



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$59+ MILLION IN NEW TAXABLE VALUATION IN 2020

JOHNSTON, Iowa – In 2020, the City of Johnston had a solid growth year, led by \$59.8 million in new taxable valuation. This includes 147 new residential units and \$14.3 million in new commercial projects. Additionally, the City focused considerable efforts on constructing the Johnston Town Center, including opening the new Johnston City Hall. Staff also led the efforts to adopt a Comprehensive Plan, the Thrive 2040 Plan; both projects are poised to set the City for further growth and prosperity for many years into the future.

“Despite the challenges we all faced with the pandemic, 2020 proved to be a year of steady and sustainable growth,” said Community Development Director David Wilwerding. “Advancing construction of the Johnston Town Center, opening a new City Hall, and adopting an updated Comprehensive Plan are major accomplishments on their own in a normal year. To have accomplished these amid a global pandemic is truly incredible and reflects on our outstanding team of staff and appointed and elected officials!”

As part of the 2020 Community Development Annual Report, Wilwerding predicts the following for 2021:

- Residential growth will continue, including vacant spaces being adapted for new uses.
- New commercial growth will continue in West Office Park, Windsor Office Park, and along Beaver Drive.
- Increased permits for single-family residential and townhome development because of new and pending developments.
- The city will continue constructing the first phase of the Johnston Town Center project in partnership with Hansen Companies, including the first commercial structures.
- Continue implementing efforts to spur commercial redevelopment in the Merle Hay Road Gateway, driven in part by the Ignite Sports and Fitness facility’s anticipated groundbreaking. This project will include improvements to the Merle Hay Road and Johnston Drive intersection.
- The expansion will continue for city utility services to the newly annexed NW Saylorville Drive Annexation Area to prepare for future development in the wake of increased accessibility to the Highway 141 corridor.

The statistics are part of the 2020 Community Development Department Annual Report, which can be [viewed here](#).

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Johnston is a thriving community located just north of Des Moines with a population of 22,582 and growing. [In a community survey](#), 87 percent of residents say they are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life here, which is well above the national average in quality-of-life rankings. The survey shows our city departments, including police, fire, library, parks, public works and community development, consistently rank among the country's best.