

# LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

## 05/06/2022

### ELECTION DAY – SATURDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 7 AM – 7 PM

Tomorrow is election day. Please exercise your right to vote in the following ballot choices: Leon Valley City Council: Mayor & Place 2; Northside Independent School District bond; Two Texas Constitutional Amendments. Registered voters can vote at any voting location, including the Leon Valley Conference Center on Evers Road or John Marshall High School on Lobo Lane. The number of Leon Valley early voters in the May 7<sup>th</sup> election is 906 out of 7,756 registered voters for an 8.6% turnout. Every vote counts!

### MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Brief highlights of the City Council action from May 3<sup>rd</sup> :

- City Manager Caldera presented to council a **comparison salary study** of entry level police and fire personnel salaries. Our city is presently the lowest among similar sized cities in the area. The recommended new starting salary for police and fire will bring their salaries ahead of several suburban cities. The total amount needed to get police, fire and public works pay increased to the recommended level is \$ 528,269.54. *A budget workshop has been set for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at City Hall to discuss the FY 23 budget. Please come and give input on how you'd like your taxes to fund your city.*
- Police Chief David Gonzalez presented a discussion on the required review of the current **Juvenile Curfew Ordinance**. This ordinance pertains to any person between the ages of 9 and 17 years of age. Currently the ordinance prohibits a minor to be out in any public place between the hours of 11 pm and 6 am if unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Additionally, unaccompanied minors cannot be in a public place on school days until 3:30 pm. If a minor is found to be in violation of this ordinance, they may be issued a warning notice or citation. Over the last three years, only a few warnings have been given because our police department works

with parents of minor children on staying in compliance with the ordinance. Council discussion and citizen input suggested that we consider modifying or eliminating this ordinance. Further discussion will be held at the second reading of this ordinance, which may be held in June to accommodate councilors' schedules.

- Council approved a rate increase of the **Stormwater Management Utility** rate for residential, multifamily, commercial, and public based on the City of San Antonio rates. One-third of our residents are on SAWS water and already pay this rate. The stormwater fee is mandated by the federal government which regulates stormwater runoff. It is independent of property taxes. Calculation of this fee is based on the amount of impervious cover on each parcel, not on total land area. This money can be used for flood control projects identified, such as Huebner Creek erosion control.

The funds can also be used for administration, maintenance, inspection, and enforcement activities, as well as legal fees, to mention a few uses.

- A review of the Leon Valley **Impound lot** was presented by Police Chief David Gonzalez. The revenue and expenditures of this program were presented. Every year has been in the black since its inception (2017). There is a need and requirement for a secure impound lot for evidence storage. The consensus of council was to keep the impound lot in place.

- An update on the **Utility Assistance Program** for utility bills (\$50,000 allocated from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) by city council) was approved in the consent agenda. This program is administered by Ascension DePaul Services. A total of 22 requests were made and 11 eligible applicants were awarded a total of \$7,146.28 for the first quarter, 2022. The balance stands at \$42,583.72. Staff recommended to continue with the Utility Assistance program as administered and to evaluate in the second quarter.

The next city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> when the canvass of the May 7<sup>th</sup> election will occur, beginning at either 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. Swearing in of the new Council will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

## **DID YOU KNOW.....**

**\*SPEEDING in our neighborhoods** – Please be aware the speed limit in Leon Valley neighborhoods is 30 mph. Speeding is being addressed as a top issue in our city. Adding speed humps along your street is an option but 90% support/consensus from the homeowners is required and it may not solve the problem. Requests to add police presence in the areas where speeding regularly occurs have been turned into the City Manager. In the next Lion's Roar, the speed hump policy will be further explained.

**\*LAST BUT NOT LEAST.....** At my last letter on April 22<sup>nd</sup> the positivity rate for COVID was at 3.7%. As of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the positivity rate for COVID increased to 5.5%. Please continue to do what you need to do in order to keep you and your family safe.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR LEON VALLEY MOTHERS & GRANDMOTHERS!**

Contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern. We are here to serve you.

Sincerely, Chris  
(210) 618-2092

[mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov)