

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

07/15/2022

A FANTASTIC 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN LEON VALLEY!

The day started at 7:30 a.m. with the annual 5K run hosted by the Leon Valley Historical Society and the City of Leon Valley. Thank goodness for the cloud cover and breeze. At 7 pm, in over 100 degree weather, the 4th of July parade began with our Co-Grand Marshals – State Senator Jose Menendez and State Representative Ray Lopez leading the parade. The program in the park started with a welcome from the city council, the singing of the National Anthem and a dance performance by Este Noche's J Squared. Then the main entertainment, the Spazmatics, began! The fireworks at 9:45 pm lasted for 15 minutes and was choreographed to music. Overall, the crowd, which was estimated between 18,000 and 20,000, was well behaved with only a few incidents reported. THANK YOU!

Special thanks to our dedicated staff who gave extra time preparing, setting up, monitoring, directing traffic, controlling the crowds, and picking up trash after the event. We also appreciate our co-sponsors who donated money or an in-kind contribution: Leon Valley Storage, Tiger Sanitation, Miracle Body and Paint, Just Smash'em, Commissioner Justin Rodriguez and Bexar County Economic Development, CPS Energy, H-E-B and Image 360. Thanks also to our vendors and volunteers.

A complete de-briefing of the event, including total cost with over-time pay included, will be held at the August 2nd city council meeting.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

May and June, 2022 have been the hottest such months on record in San Antonio. With triple digit recordings almost daily, we are all trying to stay cool with air conditioning, but this is causing a strain on the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) system. CPS Energy is urging customers to join other Texans to do their part in conservation efforts. Reducing your energy consumption will help ERCOT to avoid issuing an energy emergency alert which could lead to rotating outages. We are asked to voluntarily conserve energy using the following tips:

- The optimum energy-saving temperature for thermostats is 78-80 degrees; 85 degrees when no one is home.
- Use fans to feel 4-6 degrees cooler. Fans should not be left on in empty rooms and be sure fans are moving counterclockwise to push air down.
- Turn off and unplug non-essential lights and appliances.
- Close shades and blinds on windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Charge electric cars after 10 pm.
- Set pool pumps to run early morning or overnight; shutoff from 2 pm – 9 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 12th

The July 5th Council meeting was moved to July 12th due to the 4th of July event. The following are brief highlights of council actions:

- Council voted to increase salaries of police, fire, public works, and court personnel. There was no need for a budget adjustment in this fiscal year due to savings realized through staff turnover. The main objective is to keep our dedicated personnel here in Leon Valley.
 - Considered approval of a specific use permit for the operation of a mobile food truck park at 6505 Grissom Road and a specific use permit to operate an entertainment outdoor restaurant at 6526 Bandera – El Monte Barbecue - to add a stage, small playground and multiple outdoor games such as horseshoes, bean bags and volley ball.
 - Amended the City Ordinance to limit individuals the ability to serve on a maximum of two city boards, commissions or committees and on unlimited ad-hoc committees.
 - Discussed amending Rules of City Council Meeting Decorum and Conduct. Council has consensus on moving the start time of the council meetings to 6:30 pm (from 6:00 pm). More discussion will be held addressing the guidelines on how citizens to be heard comments will be received in written form and other considerations, at the second reading on July 19th ,when council will vote.
 - Discussed sunseting the Capital Facilities Bond Oversight Committee, but instead will appoint new board members at the July 19th meeting, and required this committee to prepare a Final Report and Recommendations to the Council within 60 days.

- Discussed proposed amendments to the Home Rule Charter. City Attorney Warren is preparing these proposed amendments in ballot form. At the July 19th council meeting, council will further discuss, refine and finalize these amendments to submit for citizen approval. This has been an open process and council is seeking input on these proposals prior to finalizing. August 22 is the deadline for council to place these propositions on the November ballot.
- Appointed 4 members to the Planning & Zoning Commission and three members to the Board of Adjustment.
- **CANCELLED** the July 23, 2022 Coffee with the Mayor & Council. Next scheduled Coffee is October 22nd.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 19th , beginning at 5:30 pm with an executive session, followed by the council meeting.

DID YOU KNOW.....

COVID BA.5 VARIANT IS THE DOMINANT STRAIN AND HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS IN THE COUNTRY! Currently we are at a HIGH RISK level (Red) and case numbers and hospitalizations are on the rise. The last positivity rate this week was 23.7% (the percentage of people who test positive for COVID during the week). The death rate from COVID is relatively low. It seems as if no one is wearing masks anymore – yes, we are all COVID fatigued. At this point, you can best determine how you will proceed to protect yourself and your loved ones in your daily life. Metro Health is suggesting that even people who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask for safety. It is not mandated. We are in our third year dealing with COVID – it seems to be hanging around longer than we had even imagined. Please stay safe and keep healthy!

Questions on your Appraisal Value and Exemptions? Please call Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Assistant at Bexar Appraisal District at (210) 242-2406, or Customer Service at (210-) 242-2432.

A **BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on Tuesday, July 19th from 1 – 8 pm in the parking lot of Pilgrim’s Cleaners next to City Hall. Please call City Secretary Sandra Passailaigue at (210) 812-3316 to sign up. Blood supplies are extremely low. Thank you.

Enjoy your weekend and stay cool. Please consider giving back 1-2 hours per month by serving on a city committee. It's fulfilling and enjoyable.

Any questions/concerns? Call or email me or any of your council members. We love our volunteer jobs serving you.

Sincerely, Chris

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