

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT
MAY 2021**

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

For the month of May, the Planning and Development staff continued to split time working in the office and from home given COVID-19. Staff was and is still able to process and review site plans, rezoning and conditional use permit requests, zoning variance applications, street and alley vacation requests, and subdivision plats submitted for compliance with local development regulations and ordinances. We have adapted to doing some reviews of digital submittals of site plans and other materials. Staff has also used time while working at home to gain some training in Planning and Zoning through online webinars.

In May, staff in conjunction with other city departments reviewed seven (7) submittals, which included seven (7) site plans. Staff also provided multiple zoning review/verification letters.

For the Decatur Urbanized Area Transportation Study (DUATS), staff held a Technical and Policy Committee Meeting and held two (2) Bike Plan Core Committee meeting. The draft Bike Plan is available on the City's website for review at: <https://www.decaturlil.gov/regional-bicycle-master-plan-draft>.

We have ongoing Economic Development projects both in the planning stage and under way. Staff along with other departments held Zoom meetings or conference calls for pending and ongoing developments.

As of last week, there were 1,747 job listings in the Decatur, Illinois area on indeed.com, one of the leading national job search sites. Memorial Health Systems led the way with 160 jobs followed by ADM with 96 jobs and Vivian with 68 jobs.

We are also handling the sale of City owned property and closed on three (3) more lots in May to bring the total to 39 vacant lots through the side-lot program for a total sales revenue of \$24,350. 33 of the 39 vacant lots were acquired by adjacent homeowners interested in expanding their outdoor living space with the other acquisitions being made by a Church and Non-profits and one (1) commercial owner that owns other adjacent vacant lots.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS DIVISION

For April, we issued a total of 190 permits with a total work value of \$6,156,234. Of those, we had five (5) permits with a value of over \$200,000 [Mueller Foundry phase 2, new residence, St. Mary's Prairie Suite renovation, Springfield Clinic Urology renovation, & Sam's Fuel Station].

PERMIT TYPE	# ISSUED	WORK VALUE
Building	23	\$5,060,465
Demolition	4	249,575
Electrical	19	34,199
Mechanical	8	34,320
Plumbing	25	62,246
Roof	37	390,294
Pool	4	33,583
Fence	18	60,082
Sign	2	14,000
Temporary Structure	1	100
TOTAL	141	\$5,938,864

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DIVISION

- Staff continued to prepare special reports for loans. Collections and delinquency reports continue on various loan accounts.
- Staff qualified homeowners for the Residential Rehabilitation program.
- Staff prepared environmental reports for residential rehabs, demolitions, exempt activities and infrastructure projects.
- Staff continued assistance through the Emergency program for homeowners with life threatening, health and safety issues, i.e. inoperable air conditioners and electrical.
- The City of Decatur continued to market and process the \$1.19 million dollar Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities (DCEO) CURE's local ES grant to assist small businesses. The program ends in June 2021.
- Staff continues working with Dove Financial Assistance using CDBG-CV funds to assist residents with rent/mortgages and utilities. Dove's May report was not received by the time this report was due.
- Staff began formulating RFP for a housing study to be done this Fall along with the development of a Workforce Development Ecosystem.
- Staff met with various nonprofits to discuss revitalization opportunities. Several have submitted proposals on how they can assist with the efforts within the Johns Hill project.
- City of Decatur continues to work with Community Investment Corporation of Decatur (CICD) as a sub recipient to assist small businesses with mortgage/rent and utilities. CICD's May report was not received by the time this report was due.
- The Washington Post wrote an article about the HUD COVID funds and the lack of expenditures. Rep. Rodney Davis asked for a meeting with Dove and the City of Decatur to find out how best.
- City staff held the first of three City-wide cleanups. The next will be held in September.
- Staff continues working on the Neighborhood Revitalization strategy, which includes rehabilitation and demolition to various areas of the City.
- Staff continues work on the IHDA Single family Rehab grant and Strong Communities Grant.
- DCDF President, Glenn Livingston resigned. Working with City Manager to find a suitable replacement.
- Staff continues providing technical assistance to a local neighborhood organization who is interested in being a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).
- Staff continues to be active in the Continuum of Care process as well as homeless meetings, and events as required by HUD.
- The City has partnered with Woodford Homes (Carrie Lane) by providing HOME financial assistance for a new group home project. The overall project cost is about 4 million. Staff is conducting the environmental for the various funding sources.
- Staff continues working with HUD CPD-Chicago to ensure compliance with a multi-rental complex.
- Staff has begun meeting with the Regional Neighborhood Network Conference (RNNC) Steering Committee to determine the future of the organization.
- Staff continues work on CDBG funded demolitions as part of the ongoing Community Revitalization strategy.
- Staff met with outside agencies, i.e. Dove, DMCOC dba Empowerment Opportunity Center, CICD, Shemilah Outreach, Community Foundation, EnRich Employment training program, Workforce Investment Board, Block by Block, Beautify Decatur and various committees.

NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTIONS DIVISION

Staff continued to enforce the International Property Maintenance Code and local City Ordinances (Chapters 48, 49, 56 and 70). The Division is committed to working with the citizens of Decatur to maintain a healthy and safe environment for those living here.

See attached for a summary of the work involved during the month of May 2021.

ATTACHMENT

**NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTIONS DIVISION
MONTHLY REPORT
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NEW CASES	
Health & Safety (72 Hour)	68
Direct to Legal (Repeat Offenders)	0
Housing and Unfit	42
No Garbage Service	5
Nuisance	97
Secure of Abandoned Buildings	23
Weeds	473
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TOTAL	708

DEMOLITIONS	
Year-to-Date	
Demolished	0
New Cases	1
Sent to Legal	2
Sent to Council	0
Out to Bid	0
Contracts Granted	10
Contract Amount	158,379.00
Permits Issued	3
Permits Finaled	0
Active Demolitions	207

RE-INSPECTION VISITS	
Code Enforcement	681
Weeds	458
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TOTAL	1139

GARBAGE SERVICE COMPLAINTS	
Received	6

CASES SENT TO LEGAL FOR COURT	
Code Enforcement	37
Weeds	325

INVOICES*	
New Invoices	437
Dollar Amount	\$119,305.93

WEED ABATEMENT	
Contractor Mowed	331
Owner Mowed	70
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TOTAL	401

PAYMENTS RECEIVED**	
Weeds (Year-to-date)	\$1,571.70

* includes costs incurred by the City of Decatur - Health and Safety (72 hour), Securing of Abandoned Buildings and Weed Abatement

** reimbursement for costs incurred by the City of Decatur for weed abatement.