

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wesley Young Appointed as City Administrator for Willard, Missouri

Willard, Missouri – April 24, 2024



The City of Willard is pleased to announce the appointment of Wesley Young as the new City Administrator. With an extensive history in public service and a proven track record of effective leadership, Young brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new role. As City Administrator, Young will oversee the day-to-day operations of the city, working closely with elected officials, department heads, and community stakeholders to advance the city's goals and priorities.

"I am excited that after just a few months of actively seeking candidates for the position of permanent city administrator, we have successfully located and hired a candidate that meets all of our requirements and then some. Mr. Young is just the right person to help Willard maintain the stability we've reestablished over the last few months," said Mayor Sam Baird. "He'll keep the city moving forward in a positive direction. I couldn't be more pleased."

Young's career in public service spans over 20 years, during which he has held various leadership positions in local government. His expertise in strategic planning, budget management, and community engagement will be invaluable as Willard continues to grow and evolve.

"I am thrilled with the capability that Wesley is going to bring to our community and am looking forward to watching what he does. He has accomplished fantastic things in his prior roles, and I know that Willard is going to benefit from his knowledge and experience, not to mention his leadership ability!" said Alderman Casey Biellier "I can't wait to see where we go following his direction."

Further comments from the board included:

"He brings a fresh perspective and competency to the position of City Administrator. He is a very articulate and intelligent individual who will bring new ideas and policies to the city of Willard. He has already implemented innovative and creative problem-solving methods in prior positions and will no doubt lead Willard through our next evolution of growth." Alderman Troy Smith

"Wesley is an innovative thinker that brings experience in infrastructure, economic development, and municipal utilities. I believe he will help grow and unite our community. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the work and time Interim City Administrator Stewart invested in helping to find a full time CA for Willard." Alderman Joyce Lancaster

Young holds a master's in public administration from the University of Arkansas, and he is a member of several professional organizations, including the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and MENSA. He received several meritorious awards while working for the state of Arkansas. He has a strong background in personnel management and efficiency improvements.

Mr. Young issued the following statement:

"As I prepare to assume my responsibilities as City Administrator, I am inspired by the potential for positive change and meaningful impact that lies ahead. My commitment to excellence and my decades-long passion for public service will guide me in fulfilling my duties and responsibilities to the best of my abilities. I am eager to collaborate with community stakeholders, city staff, and elected officials to address the challenges and opportunities facing Willard and to ensure that it remains a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family."

Please join us in welcoming Wesley Young to the City of Willard. His passion for public service and commitment to excellence will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and prosperity of the Willard area.

For media inquiries or interview requests, please contact: Donna Stewart, 417-742-5304, ca@cityofwillard.org



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About the City of Willard: Located in the suburban area NW of Springfield, the City of Willard is a thriving community known for its small-town charm and strong sense of community. With a growing population and a burgeoning economy, Willard offers residents and businesses a high quality of life and ample opportunities for growth and development.

