



**DESOTO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 10, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the DeSoto Development Corporation (DDC) met on **Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Council Conference Room located in City Hall at the DeSoto Town Center, 211 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, Texas 75115, The meeting was streamed live on Facebook and archived on the websites.

As authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into a closed Executive Session to seek confidential legal advice from the Corporation's attorney on any agenda item listed herein.

“Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 551.127, on a regular, non-emergency basis, members may attend and participate in the meeting remotely by video conference. Should that occur, a quorum of members, including the presiding officer, will be physically present at the location noted on this Agenda.”

REGULAR SESSION - THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER
by Secretary/Treasurer Felicia Pierson at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Felicia Pierson, Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Jones, Director
James Pruitt, Director
Dr. Micaela Herndon, Director

Absent:

Michael Baldwin, Board President
Akilah Wallace, Director
Dr. Ahmad Garrett-Price, Director

Staff Present:

Matt Carlson – DDC Chief Executive Officer
Antoine Long - Economic Development Manager
Soledad Garcia – Economic Development Project Coordinator
Keithan Sutton – Intern
Councilman Andre’ Byrd – City Council Liaison
Majed Al-Ghafry- City Manager

Also Present:

Victoria Thomas, Attorney

Director Mark Jones offered the invocation.



REGULAR AGENDA— NEW BUSINESS— Items for discussion and/or possible action:

1. Finance Status Report as of June 2025 – Lakeita Sutton, Interim Director of Financial Services

Finance status report for June 2025 to be provided at the August Regular Board Meeting.

2. Projects, attraction efforts, site visits, and general operations report
Matt Carlson – Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Carlson provided updates on the business plan goals, department goals, and staff personal and professional development plans, which are summarized in the attached report.

3. Discussion on Next Steps for the Healthy DeSoto Initiative.

The plan to present the Healthy DeSoto project in the City Council study session, initially scheduled for July 16th, has been rescheduled for August 18th due to the City Council's limited July meeting schedule. The presentation involves CIG experts and subcommittee members. The goal is to inform the council better, seek their approval, and engage them in the process. Ongoing discussions with our CIG partners continue to focus on what we've learned and how to move forward. We are developing a presentation that illuminates the project's components that will respond directly to some of the questions and concerns the council expressed during the April presentation to the Council.

4. Nominations and Election of Corporate Officer – (Vice President)

This item was postponed until the entire board is present for the election process.

CONSENT AGENDA

The DDC Chief Executive lists items on the Consent Agenda and recommends them to the DDC Board of Directors for a single vote of approval. At the request of a board director, any item on the Consent Agenda may be removed for a separate vote.

1. Consider approving the minutes of the June 12, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

All board items were approved unanimously on a motion by Director Mark Jones, seconded by Director Micaela Herndon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE:
Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087**

1. No items



BOARD AND LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Councilman Byrd shared that in the 89th Legislative Session, the Destination Tax proposal to change online sales tax from sourcing to destination did not pass. Regarding Local Control, there continues to be pressure from builders to reduce local zoning accountability. The Municipal Elections proposal to require all municipalities to hold elections in November failed. The city's purchase of the Thorntree Country Club will be very lucrative for our city.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:24 p.m.

J. Matt Carlson—Chief Executive Officer