

The Mayor's Quarterly 360° Meeting with homeowner's association/neighborhood representatives and citizens met on Thursday, June 4, 2020, via Zoom, with the following attendees:

Staff

Mayor Curtistene McCowan
Mayor Pro Tem Kenzie Moore III
Councilmember Nicole Raphiel
Councilmember Dinah Marks
City Manager, Brandon Wright
Deputy City Manager, Isom Cameron
Fire Chief, Jerry Duffield
Police Sergeant, Gary Perkins
Director of Development Services, Crystal Owens
Director of Finance, Tracy Cormier
Code Enforcement Manager, Charles Humphrey
Assistant Director of Public Utilities, Tonya Warren
Assistant City Secretary, Alicia Thomas
Interim Director of Parks & Recreation, Chris Glover
Communications Manager, Matt Smith
Director of Library, Kerry McGeath
Director of IT, Tom Figert

Attendees

Duane Otey
Holly Otey
Everett Smith
Claudia Franklin
Arthur Hobbs
Pierette Parker
Linda Harris
Tongee Flemming
Elma Goodwin
Leon McCowan
Ricardo Pierson
Ms. McCorley

I. Welcome

- a. Mayor McCowan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and conducted roll of attendees. Councilmember Dinah Marks provided the invocation.
- b. The Mayor opened the floor for introductions to be made around the table.

II. Mayor's Announcements

- a. Mayor McCowan introduced City Manager, Brandon Wright. City Manager Wright gave a brief introduction and background information on himself and

provided a COVID-19 update. The most recent count of coronavirus cases has cumulatively reached 197, affecting 123 DeSoto addresses. City Facilities have been closed and are gradually beginning to reopen, while continuing to focus on maintaining social distancing. City Council meetings will reconvene in-person for the month of June, as well as the DeSoto Parks, DeSoto gymnasium and the Fitness center that are preparing to reopen with safety guidelines put in place. Moseley Pool will not open this summer, and the Senior Center remains closed at this time. Mayor McCowan opened the floor to COVID-19 questions for the City Manager. A resident inquired about the considerations to be met in order for the Senior Center to reopen. Mr. Wright stated that the Senior Center would be last to reopen and reopening will be based on the number of cases in the upcoming weeks in order to avoid any potential risks to our senior citizens. A second resident inquired about communication to seasonal Moseley Pool employees regarding the decision to remain closed for the summer and if there would be other job opportunities for those employees. Mr. Wright stated that there would be public announcement in the upcoming week and will be sure to communicate this decision to those employees. Due to the slow re-opening of the Parks & Recreation Department, there will not be a lot of additional job opportunities in that area for the duration of the summer and into the Fall.

- b. Mayor McCowan opened the floor to Councilmember Marks to discuss the previously discussed Customer Service Initiative. Councilmember Marks stated that the Intra-City program was ready to move forward; however, after the unexpected pandemic, the program was halted. The courses have transitioned into virtual learning. The program has partnered with the Texas Workforce Commission to received additional monies to aid in their efforts and with the assistance of the City Manager's staff, was able to reach out to 250 businesses to invite a representative of each business to a virtual learning session next week, which will be led by TWC Director Daryl Robinson.

III. Staff Updates

- a. Mayor McCowan provided a Census update on behalf of Councilmember Nicole Raphiel and requested that HOA leaders forward all newsletters and other pertinent information to their communities.
- b. Crystal Owens, Development Services Director, requested clarification on City area pot holes concern from previous meeting. Mayor McCowan provided clarification on the location as the Wintergreen Rd. and Polk Street intersection. Per Mrs. Owens, the City is in the process of addressing the issue.
- c. Brandon Wright, City Manager, expressed an appreciation from Mr. Potter, from DW Distribution regarding repaired streets.
- d. Councilmember Dinah Marks requested an update from Crystal Owens on Parkerville Road. Crystal Owens informed that the project is scheduled to bid out next week and anticipate construction starting within sixty (60) days from the bid being accepted. Mrs. Owens addressed previous citizen comment regarding providing project updates on the website. Currently, the project piece on the website has been revamped and should be easier to view. Additionally, Mrs. Owens provided an update to a Frost Farms resident from the previous meeting regarding the erosion project, which was delayed until school adjourned for the school year and anticipate beginning the project in the near future.

I. HOA Participant Discussions & Concerns

- A Chapel Hill resident expressed concern regarding the project for the widening of Pleasant Run Road and would like to know when the bulk pickup resume. Crystal Owens stated that the City is currently in the process of acquiring the right of way for that area and are looking to begin the project in the summer of 2021. Isom Cameron informed resident that Republic will resume bulk pickup on June 15th and our Communications Manager, Matt Smith, will be putting an update with this information on the website for citizen awareness. Also, due to COVID-19 and residents working from home more, there was an influx in household waste which created an increase in labor and trips of disposal.
- Chris Glover, Interim Parks Director, provided an update on the reopening of the Recreation Center this upcoming Monday - Friday. The Parks Department provided

notices to the Silvercreek Estates community on the removal of the parking lot during the week of July 13th. Mantlebrook Trail project and landscape is coming along very well. The Juneteenth Celebration is scheduled for June 15th – 19th and will be virtual this year and enjoyable for all ages and will be uploaded to YouTube for viewing.

- Charles Humphrey, Code Enforcement Officer provided an update on upcoming hiring of a new code enforcement officer.
- Chief Duffield provided an update on testing site at Ellis Davis Fieldhouse and fire staff providing masks and sanitizers at area churches
- Brandon Wright, City Manager, provided an update on the small business grant program funds with an application deadline of Friday, June 12th at 4pm. Additional information is available on our website There is \$360,000 available for distribution within this program. There is also a Water & Sewer relief program for a 30-day waiver of fees for businesses and citizens, which will run through the end of August. Information can be located on our City website or you can contact the City with any further questions.
- A Silvercreek Estates resident expressed concern of increased trash loitering and lack of community appreciation and/or awareness for the upkeep of the streets. Charles Humphrey addressed the resident's concern and stated that in the event that staff can identify who persons/cars, then the City could issue a citation. Ms. Goodwin suggested additional signage in the area to bring awareness to prevent loitering.
- A resident inquired about the reopening of Moseley Pool. Brandon Wright, City Manager, stated that due to the strict restrictions on usage, it was a City decision to not open the pool for this summer.
- Pierette Parker addressed Crystal Owens regarding the frequency of how often the projects are updated on the website and suggested that information be added to the website for public knowledge.
- Claudia Franklin gave appreciation to Mayor McCowan, Matt Smith, Chief Costa and all of the City Leadership for keeping citizens updated regarding Black Lives Matter.

II. Adjournment

- Mayor McCowan gave appreciation to staff, leaders and the community for working together to stay safe during these unprecedented times. A peaceful demonstration of prayer “Unity in the Community,” which is being led by the Pastor of Community Baptist Church along Hampton Road/Belt Line Road to Westmoreland Road, followed by prayers on the steps of the DeSoto Police Department. The DeSoto Police Department will be hosting a Townhall Meeting to address the concerns of the community on this Tuesday, June 9th from 6:30-7:30pm inside the Council Chamber. Lastly, the Mayor asked the HOA presidents or leaders to provide the most updated contact information to the Assistant City Secretary, Alicia Thomas. All residents can also sign up for “Notify Me” for notifications of upcoming meetings and events. Previous meeting minutes and agendas can be located on the City website, as well. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.
- Next Mayor’s Quarterly Meeting on September 3rd at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Thomas

Assistant City Secretary