

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** October 3, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director

**THROUGH:** Crystal Caldera, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Action to Consider an Ordinance Amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Appendix A, Article A11.000 Water and Sewer Fees to Allow a Retroactive Adjustment to a Water Bill for a Verifiable Water Leak That Occurred Prior to November 2021 (1st Read Held on 9-20-22)

**SPONSOR(S):** N/A

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider approval of an Ordinance amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Appendix A, Article A11.000 Water and Sewer Fees to allow a one-time adjustment to a water bill for a verifiable water leak that occurred prior to November 2021.

In November of 2021, City Council passed Ordinance 2021-50, which allows a Leon Valley Water System customer to apply for a water bill adjustment once per year upon verification of a leak. The Ordinance doesn't allow persons that may have had a leak prior to its passage to obtain relief. This amendment would allow a one-time retroactive water bill adjustment for a leak that occurred prior to the passage of the Ordinance, upon receipt of verifiable proof of such leak.

The Ordinance amendment would read as follows in red:

Appendix A, Article 11.000 Water and Sewer Fees, Sec. A11.001 Generally, (b) Water Service

“(D) Methods for adjusting for commercial and residential water leaks.

1. Customers who have experienced a water leak may apply for a one time per calendar year adjustment to their water bill. A second water bill adjustment may be requested during the same calendar year, but only under extraordinary circumstances as approved by the City Manager.

Leon Valley Water customers may also request a water bill adjustment for a water leak that occurred at any time prior to the passage of Ordinance 2021-50, but this shall be

limited to one occurrence. Customer must provide proof of repairs in the form of receipts or paid invoices from either a plumbing service provider or from the resident performing their own plumbing work.”

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

It is unknown at this time how many customers will request a retroactive water bill adjustment.

### **SEE LEON VALLEY**

***Social Equity*** - Providing relief from high water bills adds to the general quality of life, by reducing unplanned monthly utility expenses.

***Economic Development***- Providing relief from high water bills where warranted may enhance the image of our city, which may attract residents.

***Environmental Stewardship*** - Water leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide and providing incentives to repair leaks will reduce water consumption, which reduces water loss, supporting water conservation and drought management.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

At Council discretion.

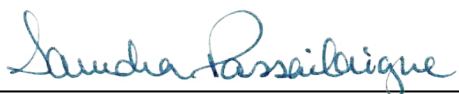
APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

### **CITY COUNCIL ACTION:**

A motion was made by Councilor Rey Orozco to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendment to be made to the minutes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jed Hefner.

Voting Yea: Council Place 1 Martinez, Council Place 2 Stevens, Council Place 3 Hefner, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Place 4 Orozco, Council Place 5 Bradshaw

ATTEST:



**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC**  
City Secretary