



LUCAS LEADER



June 2016

Meetings and Events

June 2

City Council
7:00 pm - City Hall

June 9

Planning and Zoning
7:00 pm - City Hall

June 16

City Council
7:00 pm - City Hall

June 28

Parks and Open Space
7:00 pm - City Hall

City Highlights

- The City of Lucas entered into an agreement with the City of Richardson for use of their Fire Training Facility. This will provide an opportunity for live fire training for fire-rescue staff and emergency responder volunteers.
- Regulations were updated related to the length of time dumpsters can be located on a construction site to 10 calendar days prior to start of construction and removed prior to the final inspection. If construction is abandoned for longer than 21 calendar days, dumpsters must be removed from the site.
- At the June 9 Planning and Zoning meeting, the Commission will be concluding their review of Chapters 1 through 4 of the Comprehensive Plan update that includes land use. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Mayor's Message *by Jim Olk*



Over the past several legislative sessions many bills have been filed that have attempted to limit a municipality's ability to raise the revenue they need to provide the basic and desired services to the community. Most of these have taken the form of revenue caps, appraisal caps, or roll-back rates. All of these types of "property tax reform" can and will significantly limit a city's ability to provide basic services like law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services as well as maintaining local infrastructure.

The City of Lucas along with Collin County, as a whole, has seen a healthy increase in our total appraised property value over the past several years. The biggest portion of this increase is due to unprecedented population growth resulting in new construction. For the City of Lucas, with that kind of growth we have been able to lower our tax rate almost 16% so that we now have the 4th lowest tax rate in Collin County. All this while expanding basic desired fire and EMS services to our community and to the surrounding areas outside of our City boundaries.

Along with the additional growth in the City we have experienced even heavier growth in the areas just outside our city limits. Since this growth is not controlled or regulated, it places an even heavier burden on municipal governments. With no benefit of additional revenues we provide fire and emergency medical services and experience increased deterioration to our infrastructure as it is used by construction traffic and ultimately by the residents traveling in from the unincorporated areas. City taxpayers are burdened with paying for maintenance on state highways, county roads, and the city streets, unlike the developments that are not within the city who do not contribute tax dollars to city services they receive or the maintenance of City streets. For the City, additional revenue may be necessary to deliver the same basic services as demand for the services increases with population growth. Also as labor and material costs increase for a municipality, that increase impacts expenditures for the municipality.

In the big picture, attempting to limit a municipality's ability to control their revenue cannot produce significant savings for taxpayers. When reviewing your tax bill, less than 15% of your tax bill is for City taxes. For that 14.6%, the taxpayers of Lucas receive 24/7 emergency medical service, fire service, law enforcement patrols, as well as maintained streets and multiple other services. With the current 8% roll-back rate our residents do not see these huge city tax increases. If my property tax bill were to reflect an 8% increase it would equate to less than \$60 a year or about a \$1.00 a week. Additional mandated revenue limitations might make that number smaller but we are talking pennies now, not "tax reform." When you look at the total appraised value which is predominately increasing due to new construction, those basic municipal services have to be expanded to meet the new demand. With more homes you have more calls for emergency medical service, fire and law enforcement. You also have more traffic which impacts infrastructure. If you take away a city's ability to provide basic services because they are experiencing growth you are moving backwards not progressing forward. Establishing revenue caps without consideration for new development within and adjacent to a city creates a downward spiral where municipalities will be forced to reduce services or defer maintenance.

Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services



This sweet girl is a Shepherd mix that is four years old and has been spayed. Help her find her forever home by stopping by the Collin County Animal Shelter located at 4750 Community Boulevard in McKinney or visit their website at http://www.collincounty.tx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx.

Public Hearings set for Budget and Tax Rate

Staff will begin preliminary work on the next fiscal year's budget in June. On Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 pm at City Hall, the City Council will conduct its budget workshop. The proposed budget and tax rate will be brought to Council for discussion on Thursday, August 4, 2016. Projected dates for public hearings will be Thursday, August 18, 2016 and Thursday September 1, 2016, and the final budget and tax rate will be presented to council for approval on Thursday, September 15, 2016. For information on the fiscal year 2016/2017 budget process, you may contact the City's Finance Director, Liz Exum at 972-912-1201 or lexum@lucastexas.us.

Pictures Still Needed for the Website

The City could still use pictures of Lucas to populate the website that reflect the unique character and charm of life in Lucas. If you have photographs that represent the natural beauty and personality of Lucas, staff would love to consider your photos for the website. Please email your pictures in a jpeg file with a minimum resolution of 3 megapixels and taken in a landscape format to Stanton Foerster at stanton@lucastexas.us.

Mayor's Message

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You only have to look at our budget to see we are super conservative with the citizens money and we provide limited services per the citizens direction. I believe that the government closest to the people is the form of government that best serves the people. If a citizens dials 911, they want to talk to the local emergency responders not a call center in Austin or Washington DC. If a citizen needs immediate response, they can call the Mayor or a Councilmember not a State or Federal official. If a citizen feels their city is growing out of control or taxing into homelessness they can petition the City to change that. If a city elected official isn't representing the citizens, they can petition to recall him/her. These type of actions are not available at the State or Federal level. As "big-government politicians" attempt to limit how a city provides services to the people, they are actually taking away the people's ability to govern themselves.

I have over 30 years experience in municipal government and I have seen small groups garner support for ridiculous municipal buildings, municipal programs, development partnerships, and legal battles that end up costing all the taxpayer's millions if not billions of dollars. But these are very isolated compared to the vast majority of municipal leaders that are representing all the people; that are making decisions to maintain the quality of life that their residents desire and demand. And they do it in the most transparent way, they hold regular meetings once or twice a month. They invite the public to attend and they hold the meetings near to the homes of their residents. Municipal leaders are more available, more visible, and more accountable to the people than any other elected official. Additionally the services that are provided by municipal government impact the daily lives of the residents. From the water they drink, to the roads that deliver them to their homes, to paramedics they call when the emergency arises, these services are provided by the City and totally funded by the revenues collected by the City.

Right now 72% of a residents tax bill goes to the local school district. The City is not in favor of any further erosion of our ability to provide the quality of life and desired services to our residents and the legislature should not be surprised when people oppose any legislation that eliminates the ability of the people to govern themselves and determine their own fate.

Collin County Transportation Planning

The City of Lucas received information from Collin County regarding Collin County Court Order No. 2016-089-02-02 supporting four transportation corridors as priority projects and recommending that these projects be planned and funded as Limited Access Roadways (LARs). A limited access roadway is typically a highway with ramps that is designed for high-speed traffic.

One of the LARs in this Court Order is described as a North-South Corridor West of Lavon. The Lucas City Council took action at its March 17, 2016 regular meeting by approving Resolution No. 2016-03-00447 in opposition of the LAR described as a North-South Corridor West of Lavon. The City forwarded the resolution to representatives at Collin County, North Central Texas Council of Government, Texas Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation Council and Representative Jodie Laubenberg and Senator Van Taylor.

Mayor Olk is actively meeting with the Mayors of neighboring communities and other officials to address this transportation concern. As more information becomes available, please watch for future articles in the Lucas Leader.

Blondy Jhune Road Bridge Replacement Update

The Blondy Jhune Road Bridge Replacement Project consists of replacing the west and east bridges on Blondy Jhune Road along with respective roadway approaches. Work includes paving, grading, drainage, bridge structures, approach slabs, retaining walls, signage, and pavement markings. Blondy Jhune Bridge design criteria includes the following:

- Bid both bridges in a single contract
- Use retaining walls to minimize impacts to trees and adjacent property owners, but avoid using walls if possible
- If a wall is needed, use a plain, smooth retaining wall
- Eliminate all of the trail elements
- Consider the use of a truss bridge as bid/add alternate to the standard girder design
- Use a flat rail with arched openings
- The bridges should be 30 feet wide
- The concrete roadway should be 24 feet wide
- Raise the west bridge three feet from its current riding surface elevation to improve the dip/sag in the roadway and reduce retaining walls. Raise the east bridge two feet above its current riding surface
- Use a 20-ton bridge design
- Use a 20-year concrete pavement design
- Do not widen the creek channels
- Use a 30-mph design speed

The re-design cost is \$63,000. The current construction estimate for this project is \$1,800,000. A proposed timeline was modified on May 10, 2016 and the new schedule is as follows:

- May 27, 2016 – 100% Bid Set Finished
- June 2 and 9, 2016 – Advertise Bid
- June 29, 2016 – Receive Bids
- July 7, 2016 – City Council Award
- July 14, 2016 – Notice to Proceed
- August 2016 through April 2017 – Construction

Winningkoff Road Reverse Curve Update

On February 18, 2016, Lucas City Council approved a \$139,400 design contract with Birkhoff Engineers for the design of the reverse curve portion of Winningkoff Road north of Christian Lane to north of Forestview Drive. The reverse curve will be designed with consideration given to making the Winningkoff Road/Forestview Drive intersection as a T-intersection with a three-way stop sign control. The typical width of the concrete roadway will be 24 feet, but the width of the curves will be such to allow room for a school bus and a passenger car to pass each other. A proposed timeline for the project is as follows:

- March to June 2016 – Surveying of the project limits
- September 15, 2016 – 100% Bid Set Finished (*bidding and construction will be delayed to avoid conflicts with the construction of the Blondy Jhune Road Bridges*)
- January 2017 – Advertise Bid
- February 2017 – Receive Bids
- March 2017 – City Council Award Project
- May through November 2017 – Construction

Additional information about the Neighborhood Connector Street Projects can be found at <http://lucastexas.us/your-government/public-works-engineering.html>.

Election Results



On May 7, 2016 the City of Lucas held a Special Election with two sales tax propositions on the ballot. **Both propositions passed and on behalf of the entire City Council, we wanted to thank our citizens for their support on these propositions.**

The passing of these propositions will allow revenue to be dedicated to the repair and maintenance of our municipal streets. Several Town Hall meetings were held and many difficult decisions were made during the past budget year to find a compromise that would aid in the process of maintaining our municipal streets.

Below outlines the propositions and the voting results:

Proposition 1:

The continuation of the one-quarter of one-percent (0.25%) sales and use tax within the City of Lucas, Texas to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

241 For
46 Against

Proposition 1 passed by 83.97% of the vote.

Proposition 2:

Abolishing the one-quarter of one-percent (0.25%) sales and use tax dedicated to property tax relief and approving an additional one-quarter of one-percent (0.25%) sales and use tax dedicated to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

157 For
125 Against

Proposition 2 passed by 55.67% of the vote.

City Council candidates that were declared elected for a three-year term as they ran unopposed were:

Debbie Fisher, Councilmember Seat 5
Kathleen Peele, Councilmember Seat 6



Blackland Prairie Raptor Center 9th Annual Rods N' Raptors Kids Fishing Derby



Come out to the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center on Saturday, June 4 to have some fishing fun at the 9th Annual Rods n' Raptors Kids Fishing Derby. This is a catch and release event for ages 4 to 16. Prizes will be awarded for the largest single catch, the most fish and more. Hawks, owls and falcons will also be on hand to view up close.

General admission is \$5 per person, children under 3 years of age are free. Gates open at 8:15 am and fishing is from 8:30 am to Noon. Poles and bait are available on a first come, first-served basis for children or you're welcome to bring your own equipment.

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is located at 1625 Brockdale Parkway Road in Lucas. For more information call the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center at 469.964.9696 or visit the website at www.braptorcenter.org.

Lavon Lake Master Plan



In March of 2015, the US Army Corps of Engineers began soliciting public feedback to update the current master plan for Lavon Lake dated May 13, 1972. During the April 2, 2015 City Council meeting, the Lucas City Council evaluated the current Lavon Lake Master Plan and provided feedback to the US Army Corps of Engineers by letter dated April 7, 2015, which included the following:

- Wild hog management and safeguarding against this invasive and dangerous species
- Defining utility corridors that would not adversely affect the natural beauty of Lucas or negatively affect the quality of life
- Preservation of wildlife habitat and support of the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center
- Support of the Trinity Trail Preservation Association and the continued designation of a safe horse and pedestrian trail corridor
- Expansion of trail network and defining future connectivity
- Coordination of public safety services including emergency medical, fire services and law enforcement with a focus on the protection of existing assets and deterring vandalism as well as protection against wildland fires.
- A focus on low intensity use of waterways especially in areas that are environmentally sensitive
- Prohibit future expansion of marinas and continue to control the number and size of marinas on Lavon Lake

On May 5, 2016, the US Army Corps of Engineers held a stakeholders meeting in Garland, Texas. The draft Lavon Lake Master Plan revision and environmental assessment, public meeting presentation and Lake Map is available at: <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/LakesandRecreationInformation/MasterPlanUpdates/LavonLake.aspx>. There is a 30-day comment period beginning May 5 through June 6, 2016.

Cornerstone Baptist Church Mother's Day Out Program

Registration is underway for the Mother's Day Out 2016-2017 school year program at Cornerstone Baptist Church. For more information and registration information go to www.cbclucas.com or email ckmdo@cbclucas.com. Cornerstone Baptist Church is located at 2242 W. Lucas Road.



Summer 2016 Street Maintenance

Staff will be updating the City Council about the street maintenance and repair priorities at the June 2 regular City Council meeting. Citizens are welcome to attend and comment on the street maintenance activities at the City Council meeting.

For the current fiscal year, City Council budgeted \$750,000 for street maintenance. The City spent \$163,000 to make major repairs on Wendy Lane. There is approximately \$526,000 remaining to make the necessary repairs and maintenance. The sales tax proposals that were passed will help provide approximately \$265,000 annually to assist in funding street maintenance.

Several streets have been identified as candidates for milling and paving this summer including Ingram Lane, Lewis Lane, Snider Lane and Stinson Road. Level up in the areas of pavement drop offs is needed along Graham Lane, Christian Lane, Lakeview Drive, and Wendy Lane.

Other roadways in need of maintenance will also be discussed at this meeting. If you have any questions or comments at any time, please contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster.

Lucas Law Enforcement

The City provides law enforcement services through a contract with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. For emergencies call 911, for non-emergencies call the Sheriff's Office at 972.547.5100. Animal Control services are also contracted through Collin County. For animal control concerns call 972.547.7292.

Vacation Bible School Good Shepherd United Methodist

Cave Quest Vacation Bible School is coming to Good Shepherd United Methodist Church June 20 through June 24, 2016 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. A light dinner is provided for the family at 5:30pm and VBS begins at 6:00pm and it's completely FREE! Pre-register at www.gsumclucas.org/kids or call 972.429.0295 to have a t-shirt ready for you on the first day. Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is located at 750 W. Lucas Road.