

CITY COUNCIL RECAP



May 5, 2026

A proclamation recognizing Air Quality Awareness Week, the Lockhart EDC demographic and economic profile report, expanded Recycling Center access for Caldwell County residents, FM 20 speed limit reductions, a credit and debit card processing fee adjustment, Certificates of Obligation for future capital projects, an extension related to the proposed Lockhart Municipal Utility District, annexation within the Seawillow development area, and residential parking permit areas near Lockhart ISD campuses were addressed at the May 5 City Council meeting.

City Council Members:

Lew White - Mayor, Brad Westmoreland - At-Large, Taylor Burge - At-Large, Juan Mendoza - District 1, John Castillo - District 2, John Lairsen District 3, Jeffry Michelson- District 4.

Proclamation

Mayor White presented a proclamation declaring May 4 - 8, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week.

Lockhart Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) FY 2024-25 Demographic and Economic Profile Report

The Lockhart EDC presented its FY 2024-25 demographic and economic profile report, highlighting population growth, demographic trends, property valuations, and other market indicators shaping the local economy and business environment in Lockhart and Caldwell County.

Recycling Center Access for Caldwell County Residents

Council approved an ordinance allowing residents of the unincorporated areas of Caldwell County to use the City Recycling Center at 110 North Brazos Street through September 30, 2026, and established a per-trip fee for use of the facility. Further details regarding eligible materials and program operations are forthcoming.

FM 20 Speed Limit Reduction

Council approved an ordinance reducing posted speed limits by 5 miles per hour along portions of FM 20 between East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the eastern city limits following a Texas Department of Transportation speed study conducted in response to a severe accident in the area. The speed reductions were recommended by TxDOT to enhance safety for the traveling public and better reflect current roadway conditions.

Credit and Debit Card Processing Fee Adjustment

Council approved an increase to the City's credit and debit card processing fee from 2% to 3.25%, effective June 1, 2026, to better align with the actual cost charged to the City by its payment processing vendor for card transactions. The fee is intended to function as a pass-through charge for card-based payments associated with City services. Cash, check, money order, and ACH payments will continue to be accepted without a fee. Additional information will be made available on the City website and included in a mailed flyer accompanying utility bills.

Certificates of Obligation for Capital Projects

City Council approved a resolution proceeding toward the issuance of Certificates of Obligation (CO) for up to \$15 million to fund certain capital projects. The proposed projects to be funded include the following:

- Design and construction of an indoor recreation center;
- Other improvements to existing City parks, including Lions Park;
- Upgrades to the existing City Hall;
- Land acquisition and design for future police and/or fire facilities; and
- Street and drainage improvements.

Extension of Conditional Consent for Lockhart MUD of Caldwell County

Council granted Hillwood Communities an additional 90-day extension to the conditional consent for creating the Lockhart Municipal Utility District (MUD), covering 889 acres east of SH 130 and west of Dry Creek Road. The extension, which allows consideration of adding 148.5 acres, remains contingent on approval of a Development Agreement.

Public Hearing - Seawillow Development Area Annexation

Council approved the annexation of approximately 141 acres southeast of the intersection of FM 1322 and Seawillow Road, including portions of phases 2 and 3 of the Seawillow development area and the future site of Seawillow Middle School, which is currently under construction. Upon annexation, the property will initially be zoned Agricultural-Open Space

(AO) until future zoning requests are submitted and considered by the City.

Public Hearings – Residential Parking Permits

Council approved residential parking permit areas for the following locations during school hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on school days:

- Crockett Street from Bowie Street to Alamo Street; and
- Center Street from South Medina Street to Lions Country Drive, including the residences located at 807 and 809 Center Street.

The permit areas are intended to address neighborhood parking impacts associated with nearby Lockhart ISD campuses by limiting on-street parking to authorized residential permit holders. Residents within the designated areas will receive parking permits, and City crews will install signage identifying the permit zones. The action follows Council's earlier approval of a citywide framework allowing neighborhoods to petition for residential parking permit programs.

City Manager's Report

Summer Fan Program

The Summer Fan Program begins May 1. The program provides free box fans to eligible Lockhart residents to manage upcoming hot temperatures. Those in need of a fan may stop by Lockhart City Hall (308 W. San Antonio St.) during business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. A government issued ID or utility bill to prove Lockhart residency is required. To prove disability, bring your letter from the Social Security Administration.

Qualifications:

- Must be a Lockhart resident
- Aged 65 or older
- Have a disability
- Did not receive a fan from the 2025 program

Update on CARTS Lockhart Transit Station

Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) secured TxDOT grant funding for the design and engineering of the proposed Lockhart Transit Station, with design anticipated to begin in early 2027 and continue for approximately 12–18 months. Following completion of

design, CARTS is expected to pursue additional TxDOT grant funding for construction, which may become available as early as September 2028.

The future station is expected to function as a small regional transit hub and would provide amenities such as covered waiting areas, seating, bicycle racks, accessible restrooms, and connections to regional transit routes. CARTS will determine routes and fares associated with the station after construction.

Lockhart State Park grows by 188 acres with new acquisition

Lockhart State Park has expanded its boundaries by 188 acres with the acquisition of two neighboring properties. This new addition, which nearly doubles the size of the park, was completed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy in Texas. With the new additions, the park is growing to 453 acres.

LCRA Timmerman Power Plant is fully operational

The LCRA Timmerman Power Plant in Maxwell, Caldwell County, is fully operational as of April 2026, one month ahead of schedule. The 380-megawatt, two-unit natural gas peaker plant is designed to provide rapid, dispatchable power for the Texas grid.

The plant features 10 high-efficiency engines per unit, delivering enough power for 100,000 homes.

ATTENTION: *This is a recap of the highlights of action taken at the May 5, 2026 Council meeting. The complete agenda can be found by visiting: [City of Lockhart, TX \(lockhart-tx.org\)](http://CityofLockhart,TX(lockhart-tx.org)).*

###