



Lucas City Newsletter

June, 2008

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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City Council

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

City Administrator

Paul Catoe
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STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR HOME RULE PASSES!

May 10, 2008 was a historic date for Lucas. Our residents spoke out "loud and clear" that they were ready for our city to take control of its future by becoming a Home Rule City. We want to thank all those voters who turned out for the special election on that date, and approved the Home Rule Charter by a landslide vote of 422 to 108. A complete copy of the Charter may be obtained on the City web site.

There are a number of changes and newly acquired City powers that go along with the adoption of this charter. Over the next several months different aspects of these changes will be addressed in this newsletter. Initially I want to talk about some changes that are very important to our citizens, as they relate to elected officials accountability. In the past, although the Mayor had many important responsibilities, the power to vote on issues under consideration by Council was not given to him/her except in tie-breaking situations. The Mayor now has full voting power. This is important to our residents as it shows them clearly where their Mayor stands on critical issues.

The voting citizens now have the powers of recall, initiative, and referendum. By following a prescribed process, a citizen or group of citizens can initiate a recall of any elected official when there are sufficient legal grounds and valid allegations of misconduct, incompetency, or malfeasance. A similar process is in place that can force Council to either enact an ordinance desired by citizens (initiative), or repeal an existing one (referendum). In all three of these situations, petitions signed by a mandated percentage of voters must be gathered in order to start the process.

The effect of all the above changes is to help ensure that your elected officials are held accountable to those who voted them into office. In a few short months we will be celebrating our 50th year as an incorporated City. We have moved into a new era, and I am confident in our future. Again, thanks to all the voters who took their task of determining our future seriously.

I want to especially thank all members of the Home Rule Commission for their hard work in putting together this most important document. They did a great job, and we are all indebted to them for the many hours of study and thoughtful deliberation they put into drafting this document.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular

Thurs., June 5

Planning & Zoning

Thurs., June 12

City Council Workshop

Thurs., June 19

Parks & Open Space

TBD

Municipal Court

Wed., June 25 , 4:00 PM

Very Busy Days For The Volunteers Of the Lucas Fire Department

By Captain David Leonard, EMT-B



On the days of May 7th & 8th, the Lucas VFD experienced a higher than normal amount of incidents that challenged the membership as never before.

On May 7th, at 3:00 AM the department was notified of a Motor Vehicle Accident in the South side of the district. Volunteer members responded with an engine and a manpower squad. The incident was completed and the equipment returned home by 4:30 AM.

At 3:30 PM on the same day, the department was dispatched to a structure fire on Bloom Street. Upon arrival the first engine found a two-story home with a fully involved attic. Entry was made into the house and a family pet was rescued. Due to the volume of flame and desire to save the structure, units from Parker VFD, Branch VFD, Fairview VFD, Wylie, Plano and Allen FD were requested. Because of the extent of the damage and construction of the home, this became one of the most challenging fires the department has fought. Parker and Lucas firefighters experienced minor injuries when part of the ceiling and roof collapsed during the incident. Announcements by television stations regarding the injuries brought a flood of worry and concern by all of the families of the members of the departments. The emergency was brought to a close and the equipment was put back into service at the station by 8:30 PM.

At 1:30 AM on May 8th, the department was called out for another structure fire on Brookhaven Drive. The same volunteer firefighters of Lucas and Parker who had responded to the previous fire went out again with full resources. When the first units arrived, additional assistance from Branch VFD, Fairview VFD, Wylie FD and Allen FD were requested. Although there were different issues and situations, they were met with the same determination as the previous incident. Unfortunately, due to some of those issues, the house could not be saved. There was no loss of life and no injuries during this event. Units from the fire departments were released or put back into service by 5:30 AM. The amount of debris and high winds dictated equipment and personnel remain on the scene until

8:00 PM to insure the fire did not rekindle.

The members of the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department responded to each of the emergencies with fully staffed equipment, professionalism and a high sense of dedication to the City Of Lucas and the department. The abilities of all volunteers from the basic firefighter to the Incident Command staff were a result of the rigorous training and Standard Operation Procedures that are strictly enforced. Assistance from Parker, Fairview, Branch, Wylie, Plano and Allen played a key role in the handling of both of these fires. Without their unquestioning response, the outcome could have been different. Throughout all of the hours spent during these two days, the command staff never heard a complaint regarding the amount of time or assignments. Support for the members by their families and employers was vital and much appreciated in these trying circumstances.


If a person wishes to become part of this group of professional and dedicated volunteers, information can be found at www.lucasfire.com or at Lucas City Hall.



SHANE SORRELLS NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Stacy Caudell, Public Works Director (right) presented an Employee of the Month award to Shane Sorrells (left) during the City Council Workshop meeting on May 15th. Shane is employed in the Public Works Department.

Congratulations, Shane, and thanks for your hard work.



HAPPY FATHERS DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 15

MAY CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

May 1, 2008 City Council Meeting

- Held 1st public hearing regarding annexation request for 1805 De Soto Ct.
- Held 1st public hearing regarding annexation request for 1809 De Soto Ct.
- Held 1st public hearing regarding annexation request for 1806 Marchmont Dr.
- Approved minutes from April 3rd Regular, April 8th Special, April 17th Workshop, and April 25th Special meetings.
- Approved an ordinance amending Chapter 8, "Offenses and Nuisances" by adding a new Article 8.05 titled "Noise"; by amending Chapter 2 "Animal Control" to amend the regulations for disturbing the peace. ("New Noise Ordinance")
- Approved site plan for Grace Evangelical Free Church.
- Approved sending letter to First Call Network terminating the contract due to non-performance as expected.
- Held 2nd public hearings regarding annexation requests for three locations listed above for which 1st public hearings were held at beginning of meeting.

May 15, 2008 City Council Workshop Meeting

- Approved Ordinance 2008-05-00612 canvassing returns and declaring the results of the Special Election held May 10, 2008 for the adoption of the Home Rule Charter.
- Conducting Swearing-In of Councilmembers Debbie Fisher and Wayne Millsap.
- Appointed Debbie Fisher as Mayor-Pro-Tem.
- Approved first 6 sections of the Personnel Policy and Procedure Handbook as to its form and language (manual not adopted yet, will complete sections 7, 8 & 9 at a later date and then adopt entire manual.)
- Approved preliminary plat for Grace Evangelical Free Church.
- Approved City Manager Catoe getting 3 proposals and picking best contractor to replace roofs on City Hall and City annex buildings, using insurance payment for weather damage.
- Opened bids for the Performance Meter Automated Meter Read System. Bids to be reviewed and brought back to council.
- Approved a contract with Gary Machado for inspection services while looking for a replacement Director of Community Development (due to retirement of current director, David Ellis).
- Authorized Reynolds Asphalt and Construction Company to proceed with necessary additional work on road reconstruction project on Snider from Winningkoff to the White Rock Bridge, and Forest Grove from CR321 to Stonegate.

MAYOR SWEARS IN COUNCILMEMBERS DEBBIE FISHER AND WAYNE MILLSAP



Mayor Bill Carmickle, left, swears in returning Councilmembers Debbie Fisher and Wayne Millsap during the City Council Workshop meeting of May 15. Councilmember Fisher was unopposed in her bid for reelection to a third term. Councilmember Millsap, who was elected to office last year to fill the unexpired term of former Councilmember Tonda Frazier, was also unopposed in his run for his first full two year term in office.

Returning Councilmember Kathleen Peele will be serving her second term in office. She was unable to attend the May 15th meeting, and was sworn in at a later date by Mayor Carmickle.

During the same meeting, Councilmember Fisher was also elected by her fellow Councilmembers to a third term as Mayor Pro Tem.

Congratulations to all three of these hard-working officials.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

The next time you are at City Hall, please take the time to complete a "Comment Card" that tells us how we are doing. These cards can be found at the front desk, or at the Community Development Desk at City Hall. In order to better serve you, we welcome your feedback on how we can improve our service to our residents. We value your opinions.



FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM YOUR WATER DEPARTMENT

As we head into the warm summer months, water usage generally begins to increase, and with that, the potential of higher water bills. In order to avoid possible service termination, it is very important that you pay your bill on a timely basis. Bills are sent out on the 25th of the month. Payment is due on or before the 10th of the month. If the 10th falls on the weekend, payment is still due on the 10th. If payment is not received before the next working day, a \$10.00 late charge will be added. (There is a night drop at City Hall for your convenience.) If payment is not received on the first business day after the due date, a disconnect notice will be sent and if payment is not received within ten days after the original due date, service will be terminated. In order to reconnect your service, you will need to pay the balance in full, plus a \$40.00 reconnection fee. If you have any questions or problems with your bill, contact City Hall immediately.

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLEN TX 75002
PERMIT 157

POSTAL PATRON