



Lucas City Newsletter

February, 2008

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

- Bill Carmickle, Mayor
(bcarmickle@lucastexas.us)
- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
(dfisher@lucastexas.us)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember
(dzriny@lucastexas.us)
- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember
(kpeelee@lucastexas.us)
- Mark Barratt, Councilmember
(mbarratt@lucastexas.us)
- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember
(wmillsap@lucastexas.us)

City Administrator

Paul Catoe
(pcatoe@lucastexas.us)



STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR

The Home Rule Commission has now completed the drafting of a proposed Home Rule Charter, and the charter has been presented to and approved by Council for inclusion on the May 20 Special Election ballot.

There will be several meetings over the next few months for the purpose of educating the community about the proposed charter, and to answer any questions that our residents might have about either the process, or the document itself. At least thirty (30) days prior to the May 10 election, every registered voter in the City will receive a copy of the charter by mail. The ultimate decision about the proposed charter is in the hands of our citizens. I strongly urge each one of you to attend the meetings, study the document carefully, and come to your own decision as to how you will vote.

Listen, learn, and vote based upon your own conclusions. If there is anything in the proposed charter that you don't understand, ask questions. It is your city. Please take seriously your responsibility to shape its future. And, above all, VOTE!

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular Thurs., Feb. 7
Planning & Zoning Thurs., Feb. 14
City Council Workshop Thurs., Feb. 21
Parks & Open Space Mon., Feb. 25
Municipal Court Wed., Feb. 27, 5:30 PM
Board of Adjustments Mon., Feb. 4
HRC Meet and Greet Mon., Feb. 11

HOME RULE INFORMATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 11 AND MAR. 11

At this time two educational meetings have been scheduled for our residents to learn more about the proposed Home Rule Charter that will be voted upon in the May 10 election. The first meeting will be held **Monday, Feb. 11** at the City Hall annex beginning at **7:00 PM**. The Mayor, Council Members, and members of the Home Rule Commission will be present to answer questions from residents at this "Meet and Greet". Although this is designated as an official public meeting, the format will be an informal discussion with opportunities for one-on-one discussion. All residents are welcome to attend, with a special invitation going out to all homeowners associations' officials.

The second meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 11 from 7:30PM until 9:30PM**. Again, the Mayor, Council Members, and Home Rule Commissioners will be present. This meeting will be in the style of a town hall meeting. In this format residents are encouraged to address the panel and state opinions and concerns to the entire audience.

You may obtain an advance copy of the proposed charter by going to the City web site and downloading (click on Home Rule Charter Commission on upper left of the home page) or by picking one up at City Hall. (continued on page 2)

HOME RULE INFORMATION MEETINGS

(Continued from Page 1)

As mandated by State law, a copy of the proposed charter will be mailed to every registered voter at least 30 days prior to the election. However, in light of the earlier meetings dates, you may want to obtain an advance copy in order to be familiar with its contents prior to attending meetings.

The Home Rule Charter Commission section of the City web site also includes a FAQ section that may answer many of your most frequently asked questions about the proposed charter. You may also address questions to the members of the Commission by emailing them at hrc@lucastexas.us.

Please make plans to attend these important meetings, and be sure to check the City web site and future newsletters for information about additional meetings that may be scheduled.



MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE MAY 10 ELECTION

In order to vote in the May 10 general and special elections, you must be registered to vote by no later than April 10. This means your voter registration form must be received and processed by the Collin County Voter Registrar by this date. If you are not already registered to vote, you may download an application from www.co.collin.tx.us, pick up a form at Lucas City Hall, or call the voter registrar at 972-424-1460.ext 1960 (metro number) to request a form. For any questions on how to complete the registration form, you may call the Secretary of State's information line at 1-800-252-VOTE.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTIFICATION

A great way to keep informed about the latest news in the City is to sign up for automatic email notification each time any changes or updates are made to the City web site. Learn the latest information about meeting dates, agendas of meetings, etc. by email. To sign up for this service, email the City Secretary at kwingo@lucastexas.us.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE PACKETS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

Three City Council seats are up for election in the May 10 general election. These seats are currently held by:

- Council Member Debbie Fisher
- Council Member Kathleen Peele
- Council Member Wayne Millsap

All seats will be for a two year term. Candidate packets may be picked up at City Hall from the City Secretary.

By State law, the first day for filing an application for a place on the ballot is Saturday, **February 9**. Monday, **March 10** by 5:00PM is the last day for filing an application for a place on the ballot. Monday, **March 17** by 5:00PM is the last day for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy.

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

Election workers will be needed for the May 10 election. If you are interested in working in this paid position, contact our City Secretary, Kathy Wingo, at 972-727-8999.

NEW ANIMAL CONTROL INFORMATION



The City of Lucas recently entered into a new animal control contract with Collin County.

You may want to clip and save the following information:

Collin County

972-547-7292

Animal Shelter Hours of Operation

9:00AM to 6:00PM, Monday-Friday

10:00AM to 2:00PM, Saturday

After hours, Sundays, and holidays, call the main number shown above and leave a message.

For after hours emergencies, call the Sheriff's Office at 972-547-5350

Animal Control Officers are available 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday -Friday

JANUARY CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

January 3, 2008 City Council Regular Meeting

- Approved minutes from Dec. 6 Regular Meeting, Dec. 13, Special Meeting, and Dec. 20., 2007 Workshop Meeting.
- Voted to send 120 days notice of intent to terminate agreement between City of Lucas and Seis Lagos Utility District for Fire Protection Services.
- Agreed to complete negotiations for a contract allowing for placement of a repeater system on McGarity Water Tower for Texas Amateur Radio Group, which would include a stipulation in the contract that there will be no right of resale of services allowed, and that this is for non-profit only, at a consideration to the City of \$1.00 per year.
- Called a Special Joint Meeting of the Home Rule Commission and City Council for Monday, Jan. 7, at 7:30PM.
- Authorized expenditures of up to \$2000. for the Home Rule Commission to be used for educational purposes.
- Approved new contract for lease of a Xerox machine, and authorized Mayor to execute the agreement.
- Agreed to accept nominations from CM Barratt, CM Peele, and Mayor Carmickle for two replacements and one new appointment to the Advisory Committee.
- Accepted proposal from M5 Networking Services, Inc for new ICS Phone System at a cost of \$9803. and voted to amend the budget accordingly.
- Approved a preliminary plat for Stinson Highlands subdivision with certain stipulations such as some sidewalk waivers, tree surveys being completed, and necessary rezoning according to the Comprehensive Plan.

January 17, 2008 City Council Workshop Meeting

- Approved Resolution #R-2008-01-00309 deeming the Lovejoy 5K Walk/Run as a public event serving a public purpose by supporting Lovejoy School District’s extracurricular activities, and approving an agreement between the City of Lucas and the Texas Department of Transportation for temporary closure of state right-of-way during the event to be held on Saturday, May 10.
- Approved Ordinance #2008-01-00609 disannexing certain tracts of land that were incorrectly annexed by City of Lucas as they actually were part of City of Fairview’s ETJ, rather than City of Lucas ETJ.
- Approved appointments of Craig Paxman (replacing Chris Hendrix), Royce Hall (replacing Brenda Rizos), and Star Daniels (additional appointee) to the Advisory Committee.
- Agreed to set date of May 1, 2008 to discontinue free

services in City of Lucas ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) areas, and agreed to establish a committee including the Mayor, some council members and staff members for purpose of determining, as necessary, issues associated with discontinuation of such services.

- Set date of Dec. 5, 2008 for 2008 Holiday party for Staff and City Council, to be held at Hilton Garden in Allen.

January 18, 2008 Special City Council Meeting

- Accepted the proposed Home Rule Charter for inclusion in the May 10, 2008 Special Election.

LUCAS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PROFILE



Although many of the members of the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department are residents of the Lucas Fire District, some are not. LVFD makes an exception to the residency rules for what they call “shift workers”. These volunteers must agree to

stand-by at the station for a minimum of 36 hours per month and are required to attend Department meetings and training.

Ben Hardy is one of these firefighters. He is a graduate of the Collin County Community College Fire Academy, and joined the LVFD in 2007. Ben is classified as a Firefighter/EMT-B and holds the certifications of TCFP Basic Firefighter and NREMT-B. He is originally from the Garland area, where his mom, dad and twin brothers currently live. He is employed by the Children’s Medical Center of Dallas.

Volunteering with the LVFD is a way for young firefighters and recent Academy graduates to gain experience and further training for their future careers as professional firefighters. Thanks for your service, Ben.

BIG THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

In last month’s newsletter, the City Secretary asked for citizen volunteers to help clean out old records that are no longer needed. The response was outstanding! Special thanks go to Margie Thompson and Kim Reeve for their help with this project. With the help of these two, City staff was able to accomplish a great deal, and saved the taxpayers approximately \$8000, which was the bid received to have an outside company do the clean-up. We received many more offers of help from a number of residents. City staff wants to thank all who so generously volunteered to help.



EAGLE SCOUT RANK ACHIEVED BY LUCAS RESIDENT

Ryan Garrett, son of Pat and Stephanie Garrett of Lucas has attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Ryan is a member of Troup 624 sponsored by VFW Post 2195 in Allen, and a senior at Boyd High School in McKinney. Mayor Bill Carmickle has sent Ryan a congratulatory letter that will be presented to him during his Eagle Court of Honor tentatively scheduled to be held in February at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fairview. This is an outstanding achievement, and Ryan is to be commended for his hard work and dedication necessary to achieve this honor.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18 IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY



Washington

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.....HELP US FIND YOU!



One of the biggest challenges facing emergency personnel in rural areas is being able to find locations that are not clearly marked. Many of our homes are on acreage and set back from roads. Address numbers should always be displayed so they can be seen at night by law enforcement, fire, and rescue personnel coming from any direction, and not just on a mailbox.

If your house is not visible from the road, or is set too far back for numbers to be seen at night, display your address at both the driveway entrance and on your house, especially if sharing a driveway. Even if your house is close to the road, displaying your address on both the house and the driveway entrance will help emergency personnel locate your house quickly.

Always display house numbers horizontally (across), not vertically (up and down). They need to be seen and understood quickly. Reflective numbers are a good idea, and should be large enough to be seen from a distance.

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