



Press Release

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Hart Chosen to Lead Ridgeland Public Works and Community Development

The City of Ridgeland is pleased to announce the appointment of Alan Hart to its public works department. Currently director of community development, Hart's position will encompass the directorships of both public works and its newly acquired community development subdivision. The decision to assign Hart this dual role, commencing October 1, was unanimously approved by the mayor and board of aldermen and materialized after the retirement announcement of long-time public works director Mike McCollum.

"First and foremost, I'd like to thank the mayor and board for entrusting me to undertake one of our city's most important roles. I'm humbled they have this level of faith in me, and I'm ecstatic to lead the city's best employees as we continue to frame Ridgeland as the best city in the State of Mississippi," Hart relayed. "Secondly, I am entirely grateful to Mike McCollum for his 27 years of service to the City of Ridgeland and his leadership as public works director. I am appreciative of the structured department he has built."

Mayor Gene McGee knew Hart was the obvious choice to lead public works. "Alan's leadership, talent, positive attitude, vision, and undeniable devotion to the City and its citizens is why the board and I made the decision to combine two major departments and appoint Alan to lead both."

Hired in 2005, Hart's goal at the time was to make every effort to continue to help posture Ridgeland for a brighter future and maintain the economic vitality and small-town heritage. In the past 16 years, Hart has done just that. His involvement in various projects has been welcomed by the City, some of which include the 2008 Ridgeland Area Master Plan, the Butler Snow building, the Township, Renaissance, the Northpark renovation, Costco, and Ridgeland City Hall building. "I have been blessed with a supportive mayor and board, and these finished projects would never have been a reality without their vision to incorporate a strong economic development plan for the City," Hart insisted. Furthermore, while serving as the director of community development, Hart and his team have managed over \$1 billion in permitted construction for the City of Ridgeland.

Alderman-at-Large D.I. Smith gave praises on the new public works hire. "Alan Hart is the one we turn to when the chips are down and there are near insurmountable challenges, such as fighting the big out-of-state landfill company who didn't care what impact it had on our health, welfare, and safety. And, even though no one gave us a chance in the fight, we won because of people like Alan Hart. He has a spontaneous, contagious enthusiasm that motivates everyone to achieve their best! I'm so proud he has been chosen for this roll. He – and the City of Ridgeland – will excel!"

Hart looks forward to encouraging a more service-oriented department and continuing to provide citizens with the best place to live. In addition, he plans to work with McCollum and supervisors and build positive working relationships with all employees in public works to allow for the smoothest transition possible.

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Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr - city clerk / human resources director

board of aldermen: D.I. Smith, cmo - at-large • Ken Heard, cmo - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier, cmo - ward 2
Kevin Holder, cmo, mayor pro tempore - ward 3 • Brian P. Ramsey, cmo - ward 4 • Bill Lee - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin, cmo - ward 6