

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: July 17, 2024  
CONTACT: Mayor George Holleman  
Incoming Town Manager Nathan Hester



## Taylorville, NC Hires New Town Manager



*July 17, 2024* – In March of this year, the Taylorville Town Council embarked on an extensive hiring process to select the best candidate to serve as the next Town Manager. Hiring a municipal manager is one of the most important decisions that a board makes. It impacts the effectiveness of the board and the services to the residents and businesses of the town.

The Taylorville Town Council is pleased to announce that Nathan Hester will serve as the next town manager. The Town Council voted to appoint Mr. Hester as the town manager at their meeting on July 17, 2024, and he is slated to begin in the position on August 26, 2024. Hester was selected from a competitive pool of applicants across the region and state. In the end, the Council chose Hester due to a combination of his education, experience, and personal characteristics.

Hester currently serves as the Development Services Director for Bessemer City in Gaston County. His job responsibilities include business recruitment, business retention, and management of all industrial commercial and residential development projects. Hester is also responsible for all city planning functions. Hester's public service background includes law enforcement, where he was a Sheriff's Deputy in Cleveland County for six years. Before entering the public sector, Mr. Hester served in the North Carolina Army National Guard for seven years, eventually becoming a Cavalry Scout Sergeant with tours in Iraq and the Sinai Peninsula. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Mayor George Holleman said about Hester's selection, "We are impressed with Mr. Hester's knowledge and experience. With the help of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, the Council found an outstanding, well-trained, qualified manager with a strong municipal management pedigree. Mr. Hester will be a valuable asset across all town operations and able to accomplish great things for the Town of Taylorville."

Mr. Hester said, "This town has a rich history and a vibrant community spirit. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Town Council, staff, and residents to build on our strengths and address our challenges. I plan to focus on key areas such as economic development, infrastructure improvements, and fostering transparent and effective governance. Together, we can create a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable future for Taylorville."

Some highlights and accomplishments include:

- Mr. Hester has ten (10) years of experience in the North Carolina municipal sector. He has spent the previous four years as the Development Services Director in Bessemer City, North Carolina. Before the Bessemer position, Hester was a Sheriff's Deputy in Cleveland County, NC, for six years.
- Mr. Hester's significant accomplishments in Bessemer City include the following:
  - Facilitated over 1,500,000 square feet of industrial space development and \$300 million investment within Bessemer City in collaboration with the Gaston County Economic Development Commission.
  - Assisting with implementing over \$1.5 million in community-based grants from NC Commerce.
  - Led and managed collaborative communication efforts between Norfolk Southern Railroad and Winn Development for a \$34,000,000 historic mill renovation project.
  - Completed a water treatment facility capital improvement project with multiple agencies and completed a water and sewer strategic plan.
  - Assisted team of multiple agencies in the construction of the \$12 million Stinger Park capital investment project.
- North Carolina Certified Economic Developer (NCCED).
- As a Sheriff's Deputy with Cleveland County, Mr. Hester's duties included managing and supervising deputies on patrol, conducting criminal investigations, and developing personnel.

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) assisted the Town of Taylorsville with the manager search process. The WPCOG is a regional planning, service, and economic development agency owned by and serves the 28 local governments in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties.

###