

CITY OF DESOTO CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

May 29, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

WATER AND SEWER RELIEF PROGRAM | On May 19, the City Council approved a program to provide payment relief to utility customers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will give a free month of water and sewer fee charges for those commercial customers that were deemed “non-essential” during the shutdown and for residential customers enrolled in the Senior Citizen Homestead Discount Program. Residential customers who are not enrolled in that program may receive a credit of up to \$40 of their existing deposit to be applied to their current bill upon request.

The free month of water and sewer service for qualifying accounts will be reflected on their bills due for payment in July. To take advantage of the \$40 deposit credit, customers must apply no later than August 31, 2020. Information regarding this program is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov or by calling the Utility Billing office at 972.230.9627. This credit will be reflected on the next billing statement following application.

Communication is posted on the City's website and being included in the next water bill newsletter to inform customers about the program. A press release is also being forwarded to the Focus Daily News.

SOFT REOPENING OF CITY FACILITIES | Social distancing guidelines have been widely followed, and cleanliness protocols are in place. The fitness center reopened Tuesday, May 26 with a modified schedule and additional safety guidelines in place including signing up for designated time slots. The fitness center is 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, other Recreation Center rooms, pool, senior center, park playgrounds, and park restrooms will remain closed until further notice. The BMX complex is being reopened as of June 1 with established safety guidelines in place.

IN-PERSON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS | City Council Meetings will be held in person for upcoming meetings starting in June. In order to maintain social distancing, a new June 2 dais seating plan is provided with this report. The dais will support five people properly spaced with the other two elected officials being placed at the desk on the left, looking from the dais to the audience. In order to fairly rotate the two elected officials at the desk location, Council Members will rotate in alphabetical order based on last name. For the June 2 meeting, the two members at the desk will be Councilwoman Brown-Patrick and Councilman Byrd. For the next meeting, the two members will be Councilwoman Marks and Mayor Pro Tem Moore.

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.



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 | The City staff started accepting small business grant applications this week. Applications will be accepted through Friday, June 12. The application is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov/SmallBusinessGrant. 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.

Ongoing communication efforts to announce the program include posting on social media platforms and the City website, sending out information via mail and email, announcing with LED signs, direct calling businesses, and distributing flyers door-to-door through the Economic Recovery Task Force Business Subcommittee. Newspaper advertisements are available online and in print on Sunday, May 31.

The application process will be handled internally and the formation of the review committee is underway. Staff will host three video conferences through the application process to answer questions and provide instructions for filling out the application. Phone number 972.230.9694 will be used for this program as the business hot line number.

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. Methodist Charlton drive through testing is by appointment

only Monday through Friday 9:00 AM through 1:00PM. Ellis Davis conducted 2,140 tests this past week. DeSoto Health and Rehab residents were tested on Tuesday, May 26. Park Manor residents will be tested on Saturday, May 30. As of today, there are 120 identified DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 185 individual positive cases.

FORMER ALBERTSON'S SITE UPDATE | On Tuesday, City and DEDC representatives met with the developer interested in converting the former Albertson's building into a climate controlled self-storage business. Representatives from Randall Food's were also present in the meeting. The developer presented their plan, which included converting the existing building and constructing a new out-lot parcel in the parking lot for a new business application. While the developer presented a quality self-storage business proposal, the feedback from City and DEDC representatives expressed a desire to see a higher quality development at that location. Sensing a lack of support for the proposed project, the developer indicated that the project would be put on hold until such time as support could be obtained.

City Manager Wright's recommendation regarding this property is to engage in a master planning process for Belt Line Road between Westmoreland and Cockrell Hill to facilitate future development in that area. This plan should include strategic economic development incentive tools and policies to accelerate the timeframe necessary to attain that master plan vision. This item is expected to be further discussed during development of the 2021 Business Plan.

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. That report is anticipated to be available by June 4, and the impact fee study contract for phase II will be placed on the June 16 City Council Meeting agenda for consideration.

STRATEGIC PLANNING | The next phase of the strategic planning process will be community dialogue sessions scheduled for Thursday, June 18. Information was distributed this 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. Communication was sent out to the facilitators and

recorders as well to get confirmation of commitment. Invitations to the Dining and Dialogue will be sent out the first week of June to invited participants.

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.

Weekly Events & Meetings

May 29 Virtual Small Business Grant Program application assistance at 5:30 PM	June 15-19 Juneteenth Virtual Event at 7:00 PM each day through social media and City website.
June 1 Town Hall Meetings for Small Business Grant Program at 1:30 PM and 5:30 PM - City Council Chamber	June 16 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 5:30 PM (Council Chambers)
June 2 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 6:00 PM (Council Chambers)	June 17 Virtual DeSoto Works Job Fair – This event will be an all-day event
June 4 Mayor’s Quarterly at 6:30 PM Tele-Conference	June 18 Virtual DeSoto Works Job Fair – This event will be an all-day event
June 5 Virtual Small Business Grant Program application assistance at 5:30 PM	June 18 Strategic Planning Dine & Dialogue Event – Multiple locations in City building at 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
June 10 Virtual Small Business Grant Program application assistance at 5:30 PM	June 20 Budget Training City Council at 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM City Council Conference Room (Tentative)
June 11 City Council Team Building Workshop 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Blue Bonnet Room	June 22 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Council Conference Room
June 12 DEDC Board Meeting and DEDC Board Meeting Retreat DeSoto Heliport at 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	June 26 Fourth Friday Concert location TBD, virtual broadcast at 8:00 PM Natural Change Band
June 15 City Council Topical Work Session at 6:00 PM (Moseley Pool Audit & Economic Development Type A/B Structure)	

Upcoming Work Session Time Schedule

1. REVIEW OF MASTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS | **6:00 PM TO 6:05 PM**
2. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS | **6:05 PM TO 6:10 PM**
3. UPDATE REGARDING ACTION TAKEN BY THE CITY AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ANY FUTURE MEASURES THAT MAY BE NECESSARY INCLUDING CITY OPERATIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY, BUSINESS COORDINATION, AND WORKFORCE NEEDS | **6:10 PM TO 6:15 PM**
4. DISCUSS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH STRETSAM, LLC FOR SMOOTHIE KING LOCATED AT 104 W. PLEASANT RUN ROAD | **6:15 PM TO 6:25 PM PRESENTATION / 6:25 PM TO 6:40 PM CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION**
5. DISCUSS ORDER OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION AGENDA | **6:40 PM TO 6:45 PM PRESENTATION / 6:45 pm TO 6:55 PM CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

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.

