Will Bradshaw read an e-mail submitted by: Hilda Gomez

ADJOURNMENT


Mayor Riley announced that the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

These minutes approved by the Leon Valley City Council on the 9th of March, 2021.

APPROVED



CHRIS RILEY
MAYOR

ATTEST: 
SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
CITY SECRETARY

