



Lucas City Newsletter

March, 2007

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

- Bob Sanders, Mayor
(bsanders@lucastexas.us)
- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
(dfisher@lucastexas.us)
- Bill Carmickle, Councilmember
(bcarmickle@lucastexas.us)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember
(dzriny@lucastexas.us)
- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember
(kpeelee@lucastexas.us)

City Administrator

Charles Fenner
(cfenner@lucastexas.us)

WASTEWATER (SEWER) MASTER PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED

After much discussion, consideration and a Town Hall Meeting held in February, City Council has moved forward with setting Public Hearings for the purpose of considering and discussing passing an ordinance to amend the existing City Comprehensive Plan to include a Wastewater Master Plan that would provide for limited sewer service to designated commercial areas. The two public hearings will be held as follows:

- First Public Hearing: **Thursday, March 8, 7:00 PM** (during regular Planning and Zoning Meeting) at City Annex.
- Second Public Hearing: **Thursday, April 5, 7:00 PM** (during regular Council Meeting) at City Annex.

The public is, as always, invited to attend, and if they wish, may speak FOR or AGAINST this proposal. If you are unable to attend and have any comments you may send them to the City Secretary in writing by faxing to 972-727-0081 or via email to secretary@lucastexas.us. Your comments will be entered into the records of the meetings during which the Public Hearings are held. The proposed Waste Water Master Plan may be viewed on the city website at www.lucastexas.us. The flyer prepared for the Town Hall Meeting is still available at City Hall, and will be updated soon with the latest information.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular Thurs., March 1
Planning & Zoning Thurs., March 8
City Council Workshop Thurs., March 15
Parks & Open Space Thurs., March 22
Municipal Court Wed., March 28, 5:30 PM
Board of Adjustments Tues., March 13

OUR CITY NEEDS YOU!

As our City grows, there are many challenges and issues facing us, and there are a number of options for handling these challenges that should be explored. One of the hallmarks of a strong community is a high degree of citizen involvement in shaping the future of that community. Serving as a volunteer on a committee, board, or commission is a way to be a part of the decision making process. City Council is in the beginning stages of forming several new advisory groups to explore ways by which we can guide our City's future in the direction our citizens would like it to take.

On Page Two, there is a list of the commissions/and or committees that are currently under consideration by Council, and for which volunteers are needed. If you are interested in serving on any of these, please obtain a volunteer form either by picking one up at City Hall, or by completing on the City Website. You may also contact the City Secretary at 972-727-8999 and she will be glad to either mail or fax a form to you.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Economic Development Committee

The purpose of this committee will be to put together a proposed plan to specifically identify and be proactive in attracting those types of commercial/retail businesses that are consistent with our Comprehensive Plan and the needs of our residents. Although Council Member Bill Carmickle has been designated as the liaison between this committee and the City Council, you may contact any City Council member for more information. As with other volunteer positions, you must complete a volunteer application in order to be considered. The final makeup of any committee, board, or commission is determined by a vote of the City Council.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Safety

The full scope of this future committee is still under consideration by Council. Initially, it will be charged with examining issues related to public safety, including our volunteer fire department. An example of the type of issue to be considered is whether or not volunteer fire-fighters should be reimbursed for expenses related to responding to emergency calls for fires or other required response events.

Home Rule Commission

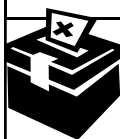
As our City continues to grow, it is apparent that we must once again give strong consideration to starting the process of becoming a Home Rule City. The groundwork for drafting a Home Rule Charter that would give our city significantly more self governing power than granted by the State under our current General Law status was laid by two previous Home Rule Commissions. City Council has determined that we should once again consider starting this important process. At least fifteen (15) citizens will be needed to serve on this vital commission, and preference will be given to citizens who have not served on either of the previous two commissions. The goal will be to seat a commission that is representative of the broad range of neighborhoods and residents within our city. The final decision of whether or not to adopt any Home Rule Charter will be determined by a vote of the citizens of Lucas.

In order to serve on any of these committees, you must have been a Lucas resident for at least six (6) months. For more detailed information on any of these advisory groups, contact any City Council member.



COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

The first "Coffee With Council" event of the year will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 8:00AM until 10:00AM. Your hosts at this event will be Mayor Pro-Tem Debbie Fisher and Council Member Kathleen Peele. In order to be fair to all potential candidates for the seats on the ballot in the upcoming May election, it was decided that the two Council Members who are not up for election this year would be your hosts. This is a great venue for visiting with your City leaders in an informal setting and discussing those issues that are important to you. Please mark your calendars now.



ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

Election workers will be needed for the General and Special Elections to be held on Sat., May 12. An Election Judge, Alternate Election Judge, and four (4) workers will be required. No experience is necessary as training may be provided, as necessary. Workers will receive a nominal amount of pay. Please contact City Secretary, Kathy Wingo, at 972-727-8999 for more informa-

CANDIDATE FILINGS DEADLINE

As a reminder, the deadline for filing for a place on the ballot for the upcoming May 12th election is March 12, 2007. Four seats will be up for election in this General and Special Election. The Mayor and two (2) Council Member seats will be on the ballot for the General Election for a term of two (2) years each. The seat vacated by Council Member Tonda Frazier, who resigned for personal reasons earlier this year, will be on the Special Election ballot for a term of one (1) year to finish out her unexpired two year term. You must specify on your filing for the Council Member seat whether you are running for one of the two seats in the general election or the one seat in the special election. If you are considering running for any of these seats, and have not already picked up a packet, you may do so at City Hall. If you would like further information, contact the City Secretary, Kathy Wingo.

NEW BUILDING INSPECTION DIRECT LINE

We now have a new inspection direct line at **214-644-0779**. To request an inspection, simply call this number and leave a message stating your name, address, permit # (if known), and type of inspection needed (building, pool, etc.).

FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

February 1, 2007 City Council Regular Meeting

- Approved minutes from January 22, 2007 Town Hall Meeting.
- Voted to leave council seat resigned by Council Member Tonda Frazier vacant until filled by Special Election to be held on May 12, 2007.
- Approved Resolution #R-2007-02-00286 calling for General (Regular) Election to be held on May 12, 2007 for purpose of electing two (2) City Council Members at-large, one (1) Mayor; and calling for a Special Election to fill the vacancy of one (1) Council Member’s remaining term of one (1) year; by the qualified voters of the City of Lucas; for notice of said election; providing for the appointment of a Deputy Early Voting Clerk; providing for early voting; establishing regular business hours of the City Secretary’s office; and providing an effective date.
- Approved Ordinance #2007-02-00583 for the purpose of limiting the distance sex offenders can live from schools, daycares, churches, parks, or any other area that children may gather.
- Approved Ordinance #2007-02-00584 which amends the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 13, Article 13.06, Solid Waste, Section 13.06.034, by adding a new Subsection (d) to provide for roll-off containers being utilized for agricultural use and renumbering accordingly.
- Set Public Hearings for Waste Water Master Plan for the Planning & Zoning Commission March 8, 2007 meeting, and the City Council Regular Meeting on April 5, 2007.
- Voted to dispose of property at Country Club Rd. and White Rock Trail (site of old white water tower) by sealed bid with a minimum sale price of \$100,000, with 90 days to accept sealed bid.

February 15, 2007 Workshop Meeting

- Voted to have City staff prepare a resolution for future approval of request by Booster Clubs of Lovejoy Schools for temporary partial closure of a section of FM 2170, and also temporary partial closure of Rockridge Road on Saturday, May 12, 2007 for period of approximately one hour for purpose of conducting a 5K Run benefiting Lovejoy Schools.
- Voted to not allow use of City of Lucas official city logo on any street signs not within the city limits; and to direct the removal of any unauthorized City of Lucas logo from any existing street sign not within the city limits (i.e. Extra Territorial Jurisdictions.)

SEX OFFENDER ORDINANCE ENACTED

At the City Council meeting on 2/1/07, our Council Members unanimously voted to enact an ordinance placing limitations on where registered sex offenders may live in the City of Lucas. The new ordinance applies to any person required to register on the Texas Department of Public Safety’s Sex Offender Database because of a violation involving a victim who was a minor. It makes it unlawful for that person to establish a permanent residence or temporary residence in the City within 1,000 feet of any premises where children commonly gather, including public or private schools, day-care facilities, public parks, playgrounds, public or youth centers, public swimming pools, or video arcade facilities.

A minor is any person under the age of seventeen (17). A permanent residence is one where a person stays for fourteen (14) or more consecutive days. A temporary residence means a place where a person stays for a period of 14 or more days in the aggregate during a calendar year, and which is not the person’s permanent residence. It is also considered a temporary residence if the person routinely stays for a period of 4 or more days, whether consecutive or not, in any month, and which is not the person’s permanent residence.

Although this ordinance is a another “ tool” to aid in protecting our children, it does not prevent sex offenders from going within the restricted areas....they just can’t live there. Also, the ordinance, by law, is not retroactive and it does not extend into our ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) areas.

If more information is desired about the sex offender database, the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Records Service, which includes the Sex Offender Database is <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us>.

A copy of the full text of the new ordinance may be seen at City Hall.

“SPRING FORWARD” DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON MARCH 11TH



Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th.



DROUGHT UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Debbie Fisher attended a Feb. 2 meeting of the Oversight Committee for the North Texas Municipal Water District. At that meeting, it was stressed that although the month of January brought much needed rain, the drought has not ended. As of the first of February Lake Lavon was just less than eight (8) ft. low, a big improvement from late December when the lake was only 35% full. It is now 66% full, and is two (2) ft. above where it was at this time last year. One of our additional sources of water, Lake Cooper, has also risen to where it is now 45% full, also a big improvement over late 2006 levels. North Texas Municipal Water District has several projects in the works that should result in additional water sources by December of 2007. Although all of these improvements are certainly encouraging, we still have a long way to go. In the meantime, the water restrictions mandated last summer are still in effect. In you are unsure of the scope of these restrictions, check the City web site or contact City Hall.

LUCAS FIRE DEPARTMENT



As most of you know, Lucas is served by a volunteer fire department headed up by Fire Chief Jim Kitchens. What you may not know is that the fire department has its own web site that contains all types of interesting information about the department. It is a valuable source of information about the activities of Lucas VFD, including a number of great pictures showing the department and it's members in action. The website may be viewed at www.lucasfire.com. It also contains information on how to become a volunteer firefighter in Lucas.

CITY PROPERTY FOR SALE

By direction of the City Council, the City of Lucas will be receiving sealed bids for the sale of 1.674 acres located on the Northeast corner of Country Club Rd. and White Rock Trail. The is the former site of a City of Lucas water tower. The minimum bid amount for the property is \$100,000. The bids will be opened publicly and read on May 14th, 2007. If you are interested in more information on this sale of public property, visit the City web site at www.lucastexas.us or contact City Hall.

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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

POSTAL PATRON