

Pikes Peak Bulletin – April 21, 2011

City Administration

By Jack Benson / City Administrator

Hello to all of you who are reading this newsletter article in the Pikes Peak Bulletin. I suspect that many of you, either through this publication or through word-of-mouth, know that I have been given the opportunity to be your next city administrator.

I truly see this as an honor as I was chosen amongst a very talented and well-seasoned group of peers, all of whom I think could have stepped up and served this community admirably. To have City Council give me their final vote of confidence is both exciting and a serious notice of trust.

By "notice of trust," I mean that Council expects me to honor their values and facilitate their vision.

To that end, I am very committed. Interviewing for a job is always an interesting process, but in the end, applicants and prospective employers need to sense a common ground on the values that drive the process.

What became clear to me was that this Council values the community, values citizen involvement, values a public process built on civility, and expects transparency in government dealings - all values I believe in or I would not be in this profession. Having sensed that common ground myself, I am pleased to have been invited to join your community and will strive to live up to those expectations.

As for my family, my wife and I have been longtime residents of Summit County's high country, having lived and worked there since the late 70s.

My wife Sue moved here from Florida and I am from Chicago. We have a blended family of four boys and two girls, all of whom are married and have their own children making us grandparents several times over.

As for me, I have worked in the public sector for the past 25 years as a department head in various capacities, a division director, a town manager, and a county administrator. Sue and I have seen many changes in Colorado's communities over the years and Manitou Springs is no exception. From our perspective, Manitou Springs has really come into its own as a family-oriented community and destination worthy of visiting and playing.

With Manitou Springs' successes, there are always the challenges with being everyone's preferred playground. Fortunately, these are challenges of polish in the bigger scheme of things and from what I have seen so far with the community's many advisory committees, there appears to be plenty of hands on board to help perfect that polish.

I am really looking forward to becoming a part of this process and I hope all of you will help me get it right by stopping by city hall or stopping me on the street to share your perspectives. Once I get settled in, I will carve out some predictable walk-in times and figure out a way to make myself more easily recognizable when out and about.

Again, thanks for the warm welcome.

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