

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY  
02/04/2022**

**RESPONSE TO WINTER STORM**

In the last two weeks, area schools have been closed twice due to concerns about winter storms. The City of Leon Valley partnered with Bexar County Commissioner's Court to establish a "warming center" at our Conference Center. The warming center is open through Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> and is being manned by Bexar County personnel. We did have power outages on February 3 in the Evers/Wurzbach and Forest Oaks areas that I am aware of. I am hopeful the warming center will be used. Our city management, police and fire chiefs were working closely with TXDOT on the conditions of all freeways and roads in the city to keep drivers safe. Below freezing temperatures and dangerously cold wind chill values will remain in the area through Saturday morning, Feb. 5th. Our appreciation to our staff, Bexar County and all first responders for their efforts in keeping our city safe and meeting the needs of citizens.

**FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Brief highlights of the City Council action from this meeting:

- Amended the *Communication Policy*, so as to affect staff only, and clarified the city-sponsored social media policy section.
- Adopted the *Water Deposit Refund* policy setting up the software system to automatically refund residential customer deposits after 18

months rather than 24 months, if no late payments. Discretion by staff to refund if extenuating circumstances exist is allowed.

- Council responded to the *Capital Facilities Oversight Committee (CFOC) draft bond survey* with some changes and clarifications. Staff will incorporate changes for final discussion and approval of the survey at the Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Council's consensus was to have surveys mailed, as well as an online option available, for up to 2 people per household.
- Approved helping to *fund ½ costs for an outdoor seating area for Schlotzsky's* at 5934 Bandera from economic and community development funds in the amount of \$4,750.
- Approved a Resolution granting WeCare Shopping Center at 7228 Bandera Road a variance to the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances *for a tree removal and replacement plan*, approved by the Tree Advisory Committee.
- Gave direction to staff regarding specific scope of work for the *audiovisual equipment in the Conference Center* with funds coming from the American Rescue Plan. Council requested AV equipment be rented for the Town Hall meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> so citizens can have an option of participating in person or virtually; with two-way communication allowed.

For more information on council meetings, go to [leonvalleytexas.gov/](http://leonvalleytexas.gov/) Mayor & Council meeting agendas and view the video. The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at City Hall, 5:30 p.m. and on-line at [www.leonvalleytexas.gov](http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov)

## **OMICRON VIRUS RATE COMES DOWN**

On December 21, 2021, the positivity rate for the coronavirus was at 2.2% rate. A week later, the Omicron virus pushed the positivity rate to 27.2%. For the next 5 weeks, the virus positivity rate continued to increase to a high last week of 39.4%. On February 1, the positivity rate went down to 32.9! We know the Omicron virus has infected fully vaccinated as well as unvaccinated people. This week city hall was no exception. We closed

Planning and Zoning department, as well as court due to personnel who were out sick. In spite of this, city hall phones have been answered to respond to our residents and other citizens. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to do your part in addressing the spread of the virus. Please get vaccinated and boosted 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.

### **CPS ENERGY RATE INCREASE**

CPS Energy is the monopoly energy utility for this region, owned by the City of San Antonio. The recent rate increase of \$5.10 per month, beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, was passed by the San Antonio City Council. This rate increase will affect all customers who receive their electricity/gas from CPS, including the citizens of Leon Valley. This was the first rate increase for CPS in 8 years. It covers needed utility improvements and salary increases (\$3.84 per month). It also includes \$1.26 per month for the next 25 years to cover part of the massive debt incurred by CPS from the February 2021 Winter Storm Uri. None of the suburban cities had a vote in this matter.

*Happy Chinese New Year – the year of the Tiger.* “The Tiger is a pragmatist. It does not waste energy. It has no predator. It watches and waits. But when it strikes a target, its sheer power is irresistible.”

Continue to stay warm and safe. Please contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely, Chris  
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