

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

May 22, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

SOFT REOPENING OF CITY FACILITIES | On Monday, May 18, the City opened some of its facilities to the public. It will be a “soft reopening” designed to gradually restore on-site service while maintaining essential safety guidelines.

So far, the number of visitors to open facilities has been light, social distancing guidelines have been widely followed, and cleanliness protocols are in place. The fitness center will reopen Tuesday, May 26 with 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.

BULKY WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT | The City is hosting the second bulky waste drop-off event on 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.

IN-PERSON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS | As City facilities are now reopened in a limited capacity to the public, City Council Meetings will be held in person for upcoming meetings starting in June. Plans are being finalized to maintain social distancing both at the dais and in the public seats. Additional information will be provided to the City Council prior to the next City Council Meeting on June 2.

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 the week of May 11. The estimated construction duration is one year. Residents communication in the form of written notices were sent to make citizens aware of the construction. Message boards, social media, project signs, and emails were also utilized.

2020 RENOVATION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT | The construction contract for the 2020 Renovation and Replacement Project 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.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM | Consistent with the update provided to the City Council at the May 19 City Council Meeting, the City of DeSoto, in partnership with the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, will begin accepting small business grant applications Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, June 12. The application is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov/SmallBusinessGrant. Small business grant funding is available for DeSoto businesses with less than 25 full time equivalent employees that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant provides up to two months of salary costs for low- and

moderate-income employees with a maximum grant award per business of \$5,000.

A communication plan was developed that includes posting on social media platforms, on the City website, sending out information via mail and email, LED signage, and flyer hand out by the Economic Recovery Task Force Business Subcommittee.

The application process will be handled internally and the formation of the review committee is underway. There is a dedicated email address that was created for communication of this program with the applicants. Staff will also host three video conferences through the application process in order to give specific instructions on how to fill the application. Phone number 972-230-9694 will be used for program. Questions and comments regarding the small business grant program including the filling out the application should be submitted in writing to smallbusinessgrant@desototexas.gov. Staff will respond as quickly as possible.

Project Updates

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 | The Ellis Davis Testing Site has received additional funding to continue testing through the end of June. Walmart is offering drive through testing on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:00AM through 9:00 AM. Charlton Methodist drive through Testing is only by appointment Monday through Friday 9:00 AM through 1:00PM. Fire has assisted in the development of a regional plan and rostering of teams of firefighters from the Metroplex to test all long term care facilities that participate in Medicare or Medicaid. 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 110 identified DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 162 individual positive cases.

IMPACT FEE STUDY | Based on City Council input during the May 18 Topical Work Session, city staff is gathering development trends information from 1985 through 2010 to provide a report to the City Council. A timeline update for

that information will be provided after determining the availability of this development information.

STRATEGIC PLANNING | The next phase of the strategic planning process will be community dialogue sessions tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 11. Information will be distributed next week to the City Council requesting recommendations for three community members to participate in the dialogue sessions, which are being planned for small, in-person events consistent with safe social distancing practices.

RENTAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE | Based on City Council input received at the May 18 Topical Work Session, staff is finalizing the rental registration ordinance. The next step will be hosting a public meeting no later than the first week of July.

Staff reviewed the work space requirement for the inspector position and identified a solution within the current Fire Administration office remodel project that will not impact the budget of that project. The upfront cost of this project will be appropriately reduced based on this solution.

TOM THUMB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT | As a show of good faith, Senior Management for Randall's Food and Drug has elected to proceed with their planned remodel work and investment of \$500,000 in the Tom Thumb store this year (2020), irrespective of the status of the pending First Amendment to the agreement. The City Attorney will revise the draft First Amendment to include the specified timeline as outline at last night's Council meeting, for Phase 2 of the Interior Renovations (\$500,000) in 2021. The Amendment will stipulate that Phase 2 interior renovations must begin on or before May 1, 2021, and must be completed on or before September 1, 2021. A revised first amendment will be on the June 2 meeting for consideration.

Weekly Events & Meetings

May 23 Bulk Waste Drop-Off Event at Grimes Park, 501 E Wintergreen Rd at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	June 15-19 Juneteenth Virtual Event at 7:00 PM each day through social media and City website.
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June 2 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 6:00 PM (Council Chambers)	June 16 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 5:30 PM (Council Chambers)
June 4 Mayor's Quarterly at 6:30 PM Bluebonnet Rooms (location tentative)	June 20 Budget Training City Council at 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM City Council Conference Room (Tentative)
June 15 City Council Topical Work Session at 6:00 PM (topics to be determined)	June 22 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Council Conference Room

New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

NEW HIRES

NAME	START MONTH	DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Hightower, Jaylin	May	Police	Jailer
Holt, Carlos L.	May	Public Utility	Meter Technician

New Businesses & City Development

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.