



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

De Soto City Council Approves Development Agreement with Panasonic

DE SOTO, Kansas – (OCT. 20, 2023) – The De Soto City Council voted 5-0 to approve a development agreement with Panasonic Energy Corporation of North America last night, solidifying the terms and conditions related to the development of the company’s electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. The Panasonic facility will be located at Astra Enterprise Park in southwest De Soto.

The agreement ensures funding for significant infrastructure and services needed to support the new facility and future growth in the area. It also represents a significant milestone in the City’s efforts to facilitate the redevelopment of the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, which has been dormant since the mid 1990’s.

“This agreement reflects our commitment to De Soto’s future,” Mayor Rick Walker said. “We’re thrilled to be transforming this area into a regional jobs hub and we’ve worked hard to make sure De Soto residents will benefit from these efforts for generations to come.”

The agreement outlines the terms and conditions of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) incentive for the company. The TIF incentive uses property tax collected from the increased value of the development to reimburse the developer for the costs of infrastructure improvements needed to make the development possible.

“We’re so grateful for the collaboration we have with the City of De Soto, Mayor Walker and City Administrator Brungardt,” said Allan Swan, President, Panasonic Energy of North America. “We couldn’t ask for better partners and neighbors as we build our EV battery facility that will create thousands of jobs and help shape a new future for the region.”

The agreement provides for the funding of an estimated \$229 million of public infrastructure projects.

These projects include:

- Roadway improvements and construction
- Water treatment storage and distribution projects
- Sewer treatment and collection projects
- Fire safety projects

“These infrastructure improvements will greatly benefit the entire De Soto community and Johnson County for years to come, with road improvements, fire protection and upgraded water and sewer facilities,” said Mike Brungardt, De Soto City Administrator.

“We’re excited to revitalize this area,” said Mayor Walker. “It’s played an important role in De Soto’s history and now it will be integral to our next chapter as a thriving jobs hub.”

In order to receive TIF funds, Panasonic is required to invest at least \$1 billion and operate a facility that employs at least 2,500 full-time employees.

The agreement also requires Panasonic to:

- Remit annual payments to fund the operation of a new fire station, police services, and road maintenance.
- Remit payments to the City for building permits, excise tax, and third-party consulting fees including building inspections, plan review, project administration, legal and financial advisory services, and engineering design services.

For more information, visit the [City's Development Agreement FAQ page](#).

Contact: Nancy Mays
913.568.3605
nancy@mayscomm.com

Whitney Lange
573-220-8558
wlange@desotoks.us