



From: Dan Brooks, Mayor

Date: September 11, 2009 – Press Release

As I am sure you know, Jerry Thamann has accepted a position with the City of Springdale and will be leaving us on September 16, 2009. Jerry has served the city and this Administration with the highest quality of professionalism and dedication and we all will miss his presence. I am sure I speak for all citizens in thanking him and wishing him well.

The business of the City, obviously, must continue. To that end, it is imperative that we have continuity in service to our citizens, management of our departments and relationships with multiple county, state and federal agencies. This obviously calls for a person with experience and familiarity with North College Hill. While it is my first inclination to appoint a permanent replacement for Jerry, I have come to the conclusion that it would neither be prudent nor fair to do so at this time. This position is vitally important and should not be rushed. Secondly, as this is an election year, I feel it would not be fair to force upon the incoming Council, a person whom I selected without their input.

Therefore, I have decided to appoint Mr. Mark Fitzgerald as the interim City Administrator. Mark has extensive experience as City Manager having served in that capacity in both the Village of Lockland and most recently in the city of Loveland.

During the past two years, he has worked closely with Jerry Thamann in his capacity with LSR Consultants and has become familiar with our system, our staff and our citizens. I feel Mark is the perfect person to insure our stability and continued progress until a permanent City Administrator is selected.

It is my intention to continue to interview perspective candidates until after the November 3, 2009 election. At that time, once the incoming Council is settled, I will then meet with that body and present my top three candidates for the purpose of interviews, after which I will consider counsel's advice and input. I wish to make the final selection by December 1, 2009. This will give the person selected a full month to become acclimated to North College Hill as well as giving his/her employer reasonable notice before assuming their duties as North College Hill Administrator on January 1, 2010.

As Mark is a partner in LSR, our current economic development consulting firm, this will be considered as an extension of their contracted duties. This "outsourcing" of the interim city administrative duties is not unique. Deerfield Township has done the same thing in the last month while they search for their permanent Administrator. This arraignment will save the city nearly \$2500.00 per month during the next 3 ½ months.

Finally, let me make one thing very clear. While Mark may be an "interim" Administrator, he has the full authority to take whatever action necessary to insure the primary goals and policies of the Administration and Council namely, the preservation of the life, safety and welfare of our citizens, the efficient and effective management of all departments, and the continued progress in the development of our city.

Dan Brooks
Mayor
City of North College Hill