

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
06/24/2022

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JACK DEAN
(1937-2022)

Jack Dean was appointed to serve on the Leon Valley City Council in June, 2005 and was re-elected four times, serving until 2014. He served with dignity and always showed his colleagues, staff, and citizens respect. He was a tall man with a big personality, self-assured, easy-going and always a gentleman.

Jack had a distinguished and colorful career as a Texas Ranger, retiring after 32 years. He was then appointed by President Clinton to serve as the U.S. Marshall in the Western District of Texas, and holding that position for 10 years. He was born near Denton, Texas, attended school in Ft. Worth and married the love of his life, Janie. They lived in Leon Valley for over 25 years and raised three children.

As a councilman, Jack always welcomed citizen comments on agenda items (way before the legislature required it). Before he was appointed to the council, I remember a lengthy discussion where the council had a difficult time deciding what action to take. Captain Jack raised his hand from the audience and asked if he could speak. The clear words he shared with the council assisted them in making a good decision. That's when I learned from Jack the value of allowing citizens to weigh in on council discussions.

Our love, support and condolences are with his family. Jack's spirit will live on through the many lives he touched.

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT HELD ON JUNE 18TH

On Saturday, June 18th from 9 am to 5 pm the City Council met with City Manager Crystal Caldera for the annual retreat. Over the last several months, the city council submitted 18 discussion topics. All were addressed in the day long session. Dr. Caldera is summarizing each topic to identify the future direction or possible action council reached through consensus. One major change is the council meetings will start at 6:30 pm,

instead of 6 pm, with the goal of concluding the meeting by 10 pm. More information on other goals of council will follow.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 18TH

The June 21st Council meeting was moved to Saturday, June 18th at 5:30 pm (after the all day city council retreat), so a quorum could be present. (Three councilmembers could not attend on June 21).

The short meeting approved seven agenda items which included a special use permit for a Christmas Tree lot, a grant to the library for \$9,820, and a budget adjustment from the American Rescue Plan in the amount of \$25,104 to clean up Zarzamora Creek. We also allowed a smaller lot size at 7213 Huebner Road and approved the quarterly financial report for May. We also heard from 8 citizens.

Additionally, there was a time sensitive issue for council to consider, an ordinance accepting an \$8,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for bullet proof vests for our Leon Valley police officers. The necessary second reading will be at the July 12th meeting, which is right before the deadline to accept the grant.

Several items planned for the June 21 agenda will be moved to the July 12th meeting, including the appointment of members to two statutory city committees.

WANTED: 4TH OF JULY PARADE PARTICIPANTS

There are still openings for organization, band, non-profit group or creative entity to participate in the 4th of July parade! The parade will take place on Monday, July 4th, beginning at 7 pm, leaving from the Department of Public Safety on Huebner road. State Representative Ray Lopez and his wife Evelyn will serve as Grand Marshalls of the parade. For more information, please call (210) 812-3328, Crystal Miranda, Community Relations Director. There is no charge for an entry.

COVID UPDATE - Since the inception of the COVID pandemic, the positivity rate (the percentage of people who test positive for COVID during the week) was the gauge to determine how bad the virus was. As of June

17th, the positivity rate is at 20%, rising every week since the low of 1.2 % on April 1st. Due to the high number of COVID at home tests, where results are not reported, Rita Espinoza, San Antonio Metro Health epidemiologist, shared with me the revised way of looking at the severity of COVID. They look at three different indicators: Number of cases, number of hospitalizations and the severity (% positive in the hospital) to determine the risk level. Currently we are at a **Medium Risk** level. Dr. Espinoza suggested that even people who are fully vaccinated, should consider wearing a mask for safety. It is not mandated. This virus seems to be sticking around longer than we had anticipated. Stay safe and healthy!

Hope to see you at the 4th of July festivities. You can still sign up for the 5K Run/Walk, co-sponsored with the Leon Valley Historical Society at their website. All Leon Valley citizens will receive a postcard with details of events planned, as well as street closures. We are still planning on having the fireworks show at 9:45 pm – dependent on how dry and windy the day will be. Remember the Spazmatics will perform at 8 pm. Thank to Crystal Miranda, Community Relations Director, our staff and volunteers for helping to make this a great event for our city. There will be additional security due to the anticipated crowds. For more information, please call (210) 812-3328.

Enjoy your weekend. Let's work together to make our community a better one by focusing on the issues/challenges before us. Please contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern. We love our volunteer jobs serving you.

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