

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY

07/22/2022

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 19th

The following are brief highlights of council actions from the July 19th council meeting:

- Public Works Director Melinda Moritz presented to council the **American Disability Act (ADA) Transition Plan** for the City of Leon Valley. This plan was developed with an ADA consultant after a facilities investigation was performed and input from all departments was received. This report will guide the City in planning improvements to city facilities and programs to allow disabled persons to more actively participate in city life. We are addressing ADA issues concerning major facilities through the Capital Facilities Oversight Committee. The ADA does not require the City to alter the essence of its programs and/or services or apply an undue financial or administrative burden. **This Plan will be available on the City's website for review and comment by the public for 3 months.** Once the comments are received, they will be updated into the Plan. The updated Plan will be presented to City Council who will then determine what appropriate actions will be taken, based on costs and if possible, add funding, including grant opportunities, to future fiscal year budgets. This Plan is to be updated every 5 years.

- Council voted for staff to prepare a grant application to submit to the federal government to develop a **Safe Streets For All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**. A grant for \$100,000 will be awarded in early 2023 for the creation of this plan. Once the plan is developed/approved, the City may apply for additional road way improvement grants (\$5-6 billion nationwide), such as to conduct speed management projects, e.g., setting appropriate speed limits and traffic calming. Speeding was a top concern I heard in the neighborhoods this spring.

- Finance Director Kevin Rule presented the **May, 2022 Financial Report**. In the General Fund, revenues were \$12.285 million with expenditures of \$8.701. million with revenue over expenditures of \$3.068 Million. June 2022 sales tax collections are 9.2% higher than June, 2021 and year to date collections are 17.67% higher (\$277,467) than last year at this time. The Water/Sewer/Storm Water Fund has revenues as of June 30,

2022, of \$5.376 million and Expenditures of \$4.336. million with revenue of \$1.040 million over expenditures. The red-light camera fund has revenues of \$1.536 million and expenditure of \$1.227 million with a surplus of \$308,937 as of June 30th.

- Held a 2-hour discussion on the **proposed Home Rule Charter**. Council pared down the proposed Amendments to 14 (from 31) for citizen consideration and will finalize at the August 2nd council meeting (first read). Citizens will have an opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments prior to finalizing them at the August 16th council meeting. The council has a deadline of August 22 to place this measure on the November, 2022 ballot.

- **Appointed committee members to the following advisory boards:** Economic & Community Development, Tree Advisory, Park Commission, Library Board of Trustees, Citizens Police Advisory Committee, and Capital Facilities Oversight Ad Hoc Committee. There are openings on all city committees. Please download the volunteer form (2 pages) to apply. There is a limit of serving on 2 long-standing committees and unlimited for any ad-hoc committee. Please consider serving your city for 1-2 hours a month!

- City Council amended the **Rules of Decorum Ordinance**. Council changed the regular city council meeting time to 6:30pm from 6:00 p.m. Another change was the section on written citizen comments: Citizens may appear in person and citizens may appear by written appearance for items on the agenda. Written comments must be received prior to the start of the meeting to ensure comments are read during the meeting. At the request of any council member and/or Mayor, a citizen's comment may be read. During the Citizens to Be Heard section of the agenda, no written comments will be read aloud during the meeting.

- Approved 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 volleyball.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, August 2nd, beginning at 6:00 pm** with an executive session, (Crime Prevention Control District's annual meeting) followed by the council meeting. The FY 2023 Budget will be presented with final numbers received from Bexar County Tax Assessor's office.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- **New National Hotline Number for Mental Health/Suicide – 988.** If someone is experiencing mental health related distress, crisis counselors are available 24-hours, 7 days a week, to recognize the person's pain, offer hope and let them know they are not alone. Call 911 if the situation is an EMERGENCY. This site just went online July 16, 2022.
- The **BLOOD DRIVE** scheduled for July 19th in the parking lot of Pilgrim's Cleaners next to City Hall was **cancelled** due to lack of workers available from South Texas Blood Bank. This drive will be rescheduled in the Fall. More information will be forthcoming.
- **COVID numbers** in the region are still HIGH (red zone) due to high admissions, high case rates and medium hospitalization. Thanks for protecting yourself and your loved ones.

Enjoy your weekend and stay cool.

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

Sincerely, Chris
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