



Lucas City Newsletter

January, 2011

newsletter@lucastexas.us

665 Country Club Road, Lucas TX 75002 • 972/727-8999 • www.lucastexas.us

City Council

(Vacant), Mayor

Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem (Acting Mayor) (kpeeel@lucastexas.us)

Mark Barratt, Councilmember (mbarratt@lucastexas.us)

Rebecca Mark, Councilmember (rmark@lucastexas.us)

Don Zriny, Councilmember (dzriny@lucastexas.us)

Philip Lawrence, Councilmember (plawrence@lucastexas.us)

Debbie Fisher, Councilmember (dfisher@lucastexas.us)

City Manager

(Vacant)



CITY OF LUCAS BIDS FAREWELL TO ROBERT PATRICK CITY MANAGER

Since I gave my notice to the City Council that I would be leaving as City Manager of the City of Lucas effective December 31st the outpouring of support from the residents of Lucas has been overwhelming. I am truly humbled by the praise and kind words that have been given to me and the City Staff. Support from the citizens is vital to any public official, and I have been blessed to receive strong support during my tenure as City Manager of Lucas by both a majority of the citizenry and of the City Council, and we have been able to accomplish many projects together. Since my resignation, I have received and accepted an offer from the City of Midland as the General Services Director, and will start working there mid-January. My family and I have deep roots in West Texas, and we look forward to returning there.

There is no doubt in my mind that there exists an energetic professional City Manager interested in working for the City of Lucas to follow up on our existing projects, and take on new projects with an optimistic view. Items that I described in my resignation letter as challenges and problems will be seen as opportunities to an incoming Professional City Manager. I am convinced that the current Council is committed to making sure that person will have the support and resources available to achieve those goals. In order to effect a smooth transition, over the past few weeks I have had discussions with both City Staff and City Council members regarding our past accomplishments, current projects, and, of most importance, future goals.

I am very optimistic about the future of Lucas, and I strongly believe that we have an excellent City Council in place that is dedicated to the welfare of the City. This leadership from Council coupled with our existing top notch staff, leave me confident in the future of Lucas. I am certain that the City of Lucas will be successful in the future, as I know that our Citizens will accept nothing less, and I am proud to have had a small part in the management history of this town.

Thank you,
Robert Patrick

Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise specified.

City Council Regular

Thursday, Jan. 6

City Council Strategic Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 8

Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, Jan. 13

Municipal Court, 3 PM

Wednesday, Jan. 19

City Council Workshop

Thursday, Jan. 20

City of Lucas' Special Election

Thursday, Feb. 10

See Page 2 for more details

Special Election to be held February 10, 2011

The City of Lucas' City Council voted on December 2, 2010 to call for a Special Election on Thursday, February 10, 2011 to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Mayor Bill Carmickle. The election will be for the remaining term of the Mayor's seat, expiring in May, 2012.

Activities for the upcoming election are underway. In order to be eligible to vote in this Special Election one must be registered to vote no later than 5 p.m. on January 10, 2011. Applications must be submitted and processed by the Collin County Election Administration by the deadline.

The following schedule is hereby posted for the casting of your ballot during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Early Voting

Early Voting will be conducted in the City Hall Conference Room, 665 County Club. Please enter the polling location through the front door of City Hall.

Tuesday, January 25th	7 AM to 7 PM
Wednesday, January 26th	8 AM to 5 PM
Thursday, January 27th	8 AM to 5 PM
Friday, January 28th	8 AM to 5 PM
Saturday, January 29th	8 AM to 5 PM
Monday, January 31st	8 AM to 5 PM
Tuesday, February 1st	7 AM to 7 PM
Wednesday, February 2nd	8 AM to 5 PM
Thursday, February 3rd	8 AM to 5 PM
Friday, February 4th	8 AM to 5 PM

Election Day Voting

On Election Day voting will be conducted in the City Hall, Council Chambers, 665 County Club. Please enter the polling location through the south entrance of City Hall.

Thursday, February 10th	7 AM to 7 PM
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The last day to file for a place on the ballot is Monday, January 10, 2011, 5 p.m. Candidate packets can be picked up from the City Secretary's Office or download a complete packet from the city's website:

http://www.lucastexas.us/objects/Candidate_Packet_for_Feb_10_2011_Special_Election.pdf

Councilmember Zriny rescinds Resignation

In a letter to Mayor Pro Tem (Acting Mayor) Kathleen Peele and members of City Council, dated December 6, 2010, Councilmember Don Zriny rescinds his resignation.

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the outpouring of support from City Staff, other Council Members, and especially Lucas residents, I wish to serve the remainder of my term and therefore rescind my resignation letter dated November 15, 2010. My resignation may have caused some stress, but I was quite angry at the activities that led to the resignation of the City Manager.

The situation has now changed. With the Special Election for Mayor, a search for a new City Manager, and the regular election coming in May, continuity of City leadership is very important.

I wish Robert Patrick well in his future endeavors, and thank him for the time he was with us. I will continue to uphold the highest standards of conduct for City Council Members, and will expect the same from the others on the Council.

Yours respectfully, Don Zriny



Are you using the correct address when paying your water bill?

The City is seeing a large number of accounts being late with their water payments because customers are using the old address. Please make sure when mailing your payment, or using bill pay through your bank, that the payment is mailed to the City of Lucas, 665 Country Club, Lucas, TX 75002. Customers are responsible for a \$10 late fee when the payment is received after the 10th of the month.

WISHING ALL RESIDENTS & EMPLOYEES A HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of the entire City Council: Happy New Year, Residents and Employees of Lucas! We can be happy and proud this new year. Lucas is a wonderful place to live. Our schools are among the best and our citizens are caring and capable.

To all our residents who volunteered and put in many hours on our committees and boards: Thank you! We couldn't accomplish what we have, and be the town we are, without your efforts. You have made Lucas a better place because of your willingness to serve.

The end of each year and the beginning of the next is a time to look back and reflect on accomplishments and events and then look forward setting new goals and embracing opportunities.

Looking back over 2010:

- * Collin County Commissioners awarded \$250,000 to the City. The funds were used to construct the pavilion, restroom facilities, and irrigation system for the Community Park next door to City Hall.
- * The Lucas Volunteer Fire Dept. received an ISO level 3. Improving its Public Protection Classification Number not only means the department is well equipped and trained but also helps home owners save on their insurance premiums.
- * The old City Park was renamed the Kenneth R. Lewis Community Park and dedicated to this long time Lucas resident and prior City Council member.
- * Lucas Citizens re-elected Council Members Debbie Fisher and Kathleen Peele. They elected Phil Lawrence to his first term. Voters rejected propositions 1 & 2. Both propositions proposed the adoption of a sales & use tax to provide revenue for the promotion and development of new and expanded business in the commercial areas. The sales tax rate in Lucas remains at 7.25%.
- * The Lucas Volunteer Fire dept. held the 1st Community Emergency Response (CERT) training. After 8 weeks of classes and exercises 11 Lucas residents received the CERT certification!
- * A day that included a parade, good food, bounce houses, a stick horse rodeo, a costume contest, and "trunk or treat", topped off with a spectacular fireworks display made for a memorable Founder's Day event.
- * Community Winners! Lucas Christian Academy won \$500,000 in the Kohl's Cares contest.
- * Our City Manager Robert Patrick and Mayor Bill Carmickle both resigned. We thank them for their service to our community, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Looking forward to 2011, and as acting Mayor, my goals are to:

- * Focus on transparency by working together with all my fellow council members to make sure that we have all of the information we need to make well-informed decisions. Communication allows transparency – and good government needs transparency!
- * Focus on knowledge and learning by educating ourselves as a city council and as a community – to understand the issues and create effective, sustainable solutions.
- * Focus on the continuation of sound, fiscal management policies, maintaining a balanced budget, adequate reserves, and low property taxes.

(continued on page 4)

To begin meeting these goals there will be the first of 2 special City Council workshops on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011 at 8:00 AM. This workshop is open to the public, and will focus on things such as roles and responsibilities, capital improvements, bonds, fire and police protection, roads, annexation, budget and other such topics. The following meeting (sometime in Feb.) will focus on taking what was learned in this meeting and will also include sessions on setting strategy and long range planning.

Training is also in the works for members of our various boards who give so generously of their time. The dual goals are to improve communication, and to provide necessary education in order to make them even more effective in supporting our City Council and our community.

I am excited about the future of Lucas. We have many things to look forward to in 2011. I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Kathleen Peele,
Mayor Pro Tem, Lucas City Council

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002



POSTAL PATRON