



LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

September 2017



Mayor's Message

By *Jim Olk*

On September 7, the City Council will consider the budget and tax rate for fiscal year 2017-2018. The budget, as currently drafted, includes \$9 million of Certificates of Obligation funding with \$6 million for street reconstruction and intersection improvements and \$3 million for water projects including a new elevated storage tank. The budget includes additional public safety staffing with the addition of four new firefighters to the Fire-Rescue Department staff, along with adding an additional Sheriff's Deputy to patrol the City.

Your City staff has worked very hard to present a budget that maintains the level of service that the City of Lucas currently provides along with these public safety enhancements. City Council in working with City staff have been able to develop this budget while maintaining our current tax rate of \$0.317948 per \$100 of property valuation. Even though the same tax rate is being proposed, taxpayers can still expect to pay more because of continued increases in appraised values. The average increase in appraised values in the City of Lucas is 11%. While each taxpayer's situation is unique, in general, to have no tax increase, the tax rate would need to be dropped to \$0.297432 per \$100 of property value, which is the effective tax rate. The effective tax rate is the rate that produces the

same amount of taxes compared to the prior year if applied to the same properties. I do want to let you know that our current rate is 6.9% higher than the effective tax rate representing a little over \$0.2 cent difference. The following information reflects the projected increases based on appraised property value:

- House with \$100,000 value, property tax will increase \$20.52
- House with \$250,000 value, property tax will increase \$51.29
- House with \$500,000 value, property tax will increase \$102.58
- House with \$750,000 value, property tax will increase \$153.87

To maintain our current tax rate while funding the staffing needs of the Fire-Rescue Department along with making the necessary investment in infrastructure, the City Council has authorized that one-time fixed assets be funded from reserves and one-time operational expenses be funded from a contract for service revenue source. In future budgets, we feel that this will allow the new residential and commercial growth in the City to provide the necessary funding to maintain the budget. When you look at the proposed budget you can see that the City Council has put a priority on maintaining our low tax rate, maintaining our infrastructure and spreading out any necessary debt, all while providing quality City services and enhancing public safety. If you are interested in viewing the proposed budget please visit the City's website at www.lucastexas.us, and click on the link under News on the home page to the proposed budget. Thank you for your support and allowing us to serve the citizens of Lucas.

Drop Off Recycling Begins October 7

Beginning October 1, 2017 Barnes Waste Disposal will no longer be providing curbside recycling services. To provide recycling options for the community, the City of Lucas and Barnes Waste Disposal 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. The first recycling drop off will take place on Saturday, October 7. 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 the recycling program. Acceptable recyclable items include:

- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans
- Tin cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic beverage, detergent, milk bottles
- All mixed paper and paperboard products
- Cardboard

All recyclable items should be rinsed and be free of material.

Lucas Will Host Voting in the November 7, 2017

Constitutional Amendment Election

During the Texas 85th Legislative session held in May of this year, the Legislature referred seven constitutional amendments to the ballot. In order for an amendment to become part of the Texas Constitution, it needs the support of the Legislature and a majority of Texas voters. Amendments on the 2017 ballot include items relating to housing, banking, charitable raffles, state executive officials, and taxes.

To learn more about items on the ballot for the Constitutional Amendment Election, go to https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_2017_ballot_measures. Voting will take place at the Lucas Community Center located at 665 Country Club Road on Election Day, November 7 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Look for more information in upcoming editions of the Lucas Leader regarding the Constitutional Amendment election.

No Parking on Estates Parkway During Football Season

To enhance safety, a no parking zone has been established along Estates Parkway from Rock Ridge Road to Amblewood Drive. The purpose of the limitations is to protect the football patrons and promote the offsite parking at Hart Elementary and Grace Fellowship Church. The school district will also be opening some grassy areas on the high school campus, weather permitting, for more on-site parking. Please let friends and family from the visiting schools know about the parking restrictions and the locations of the offsite parking. City staff will be on-site to remind patrons about not parking on either side of Estates Parkway. There will also be changeable message signs at Angel Parkway and Rimrock Drive to help get the message out to everyone.



**Keep Lucas Beautiful
Fall Sweep/Arbor Day**

November 4, 2017

Meetings and Events

September 4, 2017
Labor Day Holiday
City Hall Offices Closed

September 21, 2017
City Council Meeting
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

September 7, 2017
City Council Meeting
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

September 26, 2017
Parks Board Meeting
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

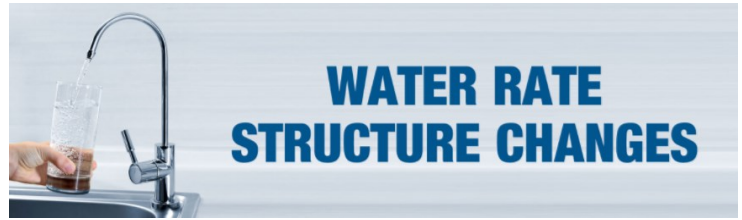
September 14, 2017
Planning and Zoning Meeting
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services



Meet Marlin. He is a two-year old orange Tabby. He loves to be the center of attention, likes to be petted, and is very interested in checking out new things. If you would like to learn more about Marlin and others to adopt, visit the Collin County website at http://collincountytexas.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx or visit the Collin County Animal Services on Facebook for additional information and pictures.



In July 2017, a water rate study was completed by Capex Consulting Group and approved by the City Council. The purpose of the study was to design and implement a rate plan that will enable the water fund to meet operating and capital expenditure requirements for a five year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The rate study included the use of Utility Fund reserves along with issuing \$3 million dollars in Certificates of Obligation to construct a new water tower and make operational improvements to our water system. This study also takes into account that our wholesale provider, North Texas Municipal Water District is proposing a 10% increase in our wholesale water rates. The study considers each customer class (residential and commercial) to make sure any rate structure is just and reasonable. It also reflects national and industry standards for ratemaking as well as making sure our rates are competitive with other water providers in the area.

Water and wastewater increases will go into effect beginning October 1, 2017. To view detailed schedules for the rate changes go to the City's website at www.lucastexas.us and click on Water Billing and Payments/Water and Wastewater Rates from the homepage.



Public Hearings Set for Budget and Tax Rate

Public hearings have been scheduled to discuss the proposed 2017-2018 Fiscal Year budget and setting the City's tax rate.

At the August 17, 2017 City Council meeting, the City held its first public hearing to discuss the City's proposed tax rate for 2017-2018 and discuss the 2017-2018 budget.

Attend the City Council public hearing on September 7, 2017 to learn more about the City's budget and proposed tax rate. The agenda will include the second public hearing to discuss the City's proposed tax rate for 2017-2018 and a public hearing to discuss the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget.

Adoption of the City's budget and tax rate will be voted on by the City Council at the September 21, 2017 City Council meeting. For information on the budget process or the City's tax rate, contact the City's Finance Director Liz Exum at 972.912.1201 or lexum@lucastexas.us.



Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community by fostering neighborhood book exchanges, and increases access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange that anyone may take a book or bring a book to share, offering a personal, unique opportunity within the community. Currently, there are over 50,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in the United States. The most common Little Free Library is in the form of a small wooden box of books that is available to everyone to read and share.

Thanks to Sophia Foster, a sophomore at Lovejoy High School, who is dedicating her senior project to implementing a Little Free Library program in Lucas. Sophia will be bringing the first Little Free Library to the Lucas Community Park (underneath the pavilion) located at 665 Country Club Road. Sophia intends to have her project completed and available to all by December of this year, and hopes that the Little Free Library will encourage everyone to take part in reading and exchanging books within our Lucas community.



Just a reminder that the Founders Day celebration that normally takes place in October has been moved to April 14, 2018. Favorites such as the parade, stick horse rodeo, bounce houses, live music and lunch remains part of the family fun afternoon and we will also be focusing on horticultural and clean-up/beautification activities as well.



Our Water Supply

Congressman Sam Johnson and North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) hosted a community meeting for representatives from all customer cities on July 10, 2017.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates of ongoing long term planning to provide adequate water supplies to our area.

Providing adequate water has been a challenge as the population of the region has doubled in size from the 1990s to the 2000s and is expected to double again in the next 40 to 50 years. Lake Lavon has been the primary source of water since 1953. And while it is named “Lake”, it actually is a man made water reservoir, much like most of the “lakes” in Texas.

To provide additional water sources, NTMWD built a pipeline from Lake Texoma and is currently working on recapturing water located at the east fork of the Trinity River which is expected to be completed in early 2019. After a two year delay, permitting for Texas’ newest reservoir is expected to be issued in early 2018. This reservoir is being created near Bonham (Fannin County) and is currently named the Lower Bois D’Arc Creek Reservoir. This will be the first major reservoir built in Texas in the last 30 years. While slightly smaller in area than Lake Lavon, it will have the capability of supplying the same amount of water.

Plans for this reservoir started almost 20 years ago. Increased water usage experienced in the NTMWD area in the past decade would normally require a new reservoir to be built every year. These types of projects cost in the upper millions to billions of dollars to construct. However, NTMWD has been proactive in educating and requesting the communities to conserve water either voluntarily or in some instances, required water restrictions. The conservation efforts by the water users has been successful in delaying the construction of the Lower Bois D’Arc reservoir, whose price tag is estimated at 1.2 billion dollars. This cost includes the dam, pipeline supply, water treatment plant, roads for access and a mitigation area north of the lake designed to replace the natural land uses that will be overtaken by the new lake area.

The Lower Bois D’Arc Creek Reservoir is expected to provide adequate water to the area for the next 20 years provided the communities and water users continue to make water conservation a priority. Conservation not only allows our water sources to be stretched, but limits additional expensive water projects and reduces the wear and tear on our aging infrastructure, all costs of which are part of our water bill. Water conservation will be critical over the next few years as the reservoir is constructed. The water supply will become critical in 2022, when the reservoir is scheduled to open.

More information on water conservation and water projects can be found on the North Texas Municipal Water Districts website at ntmwd.com.

Join us to Celebrate the Opening of the East Winningkoff Trailhead Saturday, October 29 at 8:00 am

On behalf of Major Jim Olk and the Lucas City Council, you are invited to attend the opening of the East Winningkoff Trailhead. Horses (and their riders) are encouraged to attend to help the City Council cut the ribbon (or hay bale string) to officially open this trailhead. The East Winningkoff Trailhead is located at 745 East Winningkoff Road and the festivities will start at 8:00 am.

This project was made possible by the Collin County Commissioners Court for their ongoing financial support, and the Collin County Parks Foundation Advisory Board for selecting the East Winningkoff Trailhead for funding.

This project includes a small pavilion with picnic tables, horse corral, restroom, water, and ample parking for trucks and trailers. This trailhead is designed to meet the needs of our equestrian community so they will have access to Trinity Trail and have a safe area to ride. The City of Lucas is planning to construct a round pen at this site as an additional enhancement next year. We hope you can participate and look forward to seeing you on October 29. Happy Trails!



City of Lucas Awarded the Transparency Star for Finances

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Transparency Stars Program recognizes local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online and spotlight local governments that are opening their books to the public, providing clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations, downloadable data and other relevant information.

The Finance Department received notice on June 27 that the City has been awarded the Transparency Star for Traditional Finances for their outstanding efforts in making their spending and revenue information available.

Lucas Fire Station Open House Sunday, October 8 - 1:00 to 4:00 pm



Lucas Fire-Rescue will kick off the 2017 Fire Prevention Week with an open house on Sunday, October 8, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Fire Station. Please join us for light refreshments and safety activities for the whole family.

Fire Hydrant and Valve Maintenance



Be on the lookout for the R&M Service Solution vehicles around Lucas. The City has contracted with R&M for fire hydrant and waterline valve maintenance. They will be performing preventative maintenance on fire hydrants in

Lucas as well as opening and closing each valve in town. They are also using GPS to locate all valve and hydrant locations. The City will use this GPS information to improve future Public Works maintenance and Fire-Rescue activities. As R&M exercises the valves, sediments within the waterlines might get stirred up in the water flow. Sometimes if you run the water, it will clear. If you notice any change in color, taste, or smell in the water, please call Jeremy Bogle in the City's Public Works Department at 972.912.1210 to report it as soon as possible.

Construction Update

W. Lucas Road Widening

The contractor has placed the new southern edge of the east-bound lane. Construction signage will be updated soon to reflect the 24-hour nature of the project. This doesn't mean that the contractor will start working 24 hours per day; this means that the construction is exposed to the traveling public 24 hours per day. Two-way traffic operation is anticipated for this area except for a few stretches where the main eastbound travel lane is in need of base repair. The design consultant is working to extend the project from the east side of Walmart to Angel Parkway. All of the work should be completed by Thanksgiving. The striping plan can now be downloaded from the city website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/neighborhood-connector-street-projects/>.

Winninkoff Road Reverse Curve

Staff has been meeting with homeowners to discuss the project and roadway easements. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in October and last for six to seven months. Impacts to traffic flow should last three to four months.

Engineering Firm Birkhoff, Hendricks and Carter has submitted 100% plans to the City for review, and staff is working with neighboring property owners to obtain roadway easements. A proposed timeline for the Winninkoff Road Reverse Curve Project is as follows:

- August 2017 – Advertise Bid
- August 2017 – Pre-Bid Meeting
- September 2017 – Receive Bids
- September 2017 – City Council Award
- September 2017 – Notice to Proceed
- October 2017 through April 2018 – Construction