

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

August 21, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

Public Hearings for Proposed Budget & Tax Rate | The City Finance Department initially scheduled two Public hearings just for the proposed tax rate. With our proposed rate of (.701554) being lower than the 'no new revenue rate' of (.711897) and the 'voter-approved tax rate' of (.746384) we are no longer required by the Tax Code law to hold two Public Hearings for the proposed tax rate.

We have scheduled a Public Hearing for September 1, 2020, for the proposed tax rate of (.701554) and the proposed FY2021 budget. Our final Public Hearing will be on September 15, 2020, to adopt the tax rate and the FY2021 Operating Budget.

2020 CENSUS |

The City continues to encourage residents to complete their 2020 Census forms to ensure that an accurate resident count is conducted. The recent count shows that DeSoto has the highest response rate statewide and nationally with 69.6%. Texas has an

average of 59.4%, and the nationwide rate is 64.2%. The 2020 Census is still available online for completion. Enumerators will begin making home visits to those who have not completed the Census form in the coming weeks.

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 | The American Airlines Center mobile testing units were relocated to the University of Dallas. Walmart continues to offer drive-through testing daily from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. DC3 Church will remain open for testing every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Methodist Charlton drive-through testing is by appointment only Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Ellis Davis testing center is open under the direction of PD/FD and Parkland Hospital staff. As of today, there are 728 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,188 individual positive cases. Judge Jenkins has relaxed the criteria for testing and is encouraging Dallas County residents to take advantage of the testing. Ellis Davis Field House will be designated as the public testing site for Dallas County school teachers and students.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Staff completed the painting of the fencing and poles around the Meadow Creek Football Complex. It's amazing how fresh paint brightens the facility.



Illegal dumping at Moseley Park on the weekends has been a continuing problem. Staff worked with a contractor to build a fence around the dumpster to deter citizens from filling it up with bulk items.



Special Events:



The Latino Concert was taped on August 16, 2020, at the Amphitheater. The concert celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15) will be released via social media on September 19, from 7:00pm -8:00pm. Entertainment performance is provided by Havana NRG.

Click [here](#) to view a 20 sec. video.

Recreation Programming:
Geekletes/Esposure Esports Masterclass Virtual Camp

The Parks and Recreation Department and Geekletes partnered to introduced a new virtual program Esposure Esports Masterclass (EEM) for DeSoto residents. The Esposure Esports Masterclass provides unprecedented insight from top experts on the best practices for Esports and other core skills such as computer science, technology, critical thinking, mathematics, and engineering.

Details:

- 3-week summer program
- 90% virtual learning and 10% hands-on learning
- Available to (10) DeSoto Middle school and High school students



[Click here](#) to view video.

ARTS COMMISSION FOURTH FRIDAY CONCERT



SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE |

ROUND 1 – 90 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 3 Applications submitted after the deadline and were not accepted
- 13 Applications are still in the review process
- 15 Applications were initially denied, but were found to have been denied for inconsistent reasons and were forwarded to Round 2 for reconsideration
- 39 Applications remain denied
- 20 Applications have been approved for grant awards, thus far

ROUND 2 – 42 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 15 Applications were forwarded from Round 1 because they were denied for inconsistent reasons in the Round 1 phase

- 7 Applications were denied because they are home-based businesses and therefore do not qualify for this program
- 1 Application was denied, because of a PPP loan, which was sufficient to pay employee salaries
- 4 Applications were submitted by the applicant, but they also applied for Round 1; in these cases, the Round 1 file was closed and the Round 2 file is being considered
- 15 Applications are still in the review process

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT | Our annual Household Hazardous Waste Event has been rescheduled to Saturday, August 22, 2020, from 7 AM to 11 AM at the DeSoto Pump Station located at 620 S. Westmoreland Rd. This event is for DeSoto residents only and proof of residency is required. Only residential household hazardous waste will be accepted; commercial waste or electronics are not allowed. Due to limited space, those who would like to participate must register prior to the event by calling 972-230-9600 or appearing at the Action Center in DeSoto City Hall to request a voucher.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT | The Annual Spring Document Shredding Event that was canceled due the COVID-19 Pandemic has been rescheduled and will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020, from 9 AM to noon at the Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road. Only household documents will be accepted for shredding. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer E-recycling at this event because Goodwill Services, our E-recycling partner, is not conducting E-recycling events at this time due to the effects of the Pandemic.

Project Updates

RENTAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE | Due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff canceled the in-person public rental registration meeting previously scheduled for July 16. In order to accommodate virtual sessions which are limited to 135 participants, the Development Services Department hosted three virtual meetings for the public. The first Public Meeting took place on August 6th and the second meeting took place on August 13th and the final one on the 20th. Property owners were very engaged in the discussion, asking numerous questions, and providing recommendations for City Council to consider during the implementation process.

The ordinance creating the Rental Registration Program is anticipated to be considered at a September City Council Meeting with an enforcement date of April 2021.

CITIZEN SURVEY UPDATE | DeSoto Community Survey Provider, ETC Institute, has informed us that surveys began arriving in DeSoto mailboxes on Tuesday. In addition to their surveys, participants received a letter from Mayor McCowan, in English and Spanish, discussing the importance of the survey and referring them to the Action Center if they need assistance. English speaking inquiries are being handled in house, but Spanish speakers needing assistance will be put through to Survey provider ETC's Spanish Language translation service. A second round of online postings was made shortly before surveys began to arrive in DeSoto and have been well received.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE | The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which includes the City Council and other staff participants, has completed all four required planning sessions and now the consultant will move forward to finalize the draft strategic plan for Council review.

Weekly Events & Meetings

August 22 Household Hazardous Waste Event 7 AM to 11 AM (Westmoreland Pump Station)	August 24, 2020, Special Virtual Arts Commission Meeting 6PM
August 25 Planning & Zoning Meeting	August 27 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9 AM to 2 PM. (Video Meeting) www.gotomeetings.com
August 28 Fourth Friday Virtual Concert with The Funky Knuckles Band 8pm	

New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

NEW HIRES

NAME	START MONTH	DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Michael Puentes	August	Development Services	Maintenance Workers Streets

We have filled the Assistant to the City Manager position in the City Manager's Office. We had many fantastic applicants, and we are pleased to announce that Kimberly Garduno, currently a Senior Management Analyst with the City of Mesquite, has accepted the job here in DeSoto. She has a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas and will be a great addition to our team. She brings experience in grants, working with EDC's, and completing special projects.

Her start date is Tuesday, August 25.

Interviews with the Deputy City Manager Candidates will be conducted on Thursday, August 27th.