



Lucas City Newsletter

September, 2007

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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City Council

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- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
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- Don Zriny, Councilmember
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City Administrator

Charles Fenner
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STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR

I want to talk about two items of importance this month. One is the hiring of a new City Manager, and the other is the beginning of the Home Rule Charter process.

On Saturday, August 25th we conducted the final interviews with the top two candidates for this position. I believe we have made a wise choice in our selection. Once we have received an acceptance of our offer from the candidate, we will announce our choice on the City website. We will have a full article in the October newsletter about the new addition to our fine City Staff.

We have now seated a Home Rule Commission to start the process of drafting a home rule charter to be presented to the voters for approval in the May, 2008 general election. The Commissioners are as follows: Cheryl Massey, Stephanie Keelen, Bob Lang, Phil Hanson, Chad Engbrook, Jim Olk, Andy Nopper, Steve Duke, Denny Rice, Brian Blythe, Larry Essary, Stuart Fink, Ryan Empey, James Adams, Royce Hall, Star Daniels, and Mike Hughes.

The first meeting will be Monday, Sept. 10 at 7:00PM at the City Hall Annex. As with all City meetings, meetings of this commission will be open to the public, and will include a citizen's comments section on the agenda. Joe Gorfida, who served as counsel to the last HRC, will be the attorney advising the commission. During the first meeting, dates of future meetings will be set, and a chairperson and secretary will be elected by the members of the commission.

I, and the other members of Council, want to thank the residents who volunteered to serve on this extremely important commission. We are asking much from them, both in time and commitment to being thorough, fair, and thoughtful in arriving at their final recommendations. Drafting a document that is so critical to our community's future is a huge responsibility, and we commend them for their willingness to participate in this process.

We urge citizens to attend these meetings and make their feelings known to the commission during the citizen's comments portion of the meetings. City staff is in the process of setting up an email address for the commission so that in the future you may email your thoughts and comments directly to them.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular
Thurs., Sept 6

Planning & Zoning
Thurs., Sept. 13

City Council Workshop
Thurs., Sept. 20

Parks & Open Space
To be announced

Municipal Court
To be announced

Home Rule Commission
Mon., Sept 10

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SAT. OCT. 13

This date has been set for the annual Founders Day celebration. Read details of this year's planned events on page 2.



FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION FEATURES NEW EVENT

The highlight of this year's Founders Day event, to be held on **Saturday, Oct., 13**, will be a Stick Horse Rodeo for children through age 8. Due to logistical issues we will be unable to have a parade this year. The insert in this newsletter contains further details about the rodeo. All proceeds from this event, and others held during the celebration, will benefit the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department.

Again this year, free food for all attendees will be provided. Several area churches have volunteered again to set up booths and provide desserts. Others are being contacted to invite their participation. Preliminary plans include the possibilities of a pie baking contest, cake walk, horseshoe pitching contest, and even a hay bale tossing contest. There could also be music, and other fun events and demonstrations. Of course, our volunteer fire department will be on hand to show off their equipment, and maybe even recruit a new volunteer or two!

This year the celebration will be held behind the fire department and City annex, located at the intersection of W. Lucas Rd. and Country Club. For information on how to participate, volunteer to organize an event, or make donations of prizes, contact Kathy Wingo at 972-727-8999 (email: kwingo@lucastexas.us).

Further information will be posted on the City web site as it becomes available, and also will be included in the October newsletter.

WATER CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE

As the City has now moved from Stage 3 into Voluntary Conservation status, effective with your current water bills for service between 7/15 and 8/15 (due 9/10), the surcharge for water consumption over 25,000 gallons will no longer be imposed. Please continue to practice conservation measures. Failure to do so not only impacts our future water supplies, but also puts significant strains on our City's water delivery system.

LVFD TO THE RESCUE!

During the last two years as newsletter editor I have written articles about our volunteer fire department any number of times. Luckily, I suppose, I never had the occasion to see them in action.

That changed on Mon. evening, Aug. 20.



Councilmember Kathleen Peele and I had just left a meeting at the City Annex building when an older gentleman pulled his vehicle into the parking lot and asked if we were with the fire department. When we indicated we were not, he told us he had injured himself earlier when he had fallen, and now realized it was worse than he thought. He came to the fire station for help. Councilmember Peele immediately called 911, and we offered to stay with him until help arrived.

In no more than 4 to 5 minutes, the first volunteer pulled into the fire station, leaped out of his truck and rushed to the injured man. In unbelievably quick succession, 11 more members with EMS skills ranging from First Aid to Paramedics arrived. The ambulance dispatched from Wylie was only a minute or two behind. They quickly assessed his injuries and decided to transport him to the hospital in McKinney for treatment of what appeared to be severe lacerations.

Councilmember Peele and I stood and observed the entire process with amazement. We were in awe of the speed, teamwork, and professionalism with which this call was handled. They even cleaned the blood from his injuries off the inside and outside of the vehicle, and made arrangements to have it transported to a safe place.

We are very fortunate to have a fire department of this caliber, and that made me even more determined to support their efforts to improve the department to the next level. I hope you will all join in to help raise funds to support the department. The next big step is for LFVD to buy their own ambulance. This will move Lucas to a higher level of service and protection, and help get patients to a hospital even faster. With your help, it can happen.

I hope none of us ever have occasion to use their services, but it gives me a great feeling of security to know that if I or my family should ever need them, we will get some of the finest service any volunteer fire department in Texas or anywhere else can provide.

AUGUST CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

July 30, 2007 Special Council Meeting

- Directed City Attorney to draft amendment to contract with Barnes Waste Disposal for extension of five years.
- Approved amendment to Interlocal Agreement with Collin County for placement of Roll-Off Recycling Container
- Approved amendment to Interlocal Agreement for Placement of Roll-Off Recycling Container between the City of Lucas and Collin County.
- Authorized Mayor or City Administrator to terminate NTACA contract for animal control services upon approval of a City contract with City of Wylie for such services.
- Approved Amendment No. 2 to the Interlocal Jail Services Agreement between City of Lucas and Collin County.
- Authorized the Mayor to amend the contract with Collin County for Public Safety services to extend for one year.
- Agreed to withdraw from Southeast Collin County EMS Coalition, and seek other options for the future.

August 2, 2007 Regular Meeting

- Approved an ordinance of the City of Lucas amending the Code of Ordinances relating to landscaping to require minimum landscaping requirements for non-residential districts or uses, for minimum lot coverage, xeriscape and green space and hardscape standards in the front and side yards, plant materials, irrigation, and berming or earthenworks. **Ordinance #2007-08-00601.**
- Approved minutes from June 7, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting, June 14, 2007 Special City Council Meeting, June 18, 2007 City Council Pre-Budget Workshop Meeting, June 21, 2007 City Council Workshop Meeting, July 5, 2007 City Council Regular Meeting and July 19, 2007 City Council Workshop Meeting.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 14 "Zoning", by amending Division 7, "Lighting", by repealing Sections 14.04.253 and 14.04.254 and replacing with new Sections 14.04.253 and 14.04.254 to provide for general provisions relating to lighting and exemption; by amending Section 14.04.256, "Site Plan Standards", to provide for a photo metric light plan. **Ordinance # 2007-08-00595 Lighting.**
- Approved an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 "Building Regulations", repealing Article 3.16 "Signs", in its entirety and replacing with a new Article 3.16 to provide new sign regulations. **Ordinance #2007-08-00596 Signs.**

- Approved an amendment to the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 1, "General Provisions", Article 1.05 Boards, Commissions and Committees to provide that all members of any Board, Commission or Committee shall be appointed in June of each year. **Ordinance # 2007-08-00599 Boards, Commissions & Committees Appointments.**
- Approved an ordinance amending Code of Ordinances by amending Division 2. Planning & Zoning Commission, Section 1.05.032, Composition; appointment and term of members by repealing paragraph (b). **Ordinance #2007-08-00600 Ex-Officio Members of P&Z Commission.**
- Awarded contract for construction of a 750,000 gallons water ground storage tank and pump upgrades for the North Pump Station to company named Tank Builders.
- Approved preliminary plat for applicant Rockland Farms for a residential development consisting of 75.53± acres situated in the James Lovelady Survey, Abstract No. 538 in Collin County, TX generally known as Rockland Farms Phase II.
- Approved preliminary plat for applicant Stinson Road Crossing LTD for residential development consisting of 43.70± acres situated in the James Lovelady Survey, Abstract No. 538 in Collin County, Texas generally known as Rockland Farms Phase III.
- Appointed C.Massey, S.Keelen, M.Luck, P.Hanson, C.Engbrook, J.Olk, A.Nopper,S.Duke, D.Rice, B.Blythe,L.Essary, S.Fink, R.Empey, J.Adams, and R.Hall to the Home Rule Commission.

August 16, 2007 Workshop Meeting

- Approved preliminary plat for applicant Claremont Springs II, LTD to include sidewalk and access waiver for Claremont Springs Phase II located in the J. Snider Survey, Abstract No. 824, in Collin County, TX.
- Appointed Joe Gorfida as atty for Home Rule Commission.
- Replaced M. Luck with B. Lang, and appointed S.Daniels and M.Hughes to the Home Rule Commission.
- Awarded contract in amount of \$256,101.50 plus contingency of \$64,025.38 to Reynolds Asphalt.
- Approved **Resolution #R-2007-08-00300** authorizing the Mayor to enter into cooperative agreement on behalf of the City with Collin County regarding participation in the County Private Sewage Facilities Permitting Program.
- Approved Interlocal Agreement with City of Wylie for animal control services
- **Established tax rate of .375 (effective tax rate of .365) for next budget year and set public hearings for 8/27 and 9/6 at 6:00PM.**

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AUGUST CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS (CONT.)

- **Set dates for Public Hearings on Budget and Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, Aug. 27, and Sept. 6, 6 :00PM.**
- Appointed Mayor Bill Carmickle as Council liaison to Planning & Zoning Commission.
- Approved **Resolution #R-2007-08-00299** between the City of Lucas and Town of Fairview establishing common borders and extraterritorial jurisdiction boundary lines.

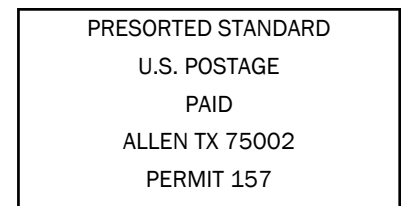
QUICK CITY UPDATES

- Municipal Judge Joe Gorfida has resigned effective 9-1 to take a position as a full partner in the law firm of Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager and Smith. As NJDHS provides legal services to our city, Mr. Gorfida will continue to work with us, specifically as the legal advisor to the newly formed Home Rule Charter Commission. A replacement for the municipal judge position will be announced at a later date.
- The City has entered into a new contact with the City of Wylie for animal control services that should signifi-

cantly improve response times to assistance calls.

- The City is discussing a shared cost and responsibility agreement with Lovejoy ISD for the recycling container at Hart Elementary. This arrangement should result in more consistent monitoring of the container.
- The City is in discussions with the Collin County Sheriffs Department to improve the coverage times by deputies by staggering hours of patrol rather than the current fixed schedule.
- School has now started. With the addition of another grade level at Lovejoy HS on FM 2170 (Estates Parkway), traffic will be especially heavy in the mornings and afternoons. Collin County Sheriffs Deputies will be increasing patrols during these times. Obey the school zone speed limits and drive safely!
- Cookbooks put together by LAFFS (Lucas Activity Fund for Seniors) are available at City Hall for a \$5.00 donation. All proceeds will benefit the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department. Great recipes for a great cause!

CITY OF LUCAS
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POSTAL PATRON