



Lucas City Newsletter

February, 2007

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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City Council

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- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
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- Bill Carmickle, Councilmember
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- Don Zriny, Councilmember
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City Administrator

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NEW MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE APPOINTED

City Council is pleased to announce that Joe Gorfida has been appointed to fill our Municipal Court Judge position for a two year term. Judge Gorfida worked with the City extensively as our City Attorney in his previous position with Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager, & Smith LLP. He left NJDH&S in 2006 to accept a judgeship in Plano. While continuing in that role, he will also preside over our municipal court in Lucas that is in session on a monthly basis. Due to his prior experience with our city Judge Gorfida will be a great asset for us, and we welcome him back to Lucas in his new role.

COUNCIL MOVING AHEAD WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In June of last year, Council sent out a call for volunteers to serve on an Economic Development Committee. The June newsletter outlined the reasons behind the establishment of this committee. It will be charged with the task of putting together a proposed plan to specifically identify and be proactive in attracting those types of commercial/retail businesses that are consistent with our Comprehensive Plan and the needs of our residents. During the January 18 City Council Workshop meeting a decision was made to move forward with the establishment of this committee.

Council Member Bill Carmickle has been named the liaison between the new committee and City Council. Several residents have previously volunteered to serve on this committee. If anyone else would like to know more about this important project, or would also like to be considered for a seat on the committee, contact Council Member Carmickle by email at bcarmickle@lucastexas.us or at 214-693-9408.

Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 in the City Annex unless otherwise specified.

City Council Regular

Thurs., Feb. 1

Planning & Zoning

Thurs., Feb. 8

City Council Workshop

Thurs., Feb. 15

Parks & Open Space

Thurs., Feb. 22

Municipal Court

Wed., Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m.

THANKS TO OUR CITIZENS

City Council would like to offer its thanks to the citizens of Lucas who turned out for the Town Hall meeting on January 22 for an open discussion on the proposed Waste Water Master Plan. This is a an issue that is very important to our community and its future, and the citizen input offered at this meeting is appreciated. There will be continued discussion of this issue by Council at their meeting on Feb. 1 during which they plan to consider setting public hearings on the proposed plan.

"When you cannot get a compliment any other way, pay yourself one."

Mark Twain



CITY WORKS

One of the joys of living in rural areas is the ability to enjoy the beauty of the nighttime skies without the interference of city lights. The opening words of our Municipal Code of Ordinance section on lighting are as follows:

It is the intent of this division to preserve, protect, and enhance the lawful nighttime use and enjoyment of any and all property through the use of appropriate lighting practices and systems."

Nighttime lighting fixtures and systems should be designed to maintain our safety, security and productivity, while curtailing the degradation of the nighttime visual environment.

Division 7, "Lighting" of the Municipal Code clearly lays out the guidelines for nighttime lighting . Two of the most important provisions provide for a lighting curfew and establish light trespass limits.

All non-essential lighting is required to be turned off after business hours in any commercial zones, and after 10:30 PM in residential areas. The lighting must remain off until dawn (or, in the case of businesses, one-half hour before opening, which ever comes first.) Examples of non-essential lighting are display lights, aesthetic lights, parking lot lights, sign lighting, playground, or yard lights. Lighting used for flagpoles or church steeples are exempted from the requirements of this division.

Light Trespass Limits require that no use or operation of lights can be located or concentrated so as to produce intense glare or direct illumination across the bounding property line for a visible source of illumination. Additionally, no light can be of such intensity as to create a nuisance or detract from the use and enjoyment of the adjacent property. The maximum pre-curfew illuminance level measured at the property line at eye height is no greater than 3 lux. For essential lighting left on after curfew, the maximum is 1 lux, measured in the same manner.

The Municipal Code also establishes other rules, such as shielding requirements for street lights, and other external lights. For complete text of the provisions relating to lighting, contact City Hall. Once the City web site revamping project is complete, the complete text of our city codes and ordinances will once again be available on the City web site.

Please be considerate of your fellow residents of Lucas. If you have any doubt as to whether or not you are in compliance, contact our Code Enforcement personnel at City Hall for their help.

SEX OFFENDER ORDINANCE UNDER CONSIDERATION

Increasingly, cities across the country are beginning to deal with the difficult issue of whether or not to place limitations on where convicted sex offenders may live.

Recognizing that the safety of our children is paramount, Mayor Pro-Tem Debbie Fisher asked that consideration of enacting such an ordinance be placed on the agenda of the City Council workshop meeting held on Jan. 18. Such an ordinance, if enacted, would place limits on the distance sex offenders may live from schools, daycare centers, churches, parks, or any other areas where children may gather. (However, convicted offenders who already live in these designated areas prior to the enactment of such an ordinance generally cannot be required to relocate.)

The Council requested that our City Attorney look at similar ordinances in other cities and bring back suggested wording that can be considered.

A continuation of this discussion has been placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting of Thurs., Feb. 1.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



At their first meeting of 2007 on Jan. 11, the newly seated Planning & Zoning Commission elected Jim Olk as their new Chairperson, and Wayne Millsap as the Vice-Chairperson.

At their meeting on Thurs., Jan. 25, the Parks and Open Space Board elected Rebecca Mark as their new Chairperson, and Jay Calloway as the Vice-Chairperson.

MAY 12 GENERAL ELECTION

On Feb. 1 City Council approved Resolution # R-2007-02-00286 calling for a General and Special Election to be held on Saturday, May 12. Two Council seats and the Mayor's seat are up for election for the normal two year terms. There will be an additional Council race for a one year term to fill the seat vacated by Council member Tonda Frazier on 1/31/07. Candidate packets are available at City Hall with the first day to file for a place on the ballot being February 10th.

If you have an interest in being an election worker, contact our City Secretary, Kathy Wingo at 972-727-8999.

JANUARY CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS January 18, 2007 Workshop Meeting

January 4, 2007 City Council Regular Meeting

- Approved minutes from Nov. 16, 2006 City Council Workshop meeting and Dec. 7, 2006 City Council Regular meeting.
- Approved Resolution #R-2007-01-00284 to appoint Joe Gorfida as the Municipal Court Judge for a two year term.
- Accepted resignation of Council Member Tonda Frazier effective 1/31/07.
- Adopted an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 13, Article 13.06, Solid Waste, by adding Section 13.06.034, Subsection (a) through (e) to provide for roll-off containers; providing for roll-off containers on residential lots; providing a permit requirement; providing for permit extensions; prohibiting use by any person other than the owners, permittee, or persons contracted to use said roll-off container; providing for a fee to be established by resolution of the city council; by reserving Sections 13.06.035 through 13.06.060; repealing provisions in conflict; providing a severability clause; providing for a penalty not to exceed two thousand (\$2,000) for each offense; and providing an effective date ; **Ordinance #2007-01-00581.**
- Approved Fiscal Year 2005-2006 audit as performed by Pingleton, Howard & Company, PC.
- Approved appointment of Matt Kolodzie to Parks and Open Space Board as a regular member, and moving Richie Wolfe to an alternate member seat.
- Approved a Master Fee Schedule (fees for various types of building permits, contractor registration, planning & zoning, utilities, administration, and fire permitting) for current fiscal year. **Resolution #R-2007-01-00285**
- Approved preliminary plat as submitted by Skorburg Co. for 46.892 acres located in the J. Snider Survey, abstract No. 824, Collin Co., TX. Property generally located south of FM2170 approx. 1050 ft. west of Ingram Rd.
- Amended **Ordinance 1996-01-00323** and the Code of Ordinances by amending Article 1.04 "City Officers", Section 1.04.034 "Powers and Duties", by amending subsection (1) to provide for compliance with state law and by adding subsections (4) through (6) to provide for additional duties for the city administrator; and by adding a new section 1.04.036 to provide for city council direction; repealing provisions in conflict; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

- Approved minutes from Jan. 4 City Council Regular Meeting.
- Approved an ordinance adopting and enacting a new Code of Ordinances; providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the amendment of such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS AT TOP OF CITY COUNCIL'S LIST

By Council Member Bill Carmickle

Over the past few years, one of the biggest challenges facing those of us on the City Council has been how to keep pace with the water demands of the rapid growth we are seeing in our city. This has not been an easy situation to resolve, and the ongoing drought has added to the difficulties.

Two important projects are in the works that will help improve our overall water delivery system. At the North Pump Station on Country Club Road our current water intake line from the main North Texas Municipal Water District line is only a 6" line. (This is the line from the main water supply line to our ground supply system.) That line is being replaced by an 8" line that will be completed in the next few weeks. This will significantly improve our ability to fill our storage system more rapidly.

A second, and very important, project to improve our storage capacity is in the final stages of engineering design. The plan is to build an additional ground storage tank behind our existing tank at the North Pump Station. The new tank will have a storage capacity of 750,000 gallons. The current tank has a capacity of 500,000 gallons, so our total ground storage capacity at this location will increase to 1,250,000 gallons. In case of a NTMWD water emergency (such as the major pipeline break that shut down the system a year or so ago), we would have enough water to enable us to continue to provide water to our residents for 48 to 72 hours, depending upon the time of year, and water demands.

During the winter months, the water demands are obviously less (as low as 300,000 gallons per day) and we could operate longer than in the high demand summer months.

The additional water storage facility is expected to begin construction sometime in the spring and be completed this summer.

One of the frequent questions we council members are asked is "how do we pay for all these improvements? Will my taxes go up to fund these upgrades?" The majority of these improvements are being paid for by the water impact fees the City collects from developers. The remaining costs are covered by monies collected from water bills. While we do provide water to some customers who do not live inside our city, they pay higher water rates than our City residents.

Your City Council will continue to work for you in improving our water services. It is an issue that is important to all of us.



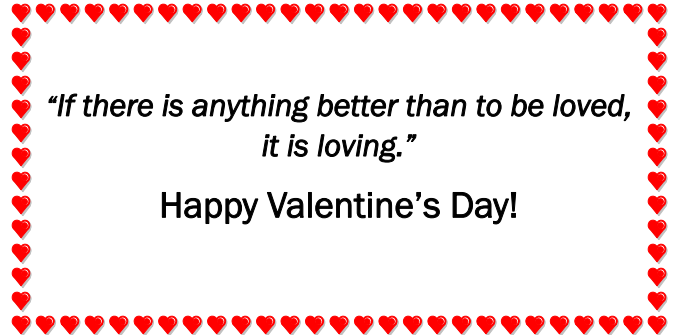
ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT UNDER REVIEW BY CITY COUNCIL

Early last summer, the City of Lucas contracted with North Texas Animal Control Authority (NTACA) to provide animal control services. Currently, this contract is under review by City Council to determine whether or not the services provided are adequate to meet the needs of our community. One of the issues under consideration is wildlife removal. NTACA only provides these services at the expense of the homeowner requesting the removal of the wildlife. City Council has requested that the City staff research other options that might be a better fit for the unique challenges presented by our rural community. With the pleasures of country living, also come the issues of dealing with a number of native wildlife habitats. Per City Council, we need to look at options that assure the safety of our residents, are humane to the wildlife, and are cost-effective for both the City and its residents.

As a reminder, loose livestock in the roadways can present a major hazard. Please make sure your animals are securely penned. Should they ever get loose, one way of ensuring that they are safely returned to you, is to register them with the Collin Co. Sheriff's Office Dispatch by providing the location, brand information, markings, and contact phone numbers for the owner. Call Sheriff's Dispatch at 972-547-5167 and tell dispatch personnel that you would like to provide owner contact information to be used should your livestock ever stray off your property.

NEW RESERVATION RULES

The Parks and Open Spaces Board has asked City Hall to put new procedures in place for reserving the soccer and softball/baseball fields at Lucas Community Park. The new policy is intended to maximize the use of the fields for as many different teams as possible during any sport season, while being fair to all. For a copy of the new procedures, contact Nate Pina at City Hall at npina@lucastexas.us or at 972-727-8999, ext. 242.



*"If there is anything better than to be loved,
it is loving."*

Happy Valentine's Day!

CITY OF LUCAS
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