



LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

June 2017



Mayor's Message

By *Jim Olk*

I thought I would take my part of this newsletter this month and give you a brief clip of some of the things the City Council has on their plate currently.

The City Council is looking forward to review and approval of the Fiscal Year 17/18 budget. But before we jump into the budget, the City Council will be reviewing and updating our long-range goals for the City. This includes review of transportation, public safety, annexation, staffing needs, future development, parks and trails, and street and water system maintenance and improvements. Although as a group we tend to get into the weeds during the budget review and look at it on a line item by line item basis, we need to have the long-range goals in the forefront of our thinking as we make decisions about this year's budget. We are truly thankful that we have a dedicated group of City employees lead by a trusted City Manager that really works to keep expenses to what is truly needed without a lot of fluff or exaggerated costs.

City Council has forwarded the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) onto the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee for review and recommendations. The committee will review the proposed CIP projects, which include street reconstruction, street maintenance, water line improvements, water line maintenance and parks and trail enhancement projects. These projects span over the next 10 years and it is an important part of planning for the future in Lucas.

The City Council has reviewed the water rate study performed by an outside consultant. Due to the increase in water rates by the North Texas Municipal Water District (where Lucas buys its water) and upcoming water projects, we are going to see an increase in our water bills. There will be an article in next month's newsletter that will discuss this topic in more depth.

The City Council is currently struggling with the amount of money that will be needed to keep our streets drivable along with needed ongoing street maintenance. This is all coming before the Texas Legislature finishes up their session where they are recommending limiting a jurisdiction's ability to fund such improvements by lowering the rollback rate. The Council will have some tough decisions ahead as they look at whether to fund some of the costs from reserves and count on future development to make up the gap or to increase the tax rate now with the potential to reduce the tax rate in future years based on new development in the future. This is one time I wish we had a crystal ball.

As always, our meetings are open, and we encourage public input on these or any topic that may be of interest to you.



Election Results of the May 6 General Election

The City of Lucas held its General Election on May 6, 2017 for City Council Seats 1 and 2.

Wayne Millsap, running for City Council Seat 1, ran unopposed and was declared elected. Candidates in the race for City Council Seat 2 included Tim Baney and Randy Conrad. Tim Baney was declared the winner in this race with the following votes.

Tim Baney	324 votes	73.30%
Randy Conrad	118 votes	26.70%

City Council Seats are for three year terms. Next year's election for 2018, will include the City Council Seat for Mayor along with City Council Seats 3 and 4.

Managing Your Water Drainage

Do you or the City own the drainage system on your property? Who is responsible for maintenance? Drainage maintenance is often a shared responsibility. The City of Lucas maintains the drainage system within the public street/right-of-way, on property owned by the City or within some public drainage easements, which have been accepted by the City. Property owners maintain private property, including the drainage, up to the edge of the roadway pavement. Many issues on private property can be resolved, alleviated, or reduced by the property owner themselves performing routine maintenance activities. Drainage systems often are clogged with leaves, trash, mulch, grass clippings, and other debris. To help maintain the drainage on your property, be proactive by keeping drainage ways (which include ditches, streams banks, and even buried pipes/culverts) clear and free of debris that can cause backups and flooding. It is especially important to ensure that culverts under driveways are free of debris.

A borrow ditch, commonly referred to as a bar ditch, is a roadside channel that is excavated for drainage purposes. These passages compliment our desire to maintain that rural atmosphere of Lucas. Common causes of drainage problems in ditches are sediment build up, tree roots, yard waste, trash and other debris, all which impede flow. Ditches should be kept free of debris to maintain positive flow. Vegetation in ditches is critical in reducing erosion and preventing sediment build up, and herbicides should not be sprayed to kill the vegetation on the ditch banks. This leads to erosion and pollution in the waterways. Property owners should be pro-active in protecting these ditches and **never** fill them in, as it may cause flooding in other areas. To report drainage concerns including flooding of your home from a nearby creek or drainage system or other failure of a nearby stream channel or stormwater piping system, contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster at 972.912.1208 or stanton@lucastexas.us with a description of your issue. You may also report an issue via the City's website at www.lucastexas.us.

Adopt-A-Garden



The Keep Lucas Beautiful Adopt-A-Garden program still needs volunteer gardeners who would like to adopt a garden bed at City Hall or at the Community Park. This is a great opportunity for community groups and residents to come together, have fun, and help make our City more attractive all at the same time. It requires a little bit of elbow work to weed, water, fertilize and trim plants to keep the garden looking presentable. All we ask is a commitment from the individuals or groups to maintain their adopted space for a minimum of 12 months.

If you are interested in adopting a garden, contact Cathey Bonczar at cbonczar@lucastexas.us, or 972.912.1213. We will work with you to identify which gardens are available, and discuss what is expected of the adopters.

Meetings and Events

June 1, 2017

City Council

7:00 pm - Council Chambers

June 8, 2017

Planning & Zoning

7:00 pm - Council Chambers

June 8, 2017

Capital Improvement

Advisory Committee

6:30 pm - Council Chambers

June 15, 2017

City Council

7:00 pm - Council Chambers

June 27, 2017

Parks and Open Space Board

7:00 pm - Council Chambers

Keep Lucas Beautiful Clean Up Event - Huge Success



On Saturday April 22, the City of Lucas held its second annual Keep Lucas Beautiful Spring Clean Up Event that focused on removing trash from our roadways and parks. This year's Clean Up event was another rousing success. We had a total of 108 volunteers that included entire families as well as youth participating to receive their community service hours for National Honor Society. Volunteers picked up trash on a total of 11 miles of City streets, four miles of state highways, and 16 acres of parks, collecting a total of 4,320 pounds of trash in one day. A big thank you to the many volunteers and returning volunteers, that came out to help clean our City, and to Parks Board members David Rhoads, Chris Vanhorn, Brenda Rizos and Bill Esposito assisting with activities throughout the day, and Mayor Jim Olk and his wife Joy, and Councilmembers Tim Baney and Wayne Millsap for their support of Keep Lucas Beautiful.

Hydrant Maintenance Program Begins



Fire hydrants are too often taken for granted. You see them everywhere, near your home, at your place of business, and along every street. If you think of them at all, it is to wonder if

you have parked close enough to be ticketed. You assume every hydrant you see works, as if they had been built to last forever and required no maintenance. How many years has it been since anyone checked the operation of a fire hydrant near you? From the moment a fire hydrant is installed, it begins to rust. In time, the caps may rust so tightly they cannot be removed. Valves and joints develop blistering and pitting to the point of becoming unusable. This is often referred to as being "seized." Hydrants in this condition can be very difficult to open, or even contain parts so corroded as to make using them under pressure a dangerous enterprise.

In firefighting, the last thing firefighters want to fight is the fire hydrant they are planning to use. Last year the city started a fire hydrant valve maintenance program through a contract with R&M Services. Staff was able to complete preventative maintenance on 553 fire hydrants and valves and was given a mid-year budget adjustment to complete its preventative maintenance program on the remaining 2,400 fire hydrants and valves in the City.

Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services

Meet Julio. He is a three year old tabby cat. He's friendly, loves attention and affection and is neutered. If you would like to learn more about Julio and others to adopt, visit the Collin County website at http://collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx or visit the Collin County Animal Services on Facebook for additional information and pictures.



New Agreement with Barnes Waste Disposal

The City of Lucas and Barnes Waste Disposal have a new agreement for residential solid waste collection and disposal. The new agreement will become effective on October 1, 2017 and concludes on September 30, 2022 with a renewal option of two one-year terms potentially extending the agreement until September 30, 2024.

The following services are included in the new agreement:

- Residential refuse collections at curbside or, if qualified (disabled or elderly), house side, in response to the individual customer's request, all other "house side" collection is subject to Contractor approval. All trash, garbage and refuse must be bagged and placed in an appropriate container. Contractor shall have no obligation to pick up or otherwise collect motor vehicle tires, oil, batteries, hazardous chemicals or items containing refrigerants. Contractor shall perform collection service no less frequently than once per week.
- Collect unbundled brush (cut not greater than 4 feet in length) and bulky items in a volume of (2) cubic yards [6'x3'x3'], no less frequently than twice per month. Unbundled brush and bulky items shall be placed curbside for collection. A "bulky item" shall refer to appliances (not containing refrigerants) water tanks, yard maintenance machines, furniture and waste materials other than dead animals or hazardous waste.
- Collect unlimited bundled brush (cut not greater than 4 feet in length) and not heavier than 40 pounds per bundle, and placed curbside for collection.
- At the request of the customer, Contractor will collect 10 cubic yards of brush curbside twice per year per household at no additional cost to the customer. This service must be scheduled with the Contractor and shall be collected on a first come first basis.
- Contractor shall have no obligation to collect or dispose of construction, remodel, or landscape/brush debris if generated by a business, individual or entity providing such services to the property owner.
- The resident should call Contractor for household hazardous waste collection for special pick up instructions. Collection of these materials may require extra charges negotiated by Contractor and the individual resident.
- Excessive amounts, as determined by Contractor, may require extra charges negotiated by Contractor and the individual resident.
- Refrigeration appliances not certified and tagged by an HVAC technician may be subject to a \$35.00 disposal fee that shall be billed to the individual resident by Contractor.
- Contractor shall host, with the help of City staff, one (1) annual clean-up event for each year of the Agreement. The event shall be scheduled on a Saturday agreed to by the Contractor and the City at a location provided by the City.
- Manure or stable matter shall be negotiated by Contractor and the individual resident per 95-gal container and billed directly to the resident. Resident must purchase containers for manure/stable matter.

The new residential solid waste collection and disposal pricing structure reflected below will be implemented with the October 2017 billing cycle:

Service Type	Amount of Refuse	Monthly Rate
Basic	up to 120 gallons	\$21.57
Expanded	up to 240 gallons	\$26.50
Expanded Plus	up to 360 gallons	\$31.43
Additional Service	Each additional 120 gallons	\$ 4.93

All customers will be provided one 95-gallon polycart and the monthly rates include the addition of sales tax at a rate of 8.25%, a franchise fee of 7% and administrative fee of 8%.

On October 1, 2017, Barnes will no longer be providing curbside recycling. However, the City and Barnes are partnering to provide a monthly drop off option for recycling that will take place at City Hall on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. A collection truck will be located at City Hall with staff from the City and Barnes assisting customers with the collection of recyclable material. You must have proof of residency in Lucas or be a Lucas water customer, showing a drivers license or utility invoice to participate in this recycling program. The staff at Barnes will determine what items will be acceptable for recycle collection and there is no obligation to accept or dispose of items that are determined to be unacceptable.

Other options for nearby recycling include:

NTMWD 121 Landfill - 3820 State Highway 121 - Melissa

Hours: Monday through Friday - 7 am - 5 pm

Saturday: 8 am - 3 pm

Sunday: Closed

For more information on acceptable recycling items go to <https://www.ntmwd.com/facilities/>.

Branch VFD - Corner of F.M. 546 and F.M. 982 - Branch

Unmanned Facility - Acceptable recyclable items include newspapers, magazines, junk mail, paper sacks, office paper, cardboard, soft cover books, catalogs, aluminum/tin cans, and plastic containers.

Waste Connections Facility - 2138 Country Lane -McKinney

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday - 10 am - 1 pm

Saturday: 8 am - 12 pm

Acceptable items include: Aluminum, steel, tin cans; Cardboard, food Boxes, junk mail, catalogs, phone books, newspaper, magazines, paper, plastics #1-5 & #7 (NO #6)

Questions regarding your solid waste services or recycling may be directed to Barnes Waste Disposal at 972.396.1139 or the City of Lucas at 972.912.1205.

\$ YOUR TAX DOLLARS \$

Fiscal Year 17/18 Budget

At the upcoming July 20, 2017, City Council meeting, a majority of the meeting will focus on the fiscal year 17/18 budget. City staff will be presented a preliminary budget, which will include the general fund, water fund, capital fund and debt service fund. As your elected officials begin working through the details of the fiscal year 17/18 budget, it is important to ensure wise allocation of taxpayer money. Last year, the General Fund budget was \$5.4 million, the Water Fund was \$3.9 million, the Capital Fund was \$5.8 million, and Debt Service Fund was \$782,000.

The General Fund is the major fund used to account for all financial resources not accounted for in any other fund and is sometimes referred to as the operating account. The Water Fund is classified as an enterprise fund and it is used to account for a business-like services provided to the public on a fee-for-service basis. The Capital Fund is used to account for resources used in the acquisition of large capital improvements and the Debt Service Fund is established to account for revenues and expenditures used to repay the principal and interest on debt.

So where does the revenue come from?

Sales tax is assessed on taxable goods and services at a rate of 8.25% of which 6.25% goes to the State of Texas and 2.0% is remitted to the City of Lucas. Of the 2.0% that is received by the City, 0.50% is dedicated to street maintenance, 0.50% is dedicated to Fire and EMS and 1.0% is for general government. The total sales tax collected annually is \$1.3 million.

Property tax, which is sometimes referred to as ad valorem tax (which is Latin for "according to value"), is the largest source of revenue for the City of Lucas. At the 2017 appraisal meeting held on April 4 hosted by Collin Central Appraisal District, preliminary value trends were discussed for land, residential, and commercial properties. Key calendar dates were communicated for the 2017 property tax appraisal process. The deadline to certify the 2017 appraisal rolls is July 25, 2017. Preliminary estimated tax values for the City of Lucas adjusted for frozen tax is \$987,046,892 this includes new construction values of \$48,930,000 and a 5.29% change in existing property tax value year over year after new exemptions.

Impact fees are a way for a city to charge developers for some of the cost that new development places on the infrastructure and resources of a city.

Here is some interesting information regarding how much city services and equipment cost in the City's General Fund:

Ambulance (without equipment)	\$226,327
Equipment for a Firefighter (bunker gear, radio, helmet, etc.)	\$5,000
One Emergency Response Radio	\$5,000
One Mile of 20-year Asphalt Paved Roadway	\$2,288,000
One Mile of 20-year concrete Paved Roadway	\$2,363,000
Mowing the Community Park	\$9,100 per year

The City of Lucas is classified as a customer city and purchases water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). The City received notice from the NTMWD that the rate projection over the next several years will increase by approximately 10% annually. The City is undergoing a rate study that will be presented to City Council and incorporated into the budget process. The City evaluates its water rates every five years.

While all these cost figures are estimates, it provides a perspective of the City's costs on specific items. We want to encourage all Lucas citizens to become informed regarding how your City tax dollars are spent. Please do not hesitate to contact the Lucas City Council with any comments you may have.

Here are some key dates to keep in mind regarding the fiscal year 17/18 budget process:

July 20	Budget Workshop starting at 6:00 pm
August 3	City Council meeting to adopt tax rate
August 14	Preliminary budget posted on City Website
August 17	First public hearing on proposed tax rate and discuss Fiscal Year 17/18 budget.
September 7	First public hearing on Fiscal Year 17/18 budget and TENTATIVE second public hearing on the proposed tax rate.
September 21	City Council pass ordinance adopting the 17/18 budget and setting the tax rate for Fiscal Year 17/18.

Should you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact Finance Director Liz Exum at lexum@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1201 or City Manager Joni Clarke at jclarke@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1212.

CPR TRAINING

New Class Date Scheduled
August 5 - 9am - 2pm

The first community CPR training was held on Saturday, May 6 with 19 citizens receiving lifesaving skills that can truly make a difference in a medical emergency for someone who has stopped breathing or is choking. The City of Lucas Fire-Rescue will

continue its CPR education program to teach CPR to the citizens of Lucas. No previous experience is required to take this class. The next scheduled class will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Lucas Fire Station located at 165 Country Club Road, in the Fire Station Training Room. To register for this class, email Captain Jonathan Haynes at jhaynes@lucastexas.us and include your name, address and phone number. Registration must be received July 30, as the class is limited to 25 participants.

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School

Good Shepherd will have their Vacation Bible School on June 19-23 this year from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm with a light dinner from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm served each night, absolutely FREE! The kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, create and play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, and experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures.

Visit <http://gsumclucas.org/vbs2017> to sign up or call 972.429.0295 and your children will receive their VBS shirts on the first day, or sign up in person on the day of and they'll get their shirts during the week. Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is located at 750 West Lucas Road in Lucas. Hope to see you there!