



# LEONA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**May 9, 2022**

## **Meeting Conducted at the Community Building**

- **Call to Order** - 7:00pm
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – All – Led by Michelle Flanagan
- **Roll Call** – Marie Davis

Michelle Flanagan - President	Present
Jay Bonham – Vice President	Present
Marie Davis – Secretary	Present
Judy Anaya – Treasurer	Present
Marian Wright – Member at Large	Present

- **Deputy Report** – Deputy Godoy
  - It has been a quiet month in Leona Valley with no incidents reported.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Marie Davis
  - Motion to table the approval of the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes along with the minutes from the Town Council special meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> was made by Marie Davis. Seconded by Judy Anaya

○ Michelle Flanagan	Yes
○ Jay Bonham	Yes
○ Marie Davis	Yes
○ Judy Anaya	Yes
○ Marian Wright	Yes

- **Treasurer's Report / Finance, Ways and Means**– Judy Anaya
  - See Separate Treasurer's Report for full details
  - Total LVTC assets as of May 9, 2022 are \$108,166.58
  - Payments were made in April to pay for signs for the Ritter Ranch appeal, as well as various renewals that were previously approved to GoDaddy for renewal fees.
- Motion to approve the payment of 3000.00 to Hanson Bridgett Law Firm for the legal services rendered by Aleen was made by Marie Davis. Seconded by Marion Wright.

○ Michelle Flanagan	Yes
○ Jay Bonham	Yes
○ Marie Davis	Yes
○ Judy Anaya	Yes
○ Marian Wright	Yes

- Motion passed

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- **Committee Reports**

- Community and Public Relations – Marian Wright
  - Updates are being posted to Facebook
- Community Health, Safety, and Welfare – Jay Bonham
  - No update at this time regarding the study going on for the placement of a safe, designated school bus stop in the area of 90<sup>th</sup> street West and Elizabeth Lake Road.
  - Drive carefully sign research is pending

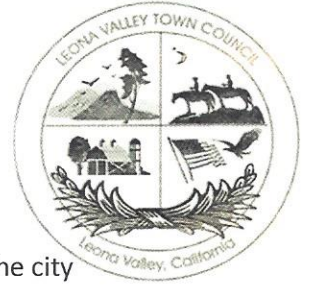
- Community Standards and Land Use – Michelle Flanagan

- Ritter Ranch was discussed at the Palmdale City council meeting on April 20 when the City council voted to deny Leona Valley's appeal against the project as it has been proposed.
- History on Ritter – The plan was originally approved in 1992, Leona Valley fought against the developer and the development was eventually stopped after much harassment of Leona Valley and its citizens by the Ritter Ranch developer.
- The current plan for Ritter Ranch is lacking and in need of updates. New EIR is needed, Updated fire hazard and seismic hazard assessments
- The Current Ritter Ranch Developer has offered a deal to Leona Valley that includes an amended specific plan,
- What Leona Valley and the Town Council have been asking for specifically is a significant buffer zone between the new development area and the existing Leona Valley.
- The LVTC has been working thru an attorney to communicate and negotiate with the City of Palmdale and the Ritter Ranch developers. Negotiations are ongoing. The Land Use Committee and various Leona Valley residents have spent much time and skills compiling lists of changes from the last 30 years.

- **Public Comments**

- Tania Williams
  - Tania Has been in LV for over 40 years. She says the bad people don't live here for long, as there is a special sense of community here. It feels safe and like home. She said a prayer for the valley.
- Vance Kirkpatrick
  - Vance and his family moved to Leona Valley I 1972. Speaking mostly about the traffic concerns, he has to turn up 75<sup>th</sup> street west in order to get home, and the traffic situation is becoming more dangerous. He feels the City has an obligation to do something to mitigate the heavy traffic on ELR. The Developer getting this first tract in is simply a foot in the door as far as increasing traffic levels.

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- Linda Koch
  - Linda says she has been to Palmdale City Council meetings and feels that the city and developer are trying to push thru a bunch of bad ideas and are trying to get things done quickly. She feels that the state water restrictions and will help stop the development if we litigate and push against the developer.
- Karl Percy
  - Karl says he feels the increasing price of construction materials and associated items may help Leona Valley's position. He reminisced about lyrics to the songs "big Yellow Taxi" and feels the City of Palmdale needs to support their citizens in promises they have already made and not yet come thru on. Traffic on the 14 freeway is very bad and the Freeway needs improvement.
- Peter Weilbach
  - Peter said he feels the attorney situation can be sticky, "dancing with the devil" He feels that development is inevitable, but we should try to get a covenant recorded on the land in order to restrict development for the future. He feels he has a realistic view of how these developments work and how powerful they are with their deep pockets. He explained how tract approval process works.
- Sandy Buchholz
  - Sandy is concerned with the increased risks of Valley Fever associated with the mass grading.
- Brian Gorrindo
  - Brian wants to move forward with litigation and push back as long as possible. He thinks that the developer will eventually get what they want, based on his professional experience. He is against public parks in the area as a whole.
- Luke Rogers
  - Luke knows this is a serious fight and encourages community members to participate in all areas of this battle. He calls for the community to come together in this battle. He says the opposition has great strength and a lot of money. We have limited funds and resources for the fight. He is against the project, but believes some part of it is inevitable.
- Juanita Kirckpatrick
  - Juanita was one of the first Town Council members. The first fight was an incredible amount of work and cost a lot of money. She encourages the community to keep fighting and pull together.
- **Council Member Comments**
  - Jay Bonham said there are plans for a large number of traffic lights and stop signs between 20<sup>th</sup> street West and Boquet Canyon Road.
  - Judy Anaya Made a motion to pursue litigation against Preston Hollow, The City of Palmdale and Ritter Ranch Developers. Marion Wright seconded.
    - Discussion
      - The vote is just to begin the litigation and does not encompass the entirety of the battle. Determinations will be made at necessary points in the future on how to continue.
      - Michelle Flanagan                      Yes
      - Jay Bonham                                Yes
      - Marie Davis                                Yes

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- Judy Anaya Yes
- Marian Wright Yes

- Motion passed

- **Open Floor for Additional Discussion**

- Jay Bonham said the amount of work involved with the research on this project is large. Help from the community is needed badly.
- Karen Bryan encourages people to go to the City of Palmdale website to check into the history of the project and the associated documents and appeals.
- Frank Cosola suggested an advertisement for more community involvement, possibly at the Cherry Parade. He is concerned over the complacency of residents. Possibly a flyer hand out in the crowds. He believes people are "asleep" and not fully aware of the negative changes looming over Leona Valley.
- Concerns were expressed over the destruction of cultural resources in the proposed development of Ritter Ranch. The indigenous peoples involved with the development area are limited in their ability to preserve their ancestral artifacts and sacred sites.
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- **Action Items**

- Parade fliers
- Leona Valley Cherry parade T shirts with possible additional logo

- **Motion to Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:13 pm.