Welcome to our new City Council Members
Pam Bach
Terri Golightly
Russell Baker

And a big THANK YOU to our outgoing City Council members!
Matt Sanders
Emily Cramp

Finally, big thank you to the community for helping promote the Local Option Sales and Service tax, especially Robert Greenway, Dave Voll, Carol Lee, Brenda Sage & Steven Jones.

Save the date—June 23rd, 2018. The De Soto Sesquicentennial is fast approaching and we need your help to make it an incredible town-wide celebration! If you’re interested in helping, please contact Marie Hansen at 515-834-2316 today!
CITY OF DESOTO – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2017 – Mayor Butch Ostrander called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Answering roll call was: Pam Bach, Emily Cramp, Mathew Sanders, Kelly Summy and Karen Wilson.

Staff present included City Clerk Marcia Thomas, Public Works Director Dan Van Langen, Police Chief John Sparling and City Attorney DuWayne Dalen.

Motion by Summy/Sanders to approve the agenda; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Wilson/Summy to approve the consent agenda; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

During public forum, Mayor Ostrander gave all the candidates’ time to address the Council and residents regarding their candidacy and why they are running for city council.

Mayor Ostrander opened the public hearing for the rezoning of 325 Walnut Street, De Soto, Iowa from C-2 (Commercial Business District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential) @8:02p.m. Clerk Thomas said she had received no phone calls or written correspondence regarding the rezoning. Property owner, Nick Franceschi told the Mayor and Council that he and his wife had originally planned to construct a building on the property for his wife’s online business but their plans changed. The property has been on the market for over a year and the only interest has been for residential not commercial. With no questions from the audience, Mayor Ostrander closed the public hearing @8:04pm. Motion by Summy/ Wilson to approve the rezoning of property located at 325 Walnut Street, De Soto, Iowa from C-2 (Commercial Business District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential); Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Bach/Cramp to approve the second reading of Ordinance #320; An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of De Soto, Iowa, 2009 by amending section 69.08(15) no parking on Adair Street north of Spruce Street; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Summy and seconded by Wilson that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is finally passed be suspended; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Summy and seconded by Sanders that the Ordinance #320; An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of De Soto, Iowa, 2009, by amending section 69.08(15) no parking on Adair Street north of Spruce Street now be voted on for final consideration and adoption; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Wilson/Sanders to approve the first reading of Ordinance #321; An Ordinance amending the Code Of Ordinances of the City of De Soto, Iowa, 2009, by adding load limits on Osage Avenue; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Cramp and seconded by Sanders that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is finally passed be suspended; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Summy and seconded by Wilson that the Ordinance #321; An Ordinance amending the Code Of Ordinances of the City of De Soto, Iowa, 2009, by adding load limits on Osage Avenue now be voted on for final consideration and adoption; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Wilson/Cramp to approve Resolution 2018-07; A Resolution approving the State of Iowa 2017 financial report fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 for the City of De Soto; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Summy/Bach to approve amendment #1 to the Bartlett & West Contract for the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Wilson/Sanders to approve Change Order #1 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project; a decrease of $30,915.00 to original contract amount; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Summy/Wilson to approve Building Crafts, Inc., general contractor application for payment #1 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project in the amount of $73,439.75; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

No action on item #13.

Motion by Cramp/Wilson to approve Clerk Thomas opt out of long term disability insurance provided by the city and instead the city cover her spouse on delta dental; Clerk Thomas stated that when an employee turns 60 years old the city should review whether the long term disability insurance for that employee is still a benefit. The long term disability policy will pay 60% of one’s salary should the employee become disabled but will first subtract social security disability income and their IPERS disability income. Clerk Thomas stated the insurance company would pay nothing or very little if she were to become disabled. Councilwoman Bach said the City could also tell the employee you either take the long term disability insurance or you don’t and not offer an alternative. Clerk Thomas agreed the Council has that right; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion took place in regards to the City of De Soto provide Police Chief Sparling a 3 year employment contract. Mayor Ostrander suggested to the Council that he, Chief Sparling, City Attorney Dalen and one or two council persons have a separate meeting to discuss this. No action taken.

Having no other business Mayor Ostrander asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Wilson/Sanders to adjourn @8:55 pm; Bach, Cramp, Sanders, Summy, Wilson in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor: Butch Ostrander
Attest: City Clerk, Marcia Thomas

These minutes are subject to approval by the City Council at its next regular meeting.
Soup’s On!
Come to the library December 13th for a cozy afternoon of soup & card games with your community!
11:30AM Ages 18+

Reminder from the De Soto Police Department:
The holiday season is fast approaching, please lock your houses and vehicles. Don’t leave your valuables in a vehicle and if you have to please cover them so they are not as visible. Also remember the snow season is approaching as well please become familiar with the De Soto snow ordinance. As always, stay safe!!

De Soto Build with Bags Campaign
City of De Soto is participating in the Iowa Grocers Associations Build with Bags Grant Program leading into our town’s 150th Sesquicentennial celebration next summer on June 23rd, 2018. This program awards monetary grants to government and or service organizations within Iowa that purchase items for a park or school. Grants of up to $2000 are available.

Additional park benches, picnic tables, and flower planters are planned to beautify our park ahead of the celebration. We ask the citizens of De Soto’s participation by recycling your clean plastic grocery bags at our barrels located at City Hall as well as the De Soto School will also be a collection site to get the kids of De Soto involved. This participation from the citizens allows us extra points toward the grant process.

Please look for the Build with Bags barrels or call Terri Golightly 515-988-1964 for additional details.
Holiday Party
December 2nd @ De Soto Intermediate
10AM-Noon
Come enjoy time with your community making ornaments, decorating sugar cookies, taking photos with Santa & more!
Free** All Ages Welcome
Water Treatment Plant Update 2017

The water treatment plant project is flowing forward! The design of the new treatment plant facility is 40% complete. The city will be constructing a new R.O. (Reverse Osmosis) plant and using pressure filters to remove the iron and manganese from the water. The Iowa DNR requires this process to be tested or piloted to ensure that the city will be able to meet Federal and State requirements for water quality. This work has been completed by the city. The design of the new treatment plant has been reviewed by the city's engineering team as well as city staff who are state certified operators and will oversee the daily operations of the facility. Changes are being made to minimize the cost of the facility without compromising its efficiency.

A new water well which will yield enough water to operate the treatment plant and accommodate future growth of the city will also be constructed as part of this upgrade project. The land for the location of the well has been tested by hydrogeologists to ensure the production potential. The land for the well has been secured by the city of DeSoto.

The city of DeSoto is also working with Xenia Rural water for the purpose of connecting an emergency water connection to their water line. Having an emergency plan for water supply is an Iowa DNR requirement. This water line will be used for emergencies only but will also serve the city in the event that the growth of the community expands at a rate faster than what an expansion of the new treatment plant can handle. It is unlikely that this will be an issue in the future however having the option to purchase water if needed is a planning benefit for the city and its residents.

The new water treatment plant is being designed with growth in mind. The engineers have done an excellent job of preparing the structure to allow for anticipated growth. By simply adding pressure filters and an additional R.O. skid the plant will be able to double production without adding a square inch to the building. This facility will serve DeSoto for decades to come. The design will also allow for distant future expansion for minimal cost and have the ability to double in size again with a simple addition to the plant. The site plan for the project allows for all the future/potential growth needed.

The final design of the treatment plant is scheduled to be ready for bids by February 2018. It is the goal that construction of the project will begin in the early summer of 2018 keeping in mind that the Iowa DNR regulates this process.

The city of DeSoto continues to provide safe drinking water; it is the goal of the city to improve the water quality, increase production and be prepared for the inevitable growth that Dallas County and Iowa is experiencing.

If you have any question feel free to contact DeSoto Public Works Director, Dan Van Langen, cell# 515-208-0066.
Waste Water Treatment Plant 2017 Update

The construction of the city’s new waste water treatment plant began in September of this year. The construction crew, electricians and engineers have been on site nearly daily since the work began. Oversight of the project has been achieved by having monthly construction meetings with city staff, the city engineers, contractors and all sub-contractors who are involved with the project. To date the project remains on schedule with a completion date set for June 2018.

The new waste water treatment plant is referred to as an MBBR Plant, this type of treatment is a newer solution to meet federal requirements for the State of Iowa and we are proud to be part of this leading technology. The City of DeSoto will be the second MBBR Plant to be built in the State of Iowa and this is a much less costly alternative for meeting the federal requirements. MBBR stands for “Moving Bed Bio-Reactor”. Four massive concrete tanks holding thousands of gallons of waste are filled with a “honey comb” media, this media is designed to host the growth of micro-organisms that feed on the waste. These tanks are aerated to supply oxygen to the micro-organisms. The tanks are heated as well which keep the micro-organisms alive during the colder months which we experience in Iowa. The concrete tanks are being constructed on site and will be complete by the end of November.

Currently the waste water plant operates three lagoons or cells, cells #1 & #2 are aerated. Influent waste flows into cell #1 and then through each cell to the outfall or effluent discharge into Bulger Creek, which flows downstream to the Raccoon River. Due to EPA requirements the effluent discharge is also required to be disinfected. As a cost saving measure, the city will be using the existing effluent chlorine contact basin and retrofitting it to install the U.V. disinfection equipment. The work for installing the U.V. equipment will begin in March.

The lagoons are also getting a make-over as part of this project. All three cells are being dredged to remove the bio-solids at the bottom of each cell. Iowa DNR requires that the bio-solids be removed when their volume reaches more than 25% of the lagoon volume. Each cell qualified to be dredged. After the dredging is complete a new aeration system will be installed in cell #1 & #2 as the existing aeration system is not working effectively due to its age and condition.

The contractor, Building Crafts of Iowa, who was awarded the bid for this project, has been ideal to work with. From all aspects of the project, their communication, ability to work with all city departments, engineers, as well as their sub-contractors has helped keep this project moving forward in a productive and positive manner.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to our Public Works Director, Dan Van Langen, cell #208-0066.