



**City of Lucas
City Council Meeting
June 6, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

City Hall - 665 Country Club Road – Lucas Texas

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Olk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

City Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Jim Olk
Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele
Councilmember Wayne Millsap
Councilmember Tim Baney
Councilmember Steve Duke
Councilmember Debbie Fisher
Councilmember Philip Lawrence

Staff Present:

City Manager Joni Clarke
City Secretary Stacy Henderson
City Attorney Joe Gorfida
Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn
City Engineer Stanton Foerster
Fire Chief Ted Stephens
Assistant Fire Chief Lance Gant

Mayor Olk determined that a quorum was present. Everyone was reminded to silence their cell phones and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizen Input

1. Citizen Input.

Bob Streiff, 1730 Winningkoff spoke regarding the removal of the stop sign at Winningkoff and Blondy Jhune Road noting that speeding vehicles had increased since the stop sign was removed creating a dangerous intersection. Mr. Streiff stated that the yield sign put in its place was not doing enough to slow down vehicles and requested that the stop sign be reinstated.

John Ballis, 1820 Winningkoff stated that he would like an item placed on a future agenda so that the stop sign at the Winningkoff/Blondy Jhune intersection could be discussed further and stated that the intersection was dangerous. Mr. Ballis also discussed the construction traffic currently on Blondy Jhune and noted that a concrete truck had used his driveway to turn around and damaged his driveway.

Mayor Olk stated that the contractor was responsible for any damages caused and if he would discuss the issue further with the City Engineer, the City could determine which contractor was responsible and make the necessary repairs.

Michele Sullivan, 1730 Winningkoff stated that she was concerned about the increased speed in the neighborhood since the stop sign at Winningkoff and Blondy Jhune had been removed and the safety in the neighborhood. Ms. Sullivan also noted that construction vehicles had broken off tree branches while using her driveway.

Mayor Olk asked that the City Manager conduct a traffic and speed study at the corner of Winningkoff and Blondy Jhune to determine traffic patterns since the stop sign was removed and bring that information back to the City Council as an agenda item for further discussion.

Community Interest

2. Items of Community Interest.

- A. Discuss pending legislation that is being considered by the 86th Legislature and provide guidance to City Staff and City Attorney.

City Attorney Joe Gorfida stated that HB 281 regarding lobbying activities did not pass and that the City was compliant with HB 252 regarding permit fees.

The City Council discussed the deregulation of plumbers and if amendments were needed to the City's Code of Ordinances. Mayor Olk noted that the Building Officials Association of Texas was working with the NCTCOG to regulate this at a regional level.

Mr. Gorfida stated that HB 2439 regarding building materials had not been signed by the Governor. The bill would prohibit cities from regulating building materials and masonry requirements which also included architectural materials.

Mayor Olk noted the following items of community interest:

- Prayers for the City of Virginia Beach for lives lost during a recent shooting
- 75th Anniversary of D-Day
- Summer clean up and electronic recycling event scheduled for Saturday, June 15 from 8:00 am to Noon

Mayor Olk noted that he met with Mayor Lessner of Fairview regarding the McKinney Airport expansion and flight patterns and they will be scheduling a meeting with the Mayor of McKinney to discuss the airport expansion in greater detail.

Councilmember Millsap stated that Mike Goddard had been named the finalist for the Lovejoy ISD Superintendent position and he believed would be a good addition to the school district and was very community oriented.

Councilmember Fisher noted that TxDOT would be holding a meeting to discuss the Bait Shop intersection of W. Lucas Road and Southview on June 18 from 6-9pm at Lovejoy Elementary.

Consent Agenda

3. Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of the minutes of the May 13, 2019 Special City Council meeting.
- B. Approval of the minutes of the May 16, 2019 City Council meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peele, seconded by Councilmember Fisher to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by a 7 to 0 vote.

Regular Agenda

4. Update from the Technology Committee regarding planning and communication efforts to improve internet service throughout the City.

Paul Rathgeb, Chairman of the Technology Committee gave a presentation discussing how the committee was attempting to identify internet problems throughout the City, brainstorm possible solutions, determine gaps throughout the City and propose recommended changes. He discussed the speed test that had been developed that would allow homeowners to access the website, speed.test.lucastexas.us enter their address and it would capture their internet provider and internet speed. Mr. Rathgeb stated that the information captured would be utilized for mapping speeds throughout Lucas and show where problem areas existed.

Mr. Rathgeb stated that information regarding the speed test would be advertised in the Lucas Leader, the City's website and word of mouth.

Mr. Rathgeb discussed with the City Council how to entice providers to the Lucas area as well as analysis of the information gathered.

This item was for discussion purposes only, no formal action was taken.

5. Consider removing the road humps on Forestview Drive and Gold Dust Trail.

City Engineer Stanton Foerster discussed with the Council the steps needed in order to determine what the problems were in the area, if it was related to cut through traffic or speeding. He noted that a speed study was done during the Blondy Jhune bridge construction project, but at no other time had a speed study been conducted in the area. He also noted that the current signage and speed humps do not comply with any traffic calming device regulations.

Mayor Pro Tem Peele discussed the increased cut through traffic in neighborhoods due to the West Lucas Road/Southview intersection congestion and believed the speed humps should remain.

Councilmember Millsap stated that the speed humps were not solving the problem of cut through traffic or speeding and created slower response times for the ambulance and fire engine as well as creating a concern when carrying a patient in the ambulance.

Chief Stephens stated that the delay in response time for the ambulance and fire engine was 6-10 seconds.

Jeffrey Coulson, 242 Forestview, stated that he had seen traffic and speeds increase as more development occurs in the area. He stated that removing the speed humps was a safety concern for the area, and he had not seen any traffic control efforts from the Sheriff's office. Mr. Coulson stated that he was opposed to having the speed humps removed.

Tracey Norris, 241 Forestview, noted that with area construction, traffic would increase in their neighborhood over the next 18 months. She stated that the speed humps were effective as drivers do slow down for the speed humps and was opposed to having the speed humps removed.

Mike Fisher, 252 Forestview stated that the speed humps do slow drivers down and some type of device was needed in the neighborhood to slow traffic.

Laura Howard, 262 Estelle stated that the speeding traffic puts their children at risk and was not in favor of having the speed humps removed without an alternative being offered.

Mayor Olk noted a response was received from Kevin Patterson, 211 Estelle, that he was in opposition to removal of the speed humps but did not want to speak.

Ken Patterson, 232 Estelle stated that the Council has discussed removing the speed humps but provided no alternatives for a solution. Mr. Patterson stated that the neighborhoods have no sidewalk and residents must walk in the street area. He also asked if the City had data on the number of dispatched emergency vehicles to the area and stated he was opposed to the road humps being removed without any alternatives being proposed.

Michelle Sullivan, 1730 Winningkoff said that she was forced to drive through the neighborhood due to construction in other areas and suggested additional signage be put in place regarding surveillance and request additional sheriff's deputies monitor the area.

Mr. Ballis, 1820 Winningkoff stated that the speed humps were installed as part of the construction of the neighborhood. He asked that Council think outside the box to find a solution.

Mayor Olk stated that there had been recent enforcement in the Huntwick area and several tickets had been written. The Council has concerns about traffic in the area, but also had concerns related to fire-rescue response times and transporting patients in the ambulance. Mayor Olk stated that he was considering leaving the road humps in place until construction was completed.

Councilmember Millsap suggested conducting a traffic study of the volume of vehicles and speed on Forestview, Winningkoff and Gold Dust. He also requested the Deputy increase their patrols in the area and review what kind of impact their presence has on speed and remove the speed humps for a period of time. Councilmember Millsap suggested the speed humps could be re-installed if needed and according to regulation, but that a traffic study was needed.

Councilmember Baney stated that he agreed a traffic study needed to be conducted, but the road humps remain in place until another solution is determined.

Councilmember Duke stated that there was no reason to conduct a study until construction in the area was complete.

Councilmember Lawrence stated that speed humps do slow traffic and they should remain in place until a study was conducted and a solution determined.

Mayor Pro Tem Peele stated that she was not in favor of removing the speed humps and was not in favor of a traffic study in the Huntwick area, but a study should be conducted elsewhere throughout the city where there was a known speeding problem. Mayor Pro Tem Peele noted that she would like to have increased patrols from the Deputy in this area.

Councilmember Fisher stated that a majority of the residents within the neighborhood are opposed to having the speed humps removed, and removing the humps is a safety concern for the neighborhood. Councilmember Fisher stated that another type of traffic calming device was needed before the speed humps were removed.

City Engineer Stanton Foerster discussed how speed humps were rated and discussed how traffic volumes and cut through traffic increases when school was in session.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mayor Olk, seconded by Councilmember Fisher to conduct a traffic study that determines traffic volumes and speed conducted twice during the year, once while school was in session. The motion passed by a 6 to 1 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Peele voting in opposition.

6. Review Articles VIII and IX of the City Charter and provide direction to the City Attorney regarding any proposed amendments to be considered as part of a Charter update.

City Attorney Joe Gorfida had no recommended changes to Article VIII and recommend Article IX, Section 9.01 be amended to include salaries of city officers to the following statement:

request adoption of an ordinance (except one appropriating money, levying a tax, issuing bonds, zoning, or related to salaries of city officers).

There was no formal action taken on this item.

7. Provide update regarding fireworks patrol conducted over the July 4th holidays in 2017 and 2018 and give direction to staff regarding continued efforts of the fireworks patrol and citing illegal use of fireworks.

Assistant Fire Chief Lance Gant gave a presentation regarding fireworks patrols over the July 4th holiday during 2017 and 2018 noting that staff had averaged 175 overtime hours in 2017 and 55 hours in 2018. Fourteen warning letters were issued in 2017 and 10 in 2018. Assistant Chief Gant stated that they were able to purchase radios that enhanced the efficiency of communicating with staff members and discussed upcoming planning efforts for 2019 patrols. Assistant Chief Gant noted that staff would be patrolling on July 4, 5 and 6th. He also discussed the difficulty associated with issuing tickets due to the violation of discharging fireworks had to be observed by the staff member.

Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn discussed with the Council how a citizen could file a complaint in court, but they would have had to observe the violation. Mr. Hilbourn also noted that staff could not take a picture from a resident and submit that to court on their behalf.

Mayor Olk noted that staff would do their best to protect the citizens of Lucas with the resources available.

8. Consider a temporary solution to the under-road structure damage at the intersection of Cedar Bend and East Lucas Road and provide direction to City Staff.

Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn gave a presentation stating that during recent storms the culvert under Cedar Bend separated causing the road to lose structural stability. TxDOT has stated that they would include repairing the culvert with similar materials as part of their drainage study project related to intersection improvements in the area. Mr. Hilbourn stated that staff is recommending a temporary repair to reopen the road as soon as possible and let TxDOT take care of studying the drainage and designing the drainage for the area.

Mayor Pro Tem Peele asked if the temporary repair would allow fire truck access. Mr. Hilbourn stated that it would.

The City Council was in agreement to move forward with the temporary repair and allow TxDOT to take care of studying the drainage and designing the drainage for the area.

9. Consider the evaluation and possible revision of the City's benchmark cities to serve as a resource to generate comparable data regarding employee compensation.

City Manager Joni Clarke discussed with the Council the criteria used to identify potential benchmark cities, such as staffing levels, population, average market value, property tax rate, property tax revenue and average valuation. Ms. Clarke stated that information from cities was used in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Austin, Houston and San Antonio.

Mayor Olk suggested that two different categories of benchmark cities be used; one group to compare director-level positions, such as the City Manager, City Engineer, City Secretary, Fire Chief, Finance Director, Development Services Director and City Engineer, which would be using comparable cities throughout the State, and another category that would focus on staff member positions comparative to local cities in the metroplex area.

Mayor Pro Tem Peele suggested sales tax revenue also be used as part of the comparison.

The City Council discussed selecting the following cities as benchmark cities for Director-level positions:

- Alamo Heights
- Fair Oaks Ranch
- Fairview
- Horseshoe Bay
- Lago Vista
- Lakeway
- Mont Belvieu

The Council also discussed adding the following four cities to the above list to be evaluated:

- Athens
- Decatur
- Granite Shoals
- Meadowlakes

Mayor Olk recommended the below cities to be considered as potential benchmark cities for all other staff positions:

- Allen
- Celina
- Frisco
- Garland
- Lewisville
- McKinney
- Plano
- Prosper
- Richardson
- Sachse
- Wylie

10. Provide direction to staff regarding the placement of a new sign at the fire station.

Fire Chief Ted Stephens discussed the current sign location noting that due to landscaping, signage was not easily seen from Country Club and shared with the Council various locations where the sign could be located.

The City Council was in agreement to locate the sign south of the driveway for better visibility.

11. Consider setting the date for Founders Day for 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Peele asked that this item be tabled to the June 20, 2019 City Council meeting. The City Council was in agreement to table this item to June 20, 2019.

12. Consider City Council availability to conduct a joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 11, 2019 regarding drainage.

A majority of the City Council members would be able to attend the joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission; therefore, a joint meeting will be held on July 11, 2019.

13. Consider an appointment to the Technology Committee to fill a vacant position.

Councilmember Millsap stated that he would recommend Brian Amabile based on his background and experience.

Councilmember Debbie Fisher stated that she would recommend John Frasier as a member to the Technology Committee noting that he lived in a poorly covered internet area and had many contacts with various companies that could be helpful.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Lawrence to appoint John Frasier to the Technology Committee. The motion passed unanimously by a 7 to 0 vote.

Executive Session Agenda


14. Executive Session.

An Executive Session was not conducted at this meeting.

15. Adjournment.

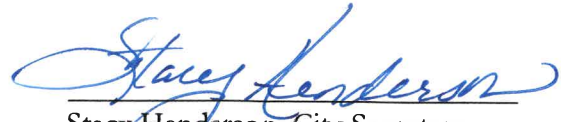
MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Millsap seconded by Councilmember Lawrence to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a 7 to 0 vote.

APPROVED:



Mayor Jim Olk

ATTEST:



Stacy Henderson, City Secretary

