



City of Bristol Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

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Bristol City Manager hired, no stranger to role

City Council voted to extend a contract offer to Mr. Bill Sorah to serve in the capacity of City Manager. Sorah has served as Bristol's Interim City Manager on two different occasions, the most recent upon the departure of previous City Manager Jeff Broughton. Sorah is a native of Bristol, Tennessee. "I am humbled by City Council's selection. This was a great community to have grown-up in and to have raised my children in. I am gratified in knowing that I am surrounded by a talented staff and a remarkable City Council," Sorah said after endorsing the contract.

Sorah has 30 plus years of experience spanning both cities of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia. He is a graduate of Belhaven College with a Bachelors of Arts degree and a Master of City Management degree from East Tennessee State University. He is a member of the International City Management Association, American Public Works Association, American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation. Bill and his wife, Karen, have a son and two daughters. He is also an NCAA Division 1-A football official.

After hiring Sorah, Mayor Michelle Dolan said, "Mr. Sorah was one of the most qualified candidates considered. He'll be ready to hit the ground running. He has the proven expertise and experience to lead the city. He knows Council, staff and other leaders in the city well, which will provide a solid foundation from which to work." Dolan continued, "I am thrilled to see Bill take the helm and begin implementing the plans of this council into a vision that will allow Bristol to grow and prosper in the future."

Sorah was chosen from an original field of fifty-two candidates from throughout the country. After Council evaluation the field was narrowed to eighteen and then to a final three.

Vice-Mayor Lea Powers said, "I am impressed with the expertise that Bill Sorah will bring to our community as the new City Manager. Mr. Sorah has provided oversight to our Public Works sector for twenty-three years and in so doing has directed the largest portion of Bristol's annual budget." Powers continued, "With the City Council's emphasis on Economic Development and improving Bristol's employment opportunities, Mr. Sorah brings a tremendous skill set of commercial infrastructure and financial incentives to attract such industries. With Mr. Sorah's leadership, I look forward to a positive and successful working relationship between City Council, city staff and our community of great citizens."

Vice Mayor Powers was joined by Councilman Chad Keen, reflecting confidence in the selection of Sorah, "I believe the real difference between success and failure in our city can be traced to the question of how well we bring out the great energies and talents of our people. It was evident that Bill Sorah will accentuate those energies and talents. With many exceptional applicants explored, Bill is without a doubt, the best choice for Bristol."

Sorah will assume the duties of City Manager immediately.

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