

LETTER TO LEON VALLEY CITIZENS

From Mayor Chris Riley

January 24, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Upcoming Meetings: Please mark your calendar and plan on attending:

Saturday, January 25th at 8:30 am – 15th Annual Town Hall meeting in the Conference Center. The agenda topics are: 1) Water & Sewer Infrastructure rates (we will be discussing increasing rates); 2) Prioritizing the City's Future Needs, including quality of life projects and suggestions on how to pay for these needs; 3) Review Goals and Objectives developed by staff and discussion to follow on how to proceed forward; 4) Update on Leon Valley's housing developments; 5) Presentation on whether to hold an election to remove the 20% tax exemption for all homeowners & the 65-and-Over exemption. The meeting will end with Citizens to Be Heard.

Please bring your cell phones so you can participate in survey questions via Mentimeter. Refreshments and coffee will be served.

Wednesday, January 29th at 6:30 pm – Citizen Police Advisory Committee Meeting in the Conference Center. Police Chief Gonzalez will give a comprehensive summary on police department concerns as well as police activity and crime. A discussion on dog bites and animal control concerns is also on the agenda. This meeting is open to the public.

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 5- 7 p.m. Open House on the pending Bandera Road improvements from I-410 to Loop 1604. This in-person meeting will be held in the Leon Valley Community & Conference Centers. Attendees are welcome to come and go at their convenience. They can view pre-recorded presentations, review hard copies of project materials, and ask questions of TxDOT staff and consultants, as well as leave written comments.

There is also a **virtual public meeting** that will be posted on February 6 and remain online for at least 15 days which will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation. To access this online public meeting, go to www.txdot.gov, keyword search "SH 16 (Bandera Road)". Both meetings will be conducted in English, with Spanish material available online and in person. If anyone needs an interpreter or special accommodations, please

contact Lianna Ybarra, TXDOT representative, at (210) 349-3273 no later than 4 pm CT, February 3rd . Hope to see you there!

CITY COUNCIL MEETING –January 17, 2025

The following are highlights of council actions from the January 17th council meeting:

PRESENTATIONS

Council directed staff to apply for a Metropolitan Planning Organization grant for the Hike & Bike Trail Segment 3 (From Evers & Poss to Bally Dr.) – The City of San Antonio is building a creek trail that will connect at Bally (Leon Valley city limits) from the Medical Center. This is the remaining segment which will connect to Leon Valley’s Segments 1 (completed) and 2 (projected to begin building in 2025). There is a Call for Projects for federal funding for the years 2027-2032 which covers 80 % of construction cost. The city is still responsible for 20% construction, engineering and design estimated at \$419,000 (opinion of probable cost was \$1.3 million for construction). This is a competitive grant process among 3 ½ counties in the AAMPO area with funding recommendations made by the Technical and Policy boards in the fall of 2025.

Huebner Creek Erosion Control Project Alignment- Ardurra Engineering will be paid a total of \$800,000 to design erosion control changes to Huebner Creek in Rimkus Park where the creek turns on Poss Rd., and in the Natural Area below the Huebner-Onion Homestead. The cost of the project is now estimated at \$7 million. The Council has been dealing with this project for several years. Council rejected the first engineering proposal because the creek was realigned into the Natural Area taking out over 400 trees. Council requested engineering to stay within the boundary of the creek, but the new plan takes out 300 trees and more heritage trees than the previous plan.

If you have been to the Natural Area, there are many different colored tags on a lot of trees, with many tags fallen off, so it is impossible to know which trees are now proposed for removal. This agenda item was to request identification of the trees, including heritage trees (some are at least 300 years old) that would be taken out in the Natural Area with this plan. Ardurra Engineering was going to charge the City \$9640 to identify the trees; the council rejected that proposal. Instead, the Mayor will meet with Ardurra to see what options there are to obtain this information

Update of Police Calls for Service at a Multi-Family Residential Complex – An ordinance was passed in 2022 which required an apartment complex to have an on-sight police officer for security if police responded to 60 *emergency* calls for service during any 3 month duration. Prior to the adoption of this ordinance, police calls for service to multi-family residential complexes steadily increased. Since the adoption of this ordinance, at one of the multi-family complexes, emergency and non-emergency calls actually decreased from one year to the next. To date no complex in the city has been impacted by the adopted ordinance.

REGULAR AGENDA

Council considered an Ordinance Authorizing a Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$20,000 for FY 2024-2025 for the purpose of increasing the library department budget – These funds were given to the City by the developer as part of the sale of the city owned property. These funds will be used to purchase the second part of the circulation desk area. The council requested this agenda item be placed in the 2/4/25 consent agenda for approval.

Council considered an Ordinance Authorizing a proposed two year lease agreement with the Northwest Seniors Club at the Irene Baldrige Community Center, effective through December 31, 2027. The Northwest Seniors will continue to pay \$120 per month for clean-up fees, with the City waiving all other fees. (\$94,864 annually). The council requested this agenda item be placed in the 2/4/25 consent agenda for approval.

Discussion on Amending an Ordinance for Bulk Water Permit, including increasing water permit deposit fee and to add the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) Fee – Bulk water meters are used by construction companies for site work and building construction. They provide much more water at a lower price than regular meters. The proposed revision by staff: Keep the permit fee (\$65) and water fee (\$3.70 per 1,000 gallons), but increase the deposit from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and add the EAA fee of \$.62 cents per 1,000 gallons. During the discussion, it was noted that SAWS has a water sales fee and a water supply fee, plus a daily meter availability fee for bulk water permits. Staff researched and provided a comparison of our rates with SAWS; SAWS rates were still higher than what was proposed. Council voted unanimously to adopt this amended ordinance.

Our next city council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4th**
at 6:00 p.m. due to an executive session at 6:30 pm.

What a surprise to have snow this week! The city had no road closures, electrical or water outages, for which we were grateful. Stay warm. Hope to see you at the Town Hall meeting tomorrow morning!

Sincerely, Chris
mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov
(210) 618-2092