



CONTACT THE EDITOR

Luling ordinance focuses on cleaning properties

By **Juliana Mathews**/newseditor@gonzalescannon.com

LULING — City Manager Mark Mayo opened the April 10 Luling City Council meeting by saying, “We are making a very hard effort at cleanup.”

In order to facilitate quicker cleanup of “unsanitary, unsightly conditions on private property” as described in Article III, Section 58 of Ordinance 2014-O-05, the time to comply after receiving a “Notice to remove or remedy” is shortened from ten days to seven days. If the owner does not comply, the city has the right to make the improvements and charge the property owner the cost of abatement.

The city may also, without prior notice, abate weeds higher than 48 inches that are an immediate danger to the public.

In addition, amended subsections 106-321, 106-346, and 106-350 address abandoned vehicle abatement. The subsection, replaced in its entirety, provides for ten-day notice to abate and remove the abandoned vehicle.

County Commissioner Fred Bucholtz spoke in favor of appropriating SH130 and/or CAMPO funds for a feasibility study of alternate traffic routes of SH183 and SH80, regarding possible addition of a fifth lane or an overpass.

Mayor Mike Hendricks said, “We asked TxDOT to do a study in the past, but never heard anything back. Maybe this is the thing to get the answer.”

Councilman James Nichols expressed concern about being tied to the findings of the study. Mike Aulick, PTP of Aulick and Associates, assured Nichols the study would not bind the city to any particular solution. The council voted in favor of appropriating the funds for a TxDOT feasibility study.

The council reviewed three bids for two 3/4-ton regular cab pickup trucks. While Luling Chevrolet, the highest of the three bids and the only local bidder, came in over \$5,000 higher than the lowest bidder, the council approved the Luling Chevrolet bid with the preference of using a local company.

Police Chief Bill Sala’s Monthly Activity Report noted a new officer, Taylor Criss, started April 7.

Three additional members, Terry Hester, James Delaney, and Keith George as alternate, were added to the Airport Advisory Committee.

During the citizen comment period, Susan Stewart expressed concern over the proposed landfill at SH130 and FM 1185, just north of Lockhart. She encouraged the Council to attend the TECQ hearing scheduled for May 8.

The council also acted on the following agenda items:

- Adopted the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Section 3 Policy for Economic Opportunities for Low-and very low-income persons. The City of Luling, to the greatest extent feasible, will provide job training, employment and contracting opportunities for section 3 residents and section 3 businesses in the areas where the program is being carried out.
- Designated the Luling Newsboy and Signal as the official newspaper for the fiscal year 2014-15.
- Proclaimed the month of April as Fair Housing Month.
- Repealed the old Fair Housing Ordinance and adopting new Fair Housing Ordinance to include the term “familial status”.
- Reappointed the mayor to represent the City of Luling at the Clean Air Coalition meetings.
- Approved the Luling Economic Development Corporation budget for fiscal year 2014-2015.
- Moved the date of the next City Council meeting to May 15.