

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

10/21/22

COFFEE WITH MAYOR & COUNCIL

Saturday, October 22, 2022

9 – 11 AM

Leon Valley Conference Center

Please join the Mayor & Council and Staff for a cup of coffee and light refreshments followed by a presentation of the Time Capsule commemorating 70 years as a City. Each Councilmember and Mayor will bring items to be placed in the capsule. The time capsule will then be moved to City Hall where it will be displayed.

Second, at citizens' request, a presentation and discussion of the November 8, 2022, Special Election on 13 Proposed Charter Amendments (Propositions) will be led by City Manager, Crystal Caldera.

Then, there will be ample opportunity for citizens to make comments, ask questions or lodge concerns. The mayor and council are here to listen. No council action can be taken, except to place an item on a future agenda. Hope to see you there!

FOLLOWING THE COFFEE – THE NEW FIRE TRUCK PUSH-IN

Saturday, October 22, 2022, at NOON

Leon Valley Fire Department –6300 El Verde Rd

Many do not remember when horse-drawn fire apparatus required members of the fire department to detach the horses and push the equipment into the bay. This became a long honored tradition - when a city received a new truck, the fire departments would push it in. Join the Leon Valley Fire Department, city council, and staff in helping to welcome the new fire truck, replacing the 2009 Bronto Unit. American Rescue Funds helped to pay for ½ half of the \$800,000 cost of the fire truck with the balance financed over 5 years.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 18th

The following are brief highlights of council actions from the October 18th council meeting:

- **Good Neighbor Awards for Participation in National Night Out 2022** were presented to three neighborhoods: Mr. Kishore Kamaraju and the Pavona Place Neighborhood, Tina Chasen -Forest Ridge in the Forest Oaks subdivision and Linda Meffert – Adair and Countess Adria Neighborhood. Thank you for hosting your neighbors, as well as the city council, city manager, police and fire department personnel and other Leon Valley staff. This is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors and emergency personnel, and to get your questions answered.

- **September 2022 – Monthly Financial Report** was presented by Kevin Rule, Finance Director. This was the last month of the fiscal year and although not final, our ending fund balance in the General Fund grew \$1.2 million with a balance of \$4.5 million. Sales Tax for the year remains strong with an overall 14.87% increase from FY 20-21 (\$344,767), with two months left to report (Oct. & Nov.). Red Light Camera revenue over expenditures for FY 22 is \$320,770. Hotel/Motel tax revenue is up 128% (\$64,949) from what was budgeted. Community and Conference Center rentals exploded during FY 22 (\$64,292). Overall, we've has a good rebound from the COVID pandemic, but time will tell with the predictions of a possible recession.

- **American Rescue Funds (ARP)** – The City has now received a total of \$3.4 million from the federal government related to the pandemic recovery. \$742,000 dollars were spent in the FY 21-22 Budget. In the FY 22-23 Budget, approximately \$687,134. have been further allocated, leaving a balance in the ARP Funds of \$1.622,533. Council discussed how best this money should be spent. Two items mentioned which were not funded in this years budget were \$50,000 for a staffing assessment and \$12,000 to add cameras at the swimming pools. Public Works Director Moritz will bring back to council a proposal for funding top priorities from this funding source. Any ideas you may have, please let me or anyone of the councilors know. The balance of these dollars must be allocated for spending by 12/31/2024.

- **Right of Way Neighborhood Monuments – Rehab or Remove** was presented by Public Works Director Moritz. The consensus was to keep the neighborhood signs with names on them (Castle Estates, Canterfield, Forest Court) since this gives the residents a sense of place. There are three monuments which are leaning and present a possible hazard at Forest Meadow, Forest Moss and Forest Pine. Council directed that these three monuments be removed, but to save the stones.

- **An In-Kind Grant** was unanimously approved by the City Council to the *Leon Valley Historical Society* for their Pioneer Blue Jean Gala on November 4, 2022. The grant covered rental, clean-up and security fees.
- Resolution Authorizing City Manager to enter into **an Interlocal Agreement with TIPS Purchasing Cooperative for the purchase of goods** through their system was approved by City Council.
- City Council approved an **Ordinance amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances**, concerning building and swimming pool regulations and construction costs, including removing a fee to register a contractor's trade license (\$100).

Our next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1st at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. The City's transition from Granicas streaming program to Municode for council meetings has been completed. Please check out the new updated website. Access the council on-line meetings by going to the city's website (www.leonvalleytexas.gov) and click on **Agendas/Minutes** for the council meeting date. Any issues, please contact the city secretary at (210) 812-3316.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Early voting for the November 8th election runs from October 24th thru November 4th at the Leon Valley Conference Center polling site (among 51 sites in the county). You can vote at any early voting site.

TIMES: Oct. 24-28th – 8 am – 6 pm; Oct. 29th – 8 am – 8 pm; Oct. 30th – Noon – 6 pm; Oct. 31st – Nov. 4th – 8 am- 8 pm. For more information, please contact the Bexar County Elections Administrator at (210) 335-8683.

2. Happy Halloween and Arbor Day in Leon Valley! Come to a Halloween Costume Party! On Saturday, October 29th at the Leon Valley Library from 10:30 am – Noon. Crafts, Games and Activities will be available for all participants. Trees will be available for adoption from 9am – Noon, while supplies last to Leon Valley citizens in the Conference Center parking lot.

3. Pioneer Blue Jean Gala – benefitting the Leon Valley Historical Society's "A Night in Bavaria" for the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop Restoration: *Friday, November 4th from 6:30 – 10:30 pm*

in the Community Center. \$40 per ticket for members; \$45 for non-member. Traditional German dinner and music, plus a silent auction. A vegetarian option is available, which must be ordered ahead of time. Tickets can be purchased online at www.LVHistoricalSociety.org or call (210) 593-8157 for sponsorships.

4. Any code issues or animal control questions, please contact Jimmy Garcia at (210) 684-1391, Ext. 229 or email at j.garcia@leonvalleytexas.gov.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Halloween. Please call or email me or any of your council members – we are here to serve you. I love the cooler weather, don't you?

Sincerely, Chris
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