

# **LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY**

**12/23/22**

## **IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE – WARMING CENTERS OPEN**

Bexar County and the City of San Antonio have opened seven short-term warming centers for people and pets due to freezing temperatures this holiday weekend. Shelters opened yesterday at 3 pm when the cold front hit the area and will remain open until needed.

The closest warming center for Leon Valley residents is Garza Community Center, located at 1450 Mira Vista, San Antonio, TX. 78228 (near Callahan & Culebra). Cots, food and of course heat will be provided to those who need an alternate place to go, due to their circumstances. Officials are asking those seeking shelter to bring clothes, supplies and medicine. Kennels will also be available for your pets at the Garza Community Center (not all warming centers have kennels).

VIA will offer free bus rides for passengers to warming centers. Passengers using the VIA bus service or VIA Link should alert the bus operator when boarding. VIA trans passengers should alert the reservation agent when booking a trip. To request a trip to a warming center, call 311 or (210) 207-6000. Stay Warm!

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING –DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**

The following are highlights of council actions from the December 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting:

We started with two executive sessions to receive legal advice regarding the lease agreement between Bania Artiaga (Cha Cha's Next Gen Café on Evers) and the City of Leon Valley, as well as the proposed purchase and sales agreement between Meritage Homes and the City of Leon Valley. No action was taken on either item. See regular agenda item # 3 below.

After the executive session, the council heard one presentation:

**1. Discussion on Proposed Skate Park, including Budget and Procurement Method.** Yann Curtis, representative of Spa/New Line Skate Parks from Austin came to the council meeting in person to present his company's background in building skate parks (in business 16 years) and the process they go through when working with a community. Mr. Curtis emphasized they receive a lot of community input both in-person and by surveys, regarding design and budget. Also, these skate park areas can be multi-faceted (community park) with the goal of working in harmony with existing environments.

The proposed skate park is located at the Crystal Hills Park at the end of Shadow Mist street, across the street from the soccer field. Mr. Curtis recommended building the skate park on the front of the property with the permeable parking lot to the back at a reduced size. This company specializes in a Design/Build concept where the budget is determined, then the design options match the money set aside. He showed three projects his company has completed in Texas ranging from \$385,000 (Granbury, TX.) to \$950,000 (Conroe, TX.). When asked about grants available, Mr. Curtis said the only one he knew of was from the Hawk Foundation, which is highly competitive. The City has budgeted \$70,000 from American Rescue Funds (ARP) in this year's budget. Council recommended that this topic be discussed at the Town Hall meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> to receive community input. How much should the City invest in this project? Join the discussion.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. Discussion and Public Hearing to Authorize a Zone Change from B-1, small business district with Sustainability Overlay Zoning to R-3 Multi-family (Apartments) on a 0.854 -Acre Tract of Land located in the 7500 Block of Huebner Road between Hoofs and Evers.** The developer Mr. Bodagala is requesting to build an apartment building with 16 units, 2 ½ stories high, with a 25-foot buffer between the apartments and the back fences of the Hoofs neighbors. 35% of the total area must be landscaped. All outdoor lighting shall be hooded. The light must be directed towards the property and must not trespass onto surrounding properties. The apartments will be constructed with not less than 75% masonry of the overall exterior walls. Parking is limited to one space for each one-bedroom unit and two spaces for each two-bedroom unit. Outside storage is not allowed and must be completely contained in either the apartment units, garages, or accessory buildings. The Planning and Zoning

Commission recommended approval and the Council concurred. The second reading for final approval will be at the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 council meeting.

2. **Seneca West Drainage Project:** Consider Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a **Contract Amendment and Accept an Additional \$400,000 from Bexar County and Authorize a Budget Adjustment from the Stormwater Fund Reserve for \$400,000 for additional funding towards construction.** When the City solicited bids for construction for the Seneca West drainage project, due to inflation and the cost of materials, the bid, including increase in contingency and engineering, increased by \$832,498.50. (\$1.659 million to \$2.301 million) Bexar County granted the City \$1.346 million towards construction costs in 2019. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> the City Manager and I met with Commissioner Justin Rodriguez to explore options of sharing these cost overruns. Commissioner Rodriguez said he would look into it. This month we received word he secured \$400,000 to help offset our City's costs. The council approved this measure, with a second read on January 17, 2023, in time for Commissioner's Court to vote on this item at their January 24, 2023 meeting. We are deeply grateful for the partnership we have developed with Commissioner Rodriguez and thank him for his help. The construction of the Seneca West drainage project will begin in January 2023, taking about a year to complete, weather permitting.

3. Discussion on an Ordinance **authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Meritage Homes for the City to sell approximately 23 acres located at and around 6503 Samaritan Drive.** After reading this item into the record, the Council moved to executive session to receive legal advice. **No action was taken.**

4. Discussion on an Ordinance **Amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances regarding the Tree Preservation Ordinance** to direct the Park Commission to assume the duties of the Tree Advisory Board, correct the responsible department references and to give Variance approval duties directly to the City Council. These changes followed from the City Council's vote on December 6<sup>th</sup> to merge the Tree Advisory into the Park Commission. Three members of the Tree Advisory will be approved to serve on the Park Commission. Council will give final approval at the January 17, 2023 council meeting.

*Our next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at city hall. Our January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting has been cancelled due to the holidays.*

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR CITY OFFICES** – City Hall offices will BE CLOSED (with the exception of Police and Fire) from Thursday, December 22 through January 2, 2023. **EXCEPTION: The Leon Valley Library will re-open on Tuesday, December 27 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, with regular hours and be CLOSED January 1 & 2, 2023.**

- **AMAZON HUB** – is on its way to be delivered to City Hall at 6400 El Verde Road. There was a delay due to needing a part. This is another option to receive packages in a secure locker rather than leaving the package on your front door.

- **The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Hall meeting is scheduled on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Leon Valley Conference Center.** A light breakfast will be served. All residents will receive a postcard in early January with the topics to be discussed (generated by council and citizens). Hope to see you there!

On behalf of the City Council and staff we wish everyone a very Happy Holiday season! COVID, Flu and RSV have reached much higher numbers, so please stay safe and healthy. If you have any city issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or any councilmember for assistance. We are here to serve. Take care and see you next year!

Sincerely, Chris  
(210) [618-2092](tel:618-2092)  
[mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov)