



**CITY OF LEON VALLEY**  
**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
Leon Valley City Council Chambers  
6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, TX 78238  
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

**MINUTES**

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1. **6:00 PM** Call to Order and Determine a Quorum is Present.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Chris Riley	Mayor	Present	
Benny Martinez	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
David Edwards	Council Place 1	Present	
Belinda Ealy	Council Place 2	Present	
Monica Alcocer	Council Place 3	Present	
David Jordan	Council Place 5	Present	

Also in attendance were:

City Manager Kelly Kuenstler, ACM/HR Director Crystal Caldera, City Attorney Denise Frederick, LVFD Captain Todd Morgan, LVPD Chief Joe Salvaggio, Finance Director Vickie Wallace, Finance Clerk Ashley Wayman, and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Angela Trejo.

**Citizens to Be Heard**

- Pat Martinez, 6319 Rue Sophie spoke in favor of changing the City Council meeting times back to 7:00 p.m.
- Philip Riddle, 6314 Rue Sophie also spoke in favor of changing the City Council meeting times back to 7:00 p.m.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Discuss and Consider Possible Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 1, Article 1.04, Section 1.04.001 entitled "Meetings" to Revise the Schedule of Regular City Council Meetings to Change the Start Time; and Making the Change Consistent with Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. ch. 551 ("The Texas Open Meetings Act") (M&C # 2017-09-12-01 S. Passailaigue)**

Mayor Chris Riley introduced this item which was placed on tonight's agenda for City Council to revisit an amendment to the start time set by City Council for Regular City Council meetings. The amendment was made on June 6, 2017, to move the start time from

7:00 PM to 6:00 PM provided that it was a three month trial period.

As stated on June 6, 2017:

*A motion was made by Council Member Benny Martinez to keep the Regular City Council meetings with a start time of 7:00 PM. There was no second to this motion. The motion failed.*

*A motion was made by Council Member David Edwards and seconded by Council Member David Jordan to table the item until the July 18, 2017, City Council meeting for further study and staff recommendation. Before a vote could be taken, Council Member Edwards withdrew his motion.*

*A motion was made by Council Member David Edwards and seconded by Council Member David Jordan to change the start time of Regular City Council meetings from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Council Member Benny Martinez asked to amend the motion to include a three (3) month trial period and to revisit the item in September of 2017. Council Member David Edwards accepted the amendment. All members voted in favor of the motion.*

Mayor Riley asked who and why this was ever placed on the June agenda in the first place. Council Member Monica Alcocer reminded Mayor Riley that the item was originally presented in June based on discussion held at the May 2017 Council/Manager Retreat. Council Member Alcocer noted that this was discussed at length at the retreat and that there was a consensus among all of the Council Members to start the meetings at 5:30 p.m. but in June, it was voted to start at 6:00 p.m. instead. Council Member Alcocer also added that she was not in attendance at the June meeting when the change was voted on. Mayor Riley thanked Council Member Alcocer for reminding her of this and that she did recall that discussion.

Mayor Riley continued the discussion with start times of all of the meetings held since June. This information provided a breakdown of executive sessions, presentations and regular agenda item start times.

Council Member Alcocer presented information she had gathered on what other cities are doing with regards to meeting start times.

Council Member Benny Martinez said that he believed the three (3) month trial period for the 6:00 p.m. start time was a “complete failure” and that this change was just a band aid to the real problem which is that “we have too many presentations”. Council Member Martinez said that the agenda needs to be streamline.

Council Member David Edwards said he takes offense to the comment made about Council Members not being prepared and that he tries very hard to avoid idiotic questions. Council Member Edwards added that we need to celebrate citizens, volunteers and staff with presentations as we have been but maybe there is some room for compromise.

Council Member Belinda Ealy said she did not see a need to change right now and that people like getting home early.

Council Member David Jordan said that he also takes issue with the comment made about preparing for meetings as he does do due diligence and prepare. Council Member Jordan added that everyone on the dais has obligations that they have to work around in order to serve the public. Council Member Jordan supports leaving the meetings at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Kelly Kuentler added that she received a phone call prior to this meeting from Walter Geraghty who said Council Member Benny Martinez asked that he come speak at tonight's meeting in support of moving the meeting start times back to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Geraghty said he is in support and Ms. Kuentler relayed that to the Council on his behalf.

Mayor Riley said in her tenure as Mayor, the Council had never considered an earlier start time as stated by former Council Member Paul Biever. Mayor Riley also said she took great offense to the comments about the incompetence of the City Council and them not being prepared. Mayor Riley agreed that the agenda could be streamlined and possibly place limitations on the number of presentations and the actual length of the presentation per meeting. Mayor Riley said her biggest concern is executive sessions because "we have to have them" and she does not like starting the regular meeting late because of them.

Mayor Riley said that she would respectfully ask that if the meetings start time remain at 6:00 p.m. that the executive sessions begin at the end of the meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Monica Alcocer and seconded by Council Member Belinda Ealy to leave Regular City Council meetings start time at 6:00 p.m. The City Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed with Council Member Benny Martinez casting the negative vote. Mayor Riley announced that the motion carried.

Mayor Riley stated, "I set the agenda so you all know where I'm going. We will not be late for our people anymore at the 6:00 p.m. meeting that is my executive decision."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DENIED [4 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Monica Alcocer, Council Place 3
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Belinda Ealy, Council Place 2
<b>AYES:</b>	Edwards, Ealy, Alcocer, Jordan
<b>NAYS:</b>	Martinez

**Conduct Second Public Hearing on the Proposed 2017 Tax Rate of \$0.556599/\$100 Valuation which Exceeds the Effective Tax Rate of \$0.533943/\$100 by 4.243150% and is \$0.012942 Lower Than the Rollback Tax Rate of \$.569541/\$100. (M&C# 2017-09-12-02 V. Wallace)**

Finance Director Vickie Wallace presented this item saying that last year the City of Leon Valley Property Tax Rate was \$0.556599/\$100. This year the City of Leon Valley is proposing a Property Tax Rate of \$.556599/\$100, which is the same tax rate as last year.

The Property Tax Code, Chapter 26 requires a governing body to conduct two public hearings if the proposed tax rate exceeds the lower of the rollback tax rate or the effective tax rate, whichever is lower. The 2017 proposed Tax Rate of \$.556599/\$100 exceeds the Effective Tax Rate of \$.533943/\$100 by 4.243150%.

The 2017 Tax Rate is for the calendar year 2017 and is based on property values as of January 1, 2017. It funds the General Fund and Debt Service Fund budgets for Fiscal Year 2018. Ms. Wallace concluded the presentation saying “This is the second and final public hearing to consider that increase. The vote on the Proposed Tax Rate will be on September 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, and Texas 78238.”

Mayor Riley opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. and there being no comments from the public closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

**The City Council shall meet in Executive Session to discuss the following: Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney regarding board appointees, in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code.**

The City Council went into Executive Session at 6:50 PM

**Reconvene into Regular Session and take action on issues discussed in Executive Session if necessary.**

City Council reconvened into Regular Session at 8:43 p.m. No action was taken.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Riley announced that the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

These minutes approved by the Leon Valley City Council on the 19th of September, 2017.

APPROVED

*Chris Riley*

**CHRIS RILEY**  
MAYOR

ATTEST: *Sandra Passailaigue*  
**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC**  
CITY SECRETARY

