

LEONA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
November 11, 2019

- Call to order- Michael Publicker
- Pledge to the Flag- Michael Publicker
- Roll Call- Michael Publicker

-Michael Publicker-present, Peggy Fuller-present, Chris Benjamin-present,
Ed Simms-absent, Jessica Reaves-present

- Approval of October Minutes
 - Delayed until December meeting.
- Treasurer's Report
 - The Money Market checking account had a beginning balance of 2931.31. Added to the account was interest on all CDs, interest on the checking account, and donations and income from Octoberfest. Paid out from the account were payments for Octoberfest expenses resulting in an ending balance of 6295.36 in the Money Market checking account, with total assets of 106,295.36. Account totals current as of October 25, 2019. The \$15,000 CD matured on November 1, 2019 and was transferred to another CD for a 1-year investment. The interest rate on the new CD is 1.6% due to the recent decrease in CD interest rates. A request for reimbursement was made by Michael Publicker in the amount of \$27.17. Expenses were related to Octoberfest and included replacing light bulbs broken and zip ties used during the set up and take down of lights for Octoberfest. Chris Benjamin made a motion to reimburse, Jessica Reaves seconded, passed unanimously. Still awaiting final expense payments for Octoberfest, current approximate income generated from Octoberfest is \$3000.00.
- Installation of New Board- Supervisor Barger's Office
 - Proposed Slate for 2019/2020 Town Council was Michael Publicker-President, Chris Benjamin-Vice President, Peggy Fuller-Treasurer, Marie Davis-Secretary, Ed Simms-Member at Large. William Elliott- 1st Alternate, Rich Thomas- 2nd Alternate. William Elliott proposed an alternate slate of Chris Benjamin as President, Michael Publicker as Vice President, Marie Davis as Treasurer, Peggy Fuller as Secretary, and Ed Simms as Member at Large. Mr. Elliott stated he believes this alternate slate will allocate resources in a more efficient manner, allowing the junior members of the Council to step up into more involved roles. He believes some of the current members are stretched too thin and are unable to give their positions on the Town Council the time the positions require. Peggy agreed she would like to have the next year to train Marie to take over the role of Treasurer, but the position will take some time to learn to work correctly. Marie said she feels comfortable taking on the role of Secretary, as this is her first year on the Council and she believes the role of Treasurer is much more complex. Chris

said he is flattered to be considered as President, but he wants to shadow under Michael for the next year. Jessica Reaves suggested that William Elliott should head up a committee with the intention of developing steps to train Council members to perform several roles over the course of their time on the Town Council. A vote was taken on the suggested slates. The original proposed slate was approved 9 for, 4 against. The new board members were sworn in. Jessica Reaves was awarded with an appreciation award for her two years served on the board.

- Sheriff's Report – Dennis Miller
 - There have been no incidents of part 1 crimes for the month of October. Bouquet Canyon area had one Grand Theft from an auto parked at a PCT trailhead. There were 16 citations issued by Deputy Miller, 13 of which were for speeding. Deputy Miller reminded everyone again to report all suspicious activity and crime directly to the Sheriff's Department, rather than simply posting it on social media. Proper reporting of incidents will aid Deputy Miller and other law enforcement to accurately track and solve crime in the area. Acton and Agua Dulce have had a spike in crime, possible due to the rolling blackouts.

- CA Department of Insurance – Hugo Flores
 - Mike Publicker said he has been contacted by numerous Leona Valley Residents regarding Non-Renewal notices from their Homeowners Insurance companies. Hugo defined The California Department of Insurance as the government agency in the state of California that regulates the insurance market. The purpose of the California Department of Insurance is to protect consumers against any illegal actions of brokers, agents, or the companies they work for. Hugo said the large fires in California are causing some of the largest insurance companies to take losses for the third year in a row, resulting in many companies pulling out of certain markets. This has led to many homeowners receiving notices from their insurance providers that their policies will be cancelled or will not be eligible for renewal. Another result of the insurance company debt is significantly higher insurance renewal rates. Hugo said insurance companies must give their customers a minimum of a 45-day notice before cancelling an existing policy. Hugo said if homeowners are unable to find any providers that will insure their property, as a last resort, they can apply to California Fair Plan for insurance. They do not offer the best coverage, but they will not deny applicants, providing there is no outstanding safety violations on the property. Hugo encouraged everyone to regularly review their insurance coverages to make sure they are adequately covered in case of a total loss. He advises doing a review every two years, along with documenting all of their

possessions and serial numbers. He directs homeowners to their website for any additional information. Hugo reminded everyone present that the California Department of Insurance can only enforce the laws regarding insurance in California, not ethical issues. Mike Publicker mentioned there are several things that can positively impact insurance rates, such as a fire station in town and private water storage on your property. Mike Publicker said he will attempt to get a representative from SCE to be present at the December meeting. Additionally, Isabella Clock with Onsite Wastewater Systems will be present at the December meeting.

- Committee Reports
 - Association of Rural Town Councils – Peggy Fuller
 - Members from Regional Planning were at the last ARTC meeting, talking about ways to provide homeless shelters and housing in the rural areas of the Antelope Valley. Their ideas were reportedly not well received by the ARTC due to concerns over the lack of basic safety services and general services in rural areas. Regional Planning stated homeless shelters are not subject to CSDs in individual communities. Karl Pearcy expressed his concerns over CSDs being enforced in the community. He said they are not currently being enforced and he feels the county needs to be pressed to come out and enforce the CSDs that have been in place for many years. William Elliott was concerned that sudden, harsh enforcement of the CSDs would be unfair to many in the community who may not be aware they are in violation.
 - Community and Public Relations – Michael Publicker
 - Under the new Board, Ed Simms will take over Community and Public Relations. There will be a greater effort made to get information pertaining to community issues out and easily available on as many platforms as possible.
 - Community Standards and Land Use -Peggy Fuller
 - An anonymous letter was sent to Air Quality Management, the Department of Public Health, and the Town Council. The letter was written by a concerned citizen regarding the new horse facility on the South side of Elizabeth Lake Road. The concerns are due to the dust raised by the horses. Visibility, creek contamination, and Valley Fever are some possible issues addressed in the letter. The town council will follow up with AQMD and DPH to find out if anything will be done to address the concerns. The owners of the property are doing what they can to keep the dust down in the current dry conditions. Sprinklers are being installed. They are within the allowed number of animals for their facility.

- Last Saturday was the CPR training class. Another is scheduled for November 16th from 10AM to 1PM. The cost is free for training. Certification through the Red Cross is \$45.
- Antelope Valley Disaster Council, Leona Valley fire station had equipment used for the recent fire emergencies, however, the town council was not notified the equipment had been borrowed and was missing from the call station.
- Water storage for emergency needs, Mike Publicker has organized the donation and delivery of one pallet (2400 cans) of “Blue Can” water from Nathan Wolfstein of the Be More Prepared Program for use in our community disaster V Pod.
- WAVHS – No news
- General Public – No additional comments
- Town Council Board Members- No additional comments
- Old Business- No additional comments
- New Business – No additional comments
- Adjourn
 - Chris Benjamin made a motion to adjourn at 9:15, Marie Davis seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved.