

CITY OF DESOTO CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

May 15, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

SOFT REOPENING OF CITY FACILITIES | On Monday, May 18, City Hall and some other important facilities will reopen to the public on a graduated basis. It will be a “soft reopening” designed to gradually restore on-site service while maintaining essential safety guidelines.

City Hall will be open normal business hours with additional safety requirements for customers. Visitors are asked to refrain from bringing visitors into the building, to sanitize hands, to clean surfaces after use, to maintain six feet of separation, to wear a mask or face covering, to refrain from loitering in the building, and to refrain from visiting staff members.

While the Parks & Recreation Department administrative offices will be open on May 18, the fitness center will not reopen until Tuesday, May 26. The fitness center will have a modified schedule and additional safety guidelines in place including signing up for designated time slots. The fitness center will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The gym, running track, and other Recreation Center rooms will remain closed until further notice. Additionally, park playgrounds, the BMX complex, and park restrooms will remain closed until further notice.

The Library, including the computer lab, will open on May 18 with modified hours, Monday through Friday from 12:00 PM until 6:00 PM. The Library will remain closed on weekends until further notice. Only 30 visitors will be allowed at one time for a period of up to one hour per day per visitor.

BULKY WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT RESCHEDULED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER | Due to forecasted thunderstorms and rain, the City is rescheduling the May 16 Bulky Waste Drop-Off Event to Saturday, May 23 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM located at Grimes Park. Residents are asked to use the entrance located at 500 E. Centre Park Blvd. Residents will be required to unload their own vehicles to limit exposure to City employees. DeSoto residency is required; therefore a valid driver's license or a utility bill showing current address is required for confirmation.

JUNETEENTH VIRTUAL EVENT | The City's annual Juneteenth Event was originally scheduled for Friday, June 19 at Grimes Park; however, it has been cancelled in its normal format due to COVID-19. However, staff will provide a Juneteenth Virtual Experience designed to commemorate the rich culture that derived from this historic event. The viewing of this program is scheduled on Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19 beginning at 7:00 PM each day through social media platforms and the City's website.

CHATTEY ROAD PROJECT | Chattey Road construction started this week. The estimated construction duration is one year. Communication in the forms of hand delivered written notices, message boards, social media, project signs, and emails were utilized to make citizens aware of the construction.

2020 RENOVATION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT | The construction contract for the 2020 Renovation and Replacement Project was approved by the City Council on May 5, and the contract is scheduled to begin in June. The construction will include replacement of water and sewer lines and pavement reconstruction.

Communication in the forms of written notices, message boards, social media, project signs, and emails will be utilized to make citizens aware of the construction.

Project Updates

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 | The Ellis Davis Testing Site has received additional funding to continue testing through the end of June. A new private test site is opening today at the Walmart located at 951 W Belt Line Rd. Governor Abbott has directed the Texas Fire Service to test every resident and staff member of all long-term adult care facilities in Texas, of which DeSoto has three facilities, Park Manor, Williamsburg Village, and DeSoto Nursing Home. Williamsburg Village underwent testing of almost 400 staff and residents on May 4 by the Parkland Mobile Testing Unit with no reported positive cases. As of today, there are 103 identified DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 137 individual positive cases.

IMPACT FEE STUDY | City staff has received and reviewed the work performed by the impact fee consultant. This item is scheduled for the Topical Work Session on Monday, May 18 to allow adequate discussion between the City Council, staff, and consultant.

STRATEGIC PLANNING | Staff held a phone conference last week with DeSoto ISD leadership regarding opportunities to align the City's and the School District's strategic planning processes. Consultants from each respective organization met and are exploring opportunity to align overarching goals and plans for both organizations. The consultants are analyzing potential timeline impacts on that effort. The community dialogue sessions are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 11. Information will be distributed next week to the City Council requesting recommendations for community members to participate in the dialogue sessions, which are being planned for small in-person events consistent with safe social distancing practices.

COMMUNITY SURVEY | The consultant, City Manager, and Mayor are working to finalize a community-wide survey document and will share the final version with the City Council. Due to current limitations and restrictions on City services, the survey will be held until after stay-at-home orders are lifted. Once the survey vendor is given notice to proceed, the company needs about three weeks to begin mailing documents.

RENTAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE | Staff has finalized and prepared the presentation regarding a new rental registration ordinance to address landlord responsibility. This item is scheduled for the Topical Work Session on Monday, May 18 to allow adequate discussion between the City Council and staff.

BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT | The video equipment is installed in the Council Conference Room for recording and broadcasting City Council work sessions. The audio equipment install should be completed by the end of today.

Weekly Events & Meetings

May 16 Military Appreciation Day Event. Rain or Shine! Drive through event featuring free In-N-Out burgers for DeSoto military families - City Hall south parking lot 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	June 4 Mayor's Quarterly at 6:30 PM Bluebonnet Rooms (location tentative)
May 18 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	June 15 City Council Topical Work Session at 6:00 PM (topics to be determined)
May 18 City Council Topical Work Session at 6:00 PM via Video Conference (Impact Fees & Rental Registration Ordinance)	June 15-19 Juneteenth Virtual Event at 7:00 PM each day through social media and City website.
May 19 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 5:30 PM via Video Conference	June 16 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 5:30 PM
May 23 Bulk Waste Drop-Off Event at Grimes Park, 501 E Wintergreen Rd at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	June 20 Budget Training City Council at 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM City Council Conference Room (Tentative)
June 2 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 6:00 PM	June 22 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

PROMOTIONS

NAME	START MONTH	DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Glover, Christopher	May	Parks Department	Interim Parks Director

NEW HIRES

NAME	START MONTH	DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Hightower, Jaylin	May	Police	Jailer



Renee Johnson, Parks Director, served in the City of DeSoto for 12 years and is retiring today from the City.



Alicia Thomas, Assistant City Secretary, celebrated her 7 year anniversary with the City.

New Businesses & City Development

SOLAR TURBINES | Solar Turbines is adding 8,000 square feet to their building located at 215 S. Centre Blvd that is currently under construction.

FIRE STATION NO.2 | Construction is 90% complete with an estimated completion end of June. An open house will be scheduled as soon as the completion date is finalized.

DeSoto



All-America City

