

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

12/24/2021

CLOSING OUT 2021 & WELCOMING IN 2022!

On behalf of the Leon Valley City Council and Staff, we extend our best wishes to all our citizens and businesses for a happy and safe holiday season! **Just a reminder:** City Hall administrative offices, including Public Works, will be closed December 24th through December 31st, reopening on January 4th, 2022. The Leon Valley Public Library will be closed December 24 through December 27, will close at 2 pm on December 31st and be closed on New Year's Day. The Library will be open on December 28-30, and will reopen on January 2nd and continue with regular hours the first week in January. Our dedicated police and fire departments will be open and we thank them for keeping us safe! Unless it is an emergency (911), please call the non-emergency number at (210) 684-3215 for assistance, including animal control and code issues.

DECEMBER 21st CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Brief highlights of the City Council action from this meeting:

- Appointment of Dr. Crystal Caldera, as new City Manager replacing Gilbert Perales, effective January 16, 2022 , by a unanimous vote of city council. After reviewing applications received through a request for qualifications process, the council decided to go in a different direction with the hiring of Dr. Caldera based on her management of the city as acting city manager, including crafting the FY 2022 budget, for 5 months this year. Congratulations to Dr. Caldera on her appointment! Details of her

employment contract will be voted upon at the January 11, 2022 council meeting.

- Held a Public Hearing on a *zone change from R-1 to a Planned Development District with R-6 single family homes at 7213 Huebner Road for a compact development of 90 homes on 10 acres*. Request from the developer for further modifications to the zoning and subdivision codes in 8 areas from lot size and minor street right of way was presented. The Fire Marshall noted the proposed development has one way in or out, but the City's Fire Code requires subdivisions over 30 lots provide 2 points of ingress and egress for emergency vehicles. Since this development does not have two ins and outs, the developer must put fire sprinklers in every home. The home values will be between \$290,000- \$350,000 with three to 4 bedroom homes and two car garages. There will be a small buffer between this subdivision and Linkwood, with a dog park. 10 of 11 heritage trees on the 10 acre lot will be saved. Two detention ponds will be installed for flood control. The Home Owners Association will maintain the streets and detention ponds. Traffic and parking were also discussed as it relates to emergency vehicle access to the property and how residents will exit the subdivision, since there is no traffic light, like there is at Pavona Place. The second reading of this proposed development will be on January 11, 2022 at the next council meeting.

- St. John's Baptist Church's request *to grant a zone change on 2 acres located at 6800 Evers Road from R-1 (residential) to B-2 (business) District with Sustainability Overlay was approved by a vote of 4 to 1*. The church wanted their new church to be built on one zoning designation, even though they could already build their church on the current zoning. Residents expressed changing the land next to them to business zoning could impact their subdivision in a negative way if the church decided to sell the property in the future. Pastor Price committed to building the church and not selling the land for business development. The Zoning Commission and residents surrounding the church requested a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) be completed first before considering the zone change, but the city attorney opined the church was not required to do so. The church will address landscaping, streetscaping and architectural features at a later date and said they would do a TIA before platting the property.

- Approved a *Utility Assistance Program* for up to \$750 per household,

for residents within Leon Valley, who are past due on basic utility bills including electricity, water, sewer, natural gas, and sanitation. A total of \$50,000 was set aside from the American Rescue Plan Act funds to establish this fund. The city will partner with Ascension DePaul Services, who will administer the program. The intent of Council is to allocate additional funds if the needs prove to be higher than anticipated. For more information, please contact Will Cox, Business Relations Specialist at (210) 812-3332 or email him at w.cox@leonvalleytexas.gov

- Appointed the following members to the revised *Citizens Police Advisory Committee*: Ryan Brill, James Brandenburg, Phillip Campos, Tina Chasen, Ty Chumbley, Betty Heyl, Erick Matta, Tom Nolan, Darby Riley, Manuel Rubio, John Saenz, Jesus Valdez and Michelle Vallejo. Councilman Rey Orozco is the council liaison. The committee will meet quarterly (dates to be determined). The meetings are open to the public and welcome citizen comments. Thank you to all these volunteers for your service.

- Finalized the Agenda for the *12th Annual Town Hall meeting* on Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Leon Valley Conference Center: Update on Red-Light Cameras Initiative and citizen input on safety uses of red light camera funds; Update on Capital Improvement Projects; Time Capsule for Leon Valley's 70th Birthday in March; City Events Poll; Home Rule Charter Proposed Amendments; Hike and Bike Trails 1 & 2 (funded through Metropolitan Planning Organization); American Rescue Plan Funding; and Citizens to be Heard. A postcard will be mailed to all residents about this meeting. Hope we get a good turnout!

For more information on these council meetings, go to leonvalleytexas.gov/ Mayor & Council meeting agendas and view the video.

COVID 19 UPDATE

This week the positivity rate was 2.2%, which increased slightly from 1.8% the week before. COVID Delta and Omicron waves have hit across the nation, so this low positivity rate is amazing! With the Christmas holidays this weekend, the positivity rate could definitely go higher. The Center for Disease Control recommends individuals who have received the initial vaccinations to get a booster shot to help protect from the new variant

(6 months after your last shot). Also, if you are fully vaccinated to continue to wear your mask for extra protection.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to do your part in addressing the spread of the virus. Please get vaccinated and follow the protocols, i.e., wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from a non-family member, and stay home if you are sick, to continue to bring this virus down.

Google Fiber is available in some parts of Leon Valley. Please call (877) 454-6959 or go to www.fiber.google.com to put your address in to check availability in your area. I have heard from some of my neighbors in Forest Oaks that the speed of the Google internet service is superior.

The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 at City Hall, 6 p.m. Please enjoy your holidays and stay safe and healthy. Please contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely, Chris
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