



Lucas City Newsletter

July, 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 Manager (Interim)

Stacy Caudell
(scaudell@lucastexas.us)



STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR



For many, the Fourth of July celebration is the real signal that summer is here. I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday celebration.

With that in mind, please be reminded that fireworks are prohibited within our City limits. This ban will be strictly enforced, and offenders will be issued citations.

Major Chuck Ruckel of the Collin County Sheriff's Department has agreed to provide seven (7) additional sheriff's deputies to patrol on the 4th. There will also be two (2) county fire marshals and four (4) Texas Park Rangers patrolling in our area. They will be closely monitoring cars parked along roadways adjacent to open fields, and if there is any suspicion of potential illegal activity, the occupants of the cars may be asked to move on. Lucas Community Park will be closed after sundown from July 3rd through July 6th.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks around this holiday is to attend one of the many officially sanctioned fireworks displays being held around the county. Be smart, and keep your families safe.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular

Thurs., July 3

Planning & Zoning

Thurs., July 10

City Council Workshop

Thurs., July 17

Parks & Open Space

TBD

Municipal Court

Wed., July 30, 5:00 PM

See Page 3 for special meetings
scheduled in July

ANNEXATION-THE NEXT STEPS

One of the major advantages of becoming a home rule city is the power to control our borders through annexation of adjacent properties (extra-territorial jurisdictions or "ETJ"). Now that we have a home rule charter in place, work has begun on our future annexation plans. The first step is to identify all eligible properties located within our ETJ areas.

Although the City may desire to bring as much of our ETJ as possible into the City as quickly as possible, there are limits established by State law that restrict how much we may annex on an annual basis. In certain circumstances, that limit may be determined by the number of households affected, and in other circumstances, it may be limited by the amount of acreage.

City staff and Council are working on identifying and prioritizing potential annexation targets. The goal is to begin the process by first annexing those areas that have the most potential gain to our City as respects the ability to maintain our desirable lifestyle.



HOME INSURANCE RATE ADJUSTMENT PROJECT

By David Leonard, Captain/EMT-B, Lucas VFD

The Insurance Service Organization (I.S.O.) rating of a community has a direct effect on the insurance premiums that individuals pay on their homes. The lower the I.S.O. rating on a scale of 1 to 10, the lower the insurance rates. The I.S.O. reviews 3 areas: the Fire Department; the Water Department and 911 dispatch services. The actual reduction in premiums varies, and is dependent on your individual insurance company.

The Lucas VFD will begin the process of improving the present rating of 5. The preliminary goal is to lower the rating to 3, which would result in a significant savings to many insurance premiums. This will be a major documentation effort, and many hours will be involved in attempting to attain the better rating.

The communities of Allen, Plano & Wylie enjoy a rating of 1, and McKinney holds a rating of 2. This reflects the full time staffing, multiple stations and large number of department employees. Operational costs to the City Of Lucas are dramatically diminished due to the volunteer's dedication to the department. The City Of Parker, which is demographically similar to Lucas, also holds a rating of 5. Most rural communities hold ratings of 10 due to the lack of infrastructure and remoteness.

The Lucas Fire Department has more qualified members and training has increased significantly since the last ISO audit. Members are held to a standard set forth by the State Fireman's & Firefighter Association and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. The addition of Engine 3 will assist in gaining a better rating. In the future, more firefighting equipment and additional stations will be required to lower the rating even further.

The 911 calls in Lucas are dispatched by Plano Public Safety Communications, which reflects extremely favorably in the equation. Lucas will receive the full points for the ISO Class One dispatch center. Firefighter safety is also a major factor because a dedicated dispatcher is assigned during a structure fire. If any firefighter becomes injured or a catastrophic action occurs, they are in direct contact with the Incident Commander who can obtain critical aid from outside of the situation. An added positive since our last audit is

that Lucas and Parker now operate under an automatic mutual aid process. This basically has both departments operating as a single unit when a major emergency is dispatched (e.g. structure fires). The use of the Plano Dispatching Center facilitates this arrangement, allowing both Parker FD & Lucas FD to be patched into the same radio talk group, speeding up additional response. Because of the increased timely resources this adds to emergency situations, automatic mutual agreements weigh heavily in the rating process.

Our City water system, ground storage capacity and hydrants locations have changed significantly since 1999. The City built a 300,000 gallon elevated water tank and 200,000 ground storage tank with a pump station on McGarity Lane in 2003. A new 750,000 gallon ground storage tank has been added this year to supply the other 300,000 gallon elevated tank. A new 12" line is being designed to replace the existing 6" line on Country Club Road. That construction should begin later this year. The City Public Works Department is emphasizing training of water personnel, and now has 5 Class "C" Certified.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS FOR 2008/2009 TERMS

City Council has made the following appointments for the upcoming year:

Planning and Zoning Commission: Jim Olk, Karen Hurtt, Bob Lang, Rebecca Mark, Brian Blythe, John Ellrich (alternate), and Rich Buickerood (alternate), Mayor Bill Carmickle (liaison)

Board of Adjustment: Denny Rice, Steve Duke, Stuart Fink, Kristy Hall, Kerry Leath, Debbie Pankey (alternate), and Bill Mannewitz (alternate), Councilmember Kathleen Peele (liaison)

Parks and Open Space Board: Richie Wolfe, Donna Bradshaw, Wendell Bell, Star Daniels, and Jay Calloway, Councilmember Mark Barratt (liaison).

City Council wants to thank all those who have served in the past, and welcomes the new members. Serving on any of these boards or commissions requires a commitment of time and effort that is critical to our community. Volunteer applications are still being taken for service on the Advisory/Development Committee. This citizen's committee advises Council on an "as needed" basis on various issues such as long range facility planning, economic development initiatives, or other issues as determined by council. The Council liaison for this committee is Councilmember Don Zriny.

JUNE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

June 5, 2008 City Council Meeting

- Approved minutes from May 1st Regular Council meeting and May 15th Workshop meeting.
- Approved various ordinances annexing tracts of land (Lots 6, 7, and 13) within Claremont Springs I Addition.
- Decided not to participate in 2008-2009 Collin County Parks Found Advisory Board Project Funding Assistance Program due to lack of available matching funds at this time.
- Appointed Mayor Carmickle as a voting representative for the North Texas Council of Governments.
- Agreed to participate in National Night Out for America's Night Out Against Crime at the same level as last year.
- Approved resolution supporting the Energy Efficiency Goals Established in Senate Bill 12 of the 80th Legislative Session of 2007, State of Texas.
- Approved appointment of Board Liaisons to include P & Z (Mayor Carmickle), POS (CM Barratt), BOA, (CM Peele), NTMWD (Mayor PT Fisher), and Advisory/Development Committee (CM Zriny).
- Accepted application for annexation of Lot 11, Block A of Claremont Springs Addition.
- Accepted application filed by Grace Evangelical Free Church requesting annexation of Lot 1R, Block A, part of the Grace Evangelical Free Church Addition.
- Appointed 2008-2009 members of Planning & Zoning Commission. (see article)

June 19, 2008 City Council Workshop Meeting

- Approved an amendment to the Special Use Permit filed by Carol Barratt for Little Harts Preschool to extend hours of operation to Monday-Saturday, 7:30AM to 9:00PM allowing for tutoring of small groups of children, and extended summer hours for working parents.
- Approved Ordinance #2008-06-00617 amending supplementary regulations pertaining to Accessory Building Structures and Uses regarding the refining of definitions of accessory structures such as swimming pools to include setback requirements, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground equipment, and use of accessory buildings as secondary residences.
- Designated Assistant City Secretary Jennifer Faircloth as May 2008 Employee of the Month.
- Approved \$1.22 increase per household for trash service by Barnes Waste Disposal (due to increasing fuel costs).

- Authorized Mayor to negotiate contract with BW2 Engineers not to exceed \$16,500 for evaluation of City of Lucas Extraterritorial Jurisdiction in the area between Lake Lavon and FM 1378 and between FM 3286 and FM 2514..
- Appointed 2008-2009 members of Board of Adjustments and Parks and Open Space Board. (see article)
- Set dates for various meetings for Council to discuss Goals and Objectives, and Budget Planning. (see article)
- Accepted resignation of City Manager Paul Catoe, effective immediately.

June 23, 2008 City Council Special Meeting

- Appointed Stacy Caudell as Interim City Manager.

SPECIAL MEETING DATES SET

During the Council workshop meeting of June 19, the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and other Councilmembers indicated what they each personally felt were the most important goals and objectives for the 2008-2009 time frame. A decision was made to hold a **Special Meeting on Saturday, July 5, 2008 beginning at 8:00AM** to discuss both long term and short term goals and objectives. This meeting will be at the City Annex building.

Budget workshop meetings for the purpose of setting the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 City Budget have also been set. These meetings will be held at the City Hall Annex at **7:00PM on Wed, July 23th, and Thurs, July 24th.**

There will be an orientation and training meeting for all members of the Planning and Zoning Commission on **Mon., July 7 at 6:30PM.**

CITY MANAGER POSITION OPEN

During the City Council meeting on June 19th, City Manager Paul Catoe submitted his resignation to be effective immediately. Stacy Caudell, who currently serves as our City Engineer/Public Works has been appointed as the interim City Manager while a search for a replacement is underway.

A full description of the position is posted on the City web site under employment opportunities.

The City is also accepting applications for a new Building Official. Areas of responsibility include building inspections, code enforcement, planning & zoning, and facilities planning and management. This opening is also posted on the City web site.

TRASH SERVICE RATE INCREASE

The increasing cost of fuel is impacting us in many areas. Norman Barnes of Barnes Waste Disposal asked City Council to consider a rate increase of \$1.22 per household per month to help offset the rising fuel costs his company is seeing.

Council approved the increase, effective with the July 15th billing cycle, subject to a reduction in the future if fuel costs were to go back down again. Barnes was in agreement with this stipulation.

WATER BILLING INFORMATION UPDATES REQUESTED

Your help is requested in updating our water billing records. We are finding that many of our records are out of date, particularly as respects phone numbers. If you have changed phone numbers, or want to receive your water bill at other than the property physical address, please contact Delta Moody at City Hall (972-727-8999), or email your updates to dmoody@lucastexas.us.

NEW BRIDGES OPEN

The new bridges across Lake Lavon on East Lucas Road (FM 3286) are now open. You may want to use caution driving in these areas as the process of dismantling the old bridges will now begin.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR REPLACEMENT STILL BEING SOUGHT

We are still looking for a new newsletter editor. For more information about this volunteer opportunity, contact Mayor Bill Carmickle at bcarmickle@lucastexas.us or the current newsletter editor at newsletter@lucastexas.us.



JENNIFER FAIRCLOTH NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Jennifer Faircloth, Assistant City Secretary, was named Employee of the Month for May, 2008. Congratulations, Jennifer.

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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