

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

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*Section 6*

*Ryan T. Eggleston*

*Cooper City*

*City Manager Candidate Report*

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*Cover Letter and Resume*

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## Section 6

4005 Galantis Drive  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
February 24, 2023

City Manager's Search Committee  
c/o Ms. Lynelle Klein  
City of Cooper City  
9090 SW 50<sup>th</sup> Place  
Cooper City, FL 33328

Dear Search Committee:

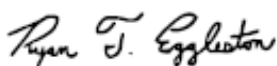
With 16 years of fiscally sound experience in local government as a city manager, I have demonstrated a commitment to professionalism, integrity, and collaboration in diverse communities. Furthermore, I am a highly enthusiastic ICMA Credentialed Manager with a background in public administration, and I have valuable expertise in finance, collective bargaining negotiations, and grant writing. I would like to bring my strategic vision, strong work ethic, and innovative problem-solving ability to Cooper City.

Having managed two cities that were completely "built out" with limited growth potential, I understand the unique challenges and opportunities to lead Cooper City forward. With a strong financial acumen, I realize the challenges that towns with very little room to grow must deal with, especially when it comes to rising costs related to the police and fire departments. Building long term financial sustainability will be one of the most important road maps we work on together.

Secondly, one of my greatest strengths is the ability to broaden external and internal communication across multiple platforms to foster a centralized message for the city. My staff and I (with support from elected officials) have won national awards for these platforms. Equally important, I have expertise in implementing information technology solutions that will position Cooper City to be on the "cutting edge" of local government services. In Morehead City, I spearheaded the conversion of our computer and server equipment to a cloud-based system with laptops, redundancy, and backups to our system to make us more agile and better prepared for natural disasters or other unknown emergencies.

In closing, I believe that my qualifications and expertise are crucial to assist the Mayor and City Commission in leading Cooper City forward. With hard work, collaboration, and genuine leadership, together we can capitalize on the town's historical, recreational, and community strengths while helping to build the momentum that will ensure its long-term success and sustainable growth.

Sincerely,



Ryan T. Eggleston  
ICMA-CM, MPA

**Ryan T. Eggleston**

**ICMA-CM, MPA**

[ryaneggleston@hotmail.com](mailto:ryaneggleston@hotmail.com)

412-689-8473

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A proven and respected credentialed municipal manager with over 16 years of city manager experience, including responsibilities in all phases of government operation and services, who believes in four guiding principles: customer service, communication, fiscal accountability, and collaboration. Works wholeheartedly every day toward fulfilling the Athenian Oath: "We will ever strive for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will unceasingly seek to quicken the sense of public duty; we will revere and obey the city's laws; we will transmit this city not only, not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Chief ARP Officer**  
**North Carolina League of Municipalities**

**August 2022 - Present**  
**Raleigh, NC**

- Leading the development and implementation of the League's American Rescue Plan, providing technical assistance for over 500 member towns and cities across the state of North Carolina, while managing the first ever grant (\$25,000,000) from the North Carolina General Assembly to the League.
- Facilitate successful high-level conversations with external stakeholders, including multiple state agencies to encourage effectiveness and efficiency through regionalism and innovation.
- Create a caring and open environment with timely communication, transparency, mutual respect, trust, and solid recommendations to fulfill workplan and performance metrics.
- Responsible for hiring a statewide team of qualified professionals who are representing the League and providing technical information to member cities and towns.
- Ensure that cities and towns are complying with relevant federal and state requirements related to ARP funding.
- Develop working relationships with employees at the League that recognize expertise of staff, avoids micromanagement, and encourages quality customer service.

**City Manager**  
**Town of Morehead City**

**April 2018 – July 2022**  
**Morehead City, NC**

- Ultimate oversight of the following areas of service to a town with a population of 10,000 residents, 180 full-time employees, and a \$30,000,000 budget: police and fire protection and rescue services; emergency management; public communications; streets and stormwater systems; marine services (including city owned docks, fishing piers, and boat ramps); public utilities including water and sanitary sewer construction, maintenance, treatment, distribution, and collection; solid waste and general services; library services; planning, zoning, inspection, and code enforcement; parks and recreation; community development/redevelopment; finance and budget; information technology; and human resources.
- Communicated openly and honestly with the board, staff, residents, business owners, and reporters from *The Carteret News Times* and several regional television stations.
- Developed and maintained excellent intergovernmental relationships with Carteret County, Carteret County School District, and neighboring municipalities, including Atlantic Beach, Beaufort, Pine Knolls Shores, Emerald Isle, and Newport.
- Awarded approximately \$3,000,000 in reimbursements for over 20 FEMA Public Assistance projects related to recovery from Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Dorian damage. Utilized NIMS training to prepare and navigate through these two natural disaster events and post storm cleanup which impacted our community.
- Consolidated three antiquated city buildings into a new state-of-the-art city hall building. Involved directly with the project development and design of the new facility. Completion of project was achieved while staying under budget.
- Refinanced Town of Morehead City USDA loans borrowed in 2011, saving the town over \$4,800,000 and reducing general fund debt from 30 years remaining down to 15 years.
- Enhanced the downtown waterfront through our partnership with Downtown Morehead, Inc., in order to assist businesses, recruit new development, improve landscapes, and preserve historical treasures. In 2019, the downtown district gained \$683,510 in public dollars and more than \$16.4 million in private investment, creating new businesses, critical jobs, 16 façade improvements, and more than 9,000 volunteer hours toward revitalization and beautification projects.

**Ryan T. Eggleston**

**City Manager (continued)  
Town of Morehead City**

**April 2018 – July 2022  
Morehead City, NC**

- Acquired a \$2,000,000 grant from the NC Department of Public Safety for stabilization of city-owned Sugarloaf Island, which protects the City’s historic waterfront.
- Received the prestigious 2021 Elite Fleet Boaters’ Choice Award for city-owned marinas.
- Finished installation of Advanced Meter Infrastructure for all city water meters as a continued enhancement of our city’s utilities infrastructure.
- Completed an innovative, live data, and visual program for citywide paving and road maintenance by partnering with RoadBotics.
- Developed a comprehensive stormwater plan to address future needs related to sea level rise and climate change as a low elevation coastal city.
- Equipped our police department with significant technology upgrades, including tasers and body cameras to reduce injury to all parties involved and to promote transparency.
- Constructed the online SMARTGOV portal for building permits. Activated ahead of schedule, the site has received positive feedback from area builders and developers.
- Hired the town’s first communications director, launched a new website in November 2019 with 36,400 visitors (to site), and increased social media presence to 10,700 Facebook fans and 1,600 Twitter followers in first six months.
- Introduced “Notify Me” feature in order for residents and business owners to receive emails and texts of important breaking news from the City.
- Implemented Office 365 for all town users, migrated away from servers based at City Hall, and strongly positioned Morehead City for emergency operations (i.e., COVID-19, hurricanes, power outages, etc.).
- Increased communication with the community through meet and greets, videos, telephone calls, emails, texts, social media, website information, monthly utility billing inserts, and our inaugural quarterly magazine.

**Township Manager  
Township of South Fayette**

**2012 - 2018  
South Fayette, PA**

- Chief Executive Administrator of 50 union and non-union employees; addressed the financial responsibility of a \$10,000,000 annual budget in one of the fastest growing communities in Pennsylvania.
- Ultimate oversight of the following departments: administration, planning and engineering, finance, parks and recreation, building inspection, code, zoning, public works, and police.
- Lead negotiator for township’s collective bargaining with Teamster Union (Public Works) and Fraternal Order of Police.
- Awarded the Pennsylvania’s Governor’s Award for South Fayette’s new website ([www.southfayettepa.com](http://www.southfayettepa.com)), which significantly improved communication with business owners and residents.
- Obtained a \$387,000 grant from Pennsylvania to improve traffic flow in the South Fayette commercial district.
- Revitalized a vacant movie theater site (owned by South Fayette Township) into a \$24,000,000 UPMC Children’s Hospital.
- Coordinated redevelopment with a private company; transformed a vacant parcel into a new hotel valued at \$8,000,000.
- Collaborated with a developer and revitalized an abandoned industrial site; transformed it into a commercial site with an estimated value of over \$7,000,000.
- Served as a primary municipal contact for the Newbury Market project; redeveloped a former Brownfield site in South Fayette Township; anticipated total tax value of over \$150,000,000; encompassed over 100 single family homes, 200 luxury apartments, and over 500,000 square feet of retail space.
- Negotiated (on behalf of the city) multiple new residential home construction projects; included a 100-lot subdivision plan, a 40-lot subdivision, a 24-lot subdivision, and a 20-lot subdivision.
- Enhanced government transparency by offering all residents online full agendas, packet information, and monthly financials.
- Successfully negotiated labor contracts with two unions (FOP and Teamsters); resulted in significant long-term savings on legacy costs for the township; eliminated the need for arbitration.

**Ryan T. Eggleston**

**City Manager  
City of Oil City**

**2009-2012  
Oil City, PA**

- Chief Executive Officer with over 100 union and non-union employees and a \$15,000,000 annual budget.
- Responsible for the following departments: police, fire, roads, storm water drainage, parks, recreation, water and sewage, planning and engineering, zoning, code, finance, human resources, library, and community development.
- Negotiated for the city in collective bargaining with the International Association of Firefighters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Public Works, Water and Wastewater, and Library), and the Fraternal Order of Police.
- Received a \$600,000 grant award from FEMA/PEMA; replaced an existing ice flood control device running through downtown Oil City. In addition, awarded a \$450,000 AFG (Assistance to Firefighters) grant from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase a new aerial ladder truck.
- Completed a \$6,000,000 sewer plant and combined system renovation in order to bring Oil City in compliance with mandates established by the Department of Environmental Protection.
- Effectively worked with the Oil City Main Street Steering Committee to receive state designation as a Main Street Community; leveraged local contributions with over \$200,000 of state monies for downtown revitalization.
- Collaborated with a local manufacturer who completed a \$500,000 water line extension; expanded the company's workforce and production output.

**Borough Manager  
Borough of Greenville**

**2006-2009  
Greenville, PA**

- Accountable for 50 union and non-union employees while addressing the financial responsibility of a \$4,000,000 annual budget.
- Responsible for the following departments: police, fire, public works, parks, recreation, sewage, zoning, code, and administration.
- Successfully obtained more than \$2,000,000 through grant writing.
- Managed a \$3,000,000 Streetscape Revitalization project in addition to many smaller construction projects.
- Directed a successful \$1,000,000 sewer plant renovation.
- Designed and developed a website for Greenville ([www.greenvilleborough.com](http://www.greenvilleborough.com)) to enhance public and professional awareness.

**EDUCATION**

- Masters in Public Administration, Gannon University, Erie, PA (2005)
- Bachelor of Arts: Political Science, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (2003)
- Bachelor of Arts: History, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (2003)
- Minor in Information Technology: Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (2003)

**SPECIALIZED LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

- Gettysburg Leadership Institute, ICMA, Gettysburg, PA (2022)
- Leadership ICMA Program, International County/City Management Association, Washington, DC (2013)
- Senior Executive Institute, University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Services, Charlottesville, VA (2012)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- International City/County Management Credentialed Manager (Present-2016)
- International City/County Management Association (Present-2007)
- North Carolina Municipal Managers Association (2022-2018)
- ICMA International Committee (2020-2011)
- ICMA International Committee Liaison to the United Kingdom and Ireland (2020-2014)
- Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Managers (2018-2007); Vice President (2014-2012)

**Ryan T. Eggleston**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- NCMMA Winter Conference: Co-Presenter with Dr. Leisha DeHart-Davis, UNC School of Government, Beyond the Organizational Chart: Social Network Analysis for Local Government (2021)
- ICMA International Regional Summit-Timisoara, Romania (2019)
- ICMA International Regional Summit-Tel Aviv, Israel (2018)
- ICMA International Regional Summit-Prague, Czech Republic (2016)
- ICMA International Committee Spring Meeting-Copenhagen, Denmark (2013)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Guest Speaker, Morehead City Rotary (2022-2018)
- Head Coach, Morehead City Youth Recreation Basketball (2022-2021, 2019-2018)
- Organizer, Morehead City Annual Spring Clean Up Day (2022-2021, 2019)
- President, Country Club Run Homeowner's Association (2022-2020)
- Board Member, South West Communities Chamber of Commerce (2018-2017)
- Head Coach, South Fayette Soccer Association (2018-2012)
- Member, Clarion University-Venango Campus, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee (2012-2011)
- Board Member, UPMC Northwest Foundation (2012-2010)
- Founding Board Member, NWPA Syracuse University Alumni Association (2012-2004)
- Assistant Head Coach, University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, Men's Basketball (2009-2003)



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*Candidate Introduction*

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**RYAN T. EGGLESTON**

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**EDUCATION**

ICMA Credentialed Manager (International County/City Manager's Association)  
Masters of Public Administration, Gannon University  
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Syracuse University  
Bachelor of Arts, History with Minor in Information Technology, Syracuse University

**EXPERIENCE**

Chief ARP Officer, North Carolina League of Municipalities	2022-present
City Manager, Morehead City, NC	2018-2022
City (Township) Manager, South Fayette, PA	2012-2018
City Manager, Oil City, PA	2009-2012
City (Borough) Manager, Greenville, PA	2006-2009

**BACKGROUND**

Morehead City is the primary business and cultural hub of Carteret County in eastern North Carolina. Situated on the mainland side of the intercoastal waterway of the Atlantic Ocean and across from the barrier islands of the Southern Outer Banks, this is a popular resort area and home for many "snowbirds". Future Interstate 42 (North Carolina State Highway 70) runs through town and terminates at the North Carolina State Port (one of two ports in the state). The city houses a well-regarded hospital (Carteret Health Care), a highly active community college (Carteret Community College), and the famous Big Rock Tournament, which boasts of the biggest blue marlin caught each year. Morehead City is a popular destination for tourists who enjoy the ocean's warm waters, collect conch and sand dollar shells, explore remote beaches by boat, and make memories on fishing charters (offshore and deep sea).

The year-round population of Morehead City is approximately 10,000. Also, many of the houses are second homes for residents from the Raleigh/Durham Triangle region who want to live near the ocean and pristine beaches surrounding the Morehead community. The summertime population from May to October expands to well over 20,000 daily residents.

In 2022, the general fund budget of Morehead City was \$20,200,000 while the total budget was \$30,300,000. That excluded major capital projects such as the construction of our new state-of-the-art city hall for \$8,000,000 and our five-year approved capital plan totaling \$25,000,000. The city had 175 employees, and I knew each one by his or her first name. I spent time each month finding out the strengths of my employees, commending them for jobs well done, and learning and caring about their spouses, families, special events, illnesses, etc. I directly supervised and mentored nine departmental directors.

### RYAN T. EGGLESTON

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The three most significant issues facing the City are:

- Transportation development. Key planning and logistics related to Interstate 42 coming to the region must take place. The new roadway system requires addressing the difficulties of constructing an interstate through an urban area. Understanding the positive and challenging dynamics that the new roadway system will bring needs addressed.
- Limited physical space to install connectivity. Additional recreational bike and walking pathways are in demand as individuals and families are seeking safe places to walk and ride bikes. Morehead City and the entire county region need funding and planned spaces.
- Lack of affordable housing. Many of our city employees cannot afford to reside in or near the city limits because of the following: limited housing, housing price wars, three hurricanes over the past five years, a worldwide pandemic, and now significantly higher mortgage rates.

### GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

After reading about Cooper City, I found myself thinking about unique ways to grow this city. Since my career goals always center on how to make a city a better place to live for everyone, I thought about the challenges of a city that cannot expand. With my experience and knowledge as a city manager, I know how to make sure the city is financially sound for the next decade (and longer). I like being challenged creatively and innovatively as a city manager and member of a community. Simply put, I can provide unique leadership, which will correlate to the long-term sustainability of Cooper City.

Collectively, elected officials, my staff, and I have accomplished much over the past 16 years. I have always learned to listen. In the process, I have listened to learn. I am a collaborative manager who enjoys building consensus in decisions. As we work to get tasks accomplished successfully, my employees demonstrate a sense of engagement, and I strongly believe in empowering my team and creating a culture that celebrates and rewards effort and honesty. Decision-making requires analyzing data, being fiscally frugal and organized, and making the right decision. To accomplish this feat, everyone must be responsible. Co-workers describe me as loyal, intelligent, ethical, motivational, hardworking, financially prudent, and a team builder who believes wholeheartedly in customer service.

In cities I have managed, performance evaluations were completed annually for all employees, including department heads. Succession planning was another important part of staff preparation. We worked toward succession planning by cross training more individuals and having strategic meetings to prepare people for success. I have been involved with every facet of employee relations including labor relations, labor negotiations, advertising for new hires, interviews, probationary reviews, performance improvement plans, and firing when required (in full

**RYAN T. EGGLESTON**

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compliance with our personnel manual and policies). I have trained my leadership team on the importance and value of being able to have uncomfortable conversations as needed when personnel matters arise, so there is clarity between management and staff on matters that have to be resolved.

Equally important, my council members throughout the years have been extremely pleased with my financial performance and ability to listen and communicate effectively. The Mayor and Morehead City Council praised my outstanding innovative thinking and my exceptional knowledge of the technology that was utilized in our new city hall building, which opened in September of 2021. Board members compliment my effective leadership style and highly rate my job performance. Also, they have given praise of my outgoing and approachable personality as these create a positive working environment.

One of my greatest strengths is the ability to broaden external and internal communications across multiple platforms to foster a centralized message for the city. My staff and I (with support from elected officials) have won national awards for these platforms. Similarly, I have expertise in implementing information technology solutions that will position Cooper City to be on the “cutting edge” of local government services.

In terms of weaknesses, when I first started as a city manager, I realized that I should have been a bit more organized. However, I learned quickly to make lists and prioritize what needed to be done daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly. Building upon this, I have integrated staff metrics to measure performance output and goals achieved, utilizing a project management tracking software called [www.Monday.com](http://www.Monday.com). This project software helps us track our organizational goals throughout the year and holds staff accountable.

I am proud of my financial expertise and leadership role in significantly increasing non-residential property values from 2012-2016 in South Fayette. During this period, we brought more commercial, taxable property to the tax rolls than in the entire decade prior to 2012. This included adding three new commercial taxpayers to our list of the top ten highest taxpayers in the city. This was achieved through promotion of what the city had to offer, collaboration, and creation of a developer-friendly environment while still holding true to the values and vision of what we wanted to see South Fayette become. Examples of specific projects included the construction of a new 4-story, 60,000 square foot Children’s Hospital (affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh), the redevelopment of a former vacant industrial site into a significant commercial project including 4 restaurants, a grocery store, a bank, and several other retail spaces. In addition, a 4-story, 80,000 square foot office building was built by a major developer from the Pittsburgh region. I was heavily involved in each of these projects. The above-mentioned developers are currently looking at additional land development in the city because of the success of their first projects. Top Golf was also approved to build a 3-story, 65,000 square foot entertainment center in South Fayette-the first of its kind in Pennsylvania-which opened in 2018. Furthermore, the city entered a sales agreement to sell some city-owned property for \$5,000,000 to a major Pittsburgh developer who built a mixed-use project (all

### RYAN T. EGGLESTON

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commercial) that generated at least \$25,000,000 of taxable property. Utilizing proper land planning, including a well-versed, development ordinance as well as streetscaping and aesthetic values has ensured these new projects will not adversely affect the character of the community.

The initial challenges I see facing Cooper City are:

- Assessing and implementing a solid financial operating plan, particularly related to police and fire expenses.
- Growing our commercial tax base and redeveloping dilapidated areas of the community to improve our overall funding stream for government services.
- Overhauling/updating the city's communication strategy.
- Supporting the 5-year strategic plan approved in 2022, focusing on financially sustaining the community, having a proactive public safety approach, creating "a strong sense of place", and revitalizing the city.
- Reviewing general government policies, procedures, and practices to make sure we are operating technologically in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As an experienced city manager, I know that challenges are fluid and change often. What yesterday was a major obstacle might be dwarfed tomorrow by an unforeseen problem on the horizon. Therefore, we focus on the challenges of each day and solve the issues that arise through collaboration and communication. I can assure you that even though I come from the east coast of North Carolina, I will not have a learning curve when it comes to successfully leading your community in southeastern Florida.

During the first six months of the job, my efforts will involve:

- Prior to my start date, I will be well versed in the current Cooper City budget and financial trends, the 2015 Cooper City Comprehensive Plan, the most recent annual audit, and the 5-year strategic plan document adopted last year by the Mayor and City Council.
- Beginning on my first day, I will meet individually with each member of the Cooper City Council (and continue to do this on a monthly basis) and every city employee (including any retirees still living in Cooper City) as well as community businesses and residents and ask them the following four questions:
  1. What do you want to preserve in Cooper City?
  2. What would you like to change about Cooper City?
  3. What do you want me to accomplish in Cooper City?
  4. What is one thing you would like me to know about you?
- Additionally, I will reach out to important Cooper City civic groups and agencies (including the Davie-Cooper City Chamber of Commerce) as well as Broward County agencies such as the Broward's Sheriff Office to evaluate what Cooper City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and obstacles are.
- Furthermore, I will institute a 5-10 minute daily "check-in" with all leadership staff to

**RYAN T. EGGLESTON**

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immediately build highly efficient interdepartmental communication.

- Equally important, my goal is to develop a team that enjoys serving the public by working collaboratively day-by-day to offer the residents of Cooper City outstanding customer service.
- Also, I plan to hold several "Meet the Manager" forums throughout town, so the community can meet me and my family, ask questions, and learn about our background and interests as new community members in Cooper City.

I have always had an excellent relationship with the local media and pride myself on being professional and transparent with them. Consequently, I view the media as an important partner in educating the public on the positive services local government provides on a daily basis.

I do not anticipate anyone contacting Cooper City with negative comments about me as a professional city manager.

In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, reading, snorkeling, volunteering, and spending time with my family, and attending our children's academic activities and sports.

**SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF**

- Exceptionally ethical
- Financially responsible
- Dependable
- Impressive work ethic
- Trustworthy
- Gregarious

**REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION**

Currently, I am working for the North Carolina Municipal League; it is a rewarding and remarkable position. However, I miss the challenges and excitement of building a community.

**CURRENT/MOST RECENT OR RELEVANT SALARY**

My final salary at Morehead City was \$178,000, including a vehicle allowance.

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*CB&A Background Checks*

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**Background Check Summary for  
RYAN THOMAS EGGLESTON**

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**Criminal Records Checks:**

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Carteret County, NC	No Records Found
Wake County, NC	No Records Found
Allegheny County, PA	No Records Found
Venango County, PA	No Records Found
Mercer County, PA	No Records Found
State	
North Carolina	No Records Found
Pennsylvania	No Records Found

**Civil Records Checks:**

County	
Carteret County, NC	No Records Found
Wake County, NC	No Records Found
Allegheny County, PA	No Records Found
Venango County, PA	No Records Found
Mercer County, PA	No Records Found
Federal	
North Carolina	No Records Found
Pennsylvania	<b>August 2017</b> – Civil Lawsuit filed against South Fayette Township including Mr. Eggleston in his capacity as Town Manager. <b>Disposition: February 2018</b> – Terminated
	<i>*See Next Page for Explanation of Records Found</i>

**Motor Vehicle**

North Carolina	<b>May 2020</b> – Violation, Improper Equipment - Speedometer <b>May 2021</b> – Violation, Improper Equipment - Speedometer
	<i>*See Next Page for Explanation of Records Found</i>



**Background Check Summary for  
RYAN THOMAS EGGLESTON**

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<b>Credit</b>	Excellent
<b>Personal Bankruptcy</b>	No Records Found
<b>Sex Offender Registry</b>	Not Listed
<b>Education</b>	Confirmed
<b>Employment</b>	Confirmed, except for North Carolina League of Municipalities (08/2022 – Present)
<b>Social Media</b>	Nothing of Concern Found

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

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**From:** Ryan E. <[ryaneggleston@hotmail.com](mailto:ryaneggleston@hotmail.com)>  
**To:** Lynelle Klein <[lynelle@cb-asso.com](mailto:lynelle@cb-asso.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Background Check Records that Require an Explanation

Yes, all three of these records pertain to me.

The court case was related to my duties in my capacity as Town (City) Manager for South Fayette. We discharged a public works employee who was still on their probationary period and he then sued the City and his supervisors and myself as the City Manager. The case was ultimately dismissed and resolved at the advice of the City's insurance carrier, long before it was adjudicated.

The two traffic violations were related to the following: In the state of North Carolina an Improper Equipment speedometer is a non-moving violation in North Carolina which means you are assessed no license or insurance points when your speeding ticket is reduced to such a charge. An Improper Equipment is a non-moving violation and literally means that your speedometer was not working properly.”

**Background Check Summary for  
RYAN THOMAS EGGLESTON  
Personal Disclosure**

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**Personal Disclosure Questionnaire**

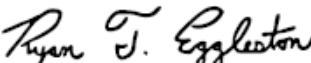
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Name of Applicant: Ryan T. Eggleston

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

**Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?  
Yes  No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?  
Yes  No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?  
Yes  No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes  No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes  No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated?  
Yes  No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?  
Yes  No
8. Please list links to all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.  
\*I have an active LinkedIn account ([www.linkedin.com/in/ryan-t-eggleston](http://www.linkedin.com/in/ryan-t-eggleston)) I have inactive Facebook and Twitter accounts which both have not been used for close to ten years.
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?  
Yes  No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.  
\*Named in lawsuits from time to time because of my position as City Manager.

Attested to:   
Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to [Lynelle@cb-asso.com](mailto:Lynelle@cb-asso.com) or via fax to (561) 621-5965 **no later than 5:00 PM MST 03/03/2023.**  
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*CB&A Reference Notes*

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Reference Notes have been placed after the Internet Research to preserve the page numbering of the report.

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*CB&A Internet Research*

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**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC)  
October 20, 2022

**LOM mayors to get help with ARP complications**

Author/Byline: Deborah Griffin

The League of Municipalities (LOM) offered to throw a line to Martin County town leaders drowning in the bureaucracy of obtaining and spending American Rescue Plan (ARP) money, sometimes called the COVID-19 Stimulus Grant. At a recent, quarterly meeting of Martin County town mayors, managers and clerks in Parmele, two representatives from the League shared with town leaders their goals of offering help in navigating the complicated ARP grant process. The North Carolina League of Municipalities is a member-driven organization representing the interests of cities and towns in the state. Through their collective efforts, League member cities and towns better serve their residents and improve quality of life, according to the organization's site.

LOM Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives Chris Nida, who has been with the League 14 years, explained, "We do lobbying and advocacy at the General Assembly for cities and towns in North Carolina. "We are a full-service organization. We have insurance — including health, property, liability and workers comp. We also do risk-management, law enforcement consulting – whatever might be needed," he added. Nida said out of North Carolina's 551 municipalities, about 540 are members of the League. "We cover just about everybody," he said.

No town is required to be a member, but many Martin County towns are LOM members. Several mayors testified to the benefits of being a member. Nida said the League exists to "to bring you services that will best serve your citizens,' your businesses' and your communities' needs."

Out of the 551 municipalities in N.C., 200 have 1,000 people or less, he said, admitting the bigger cities get a lot of the national and statewide attention. "The people in this room tonight are what makes up the League," he said. "A state is a network of small towns with people doing great things for their community. I am very appreciative of the work that you all do."

Nida said the ARP passed in March 2021 and sent a direct allocation of funds to every city and town across the U.S. "Most towns received half of the funds in summer of 2021, and the second half in the summer of 2022," he said. "A lot of those funds went into grant programs at the state level. But there are strings that come along with them — requirements and policies you must have in place and report to the federal government," he said.

The LOM recognizes small towns that never received a federal grant are struggling. "If it's your first experience with grant compliance and grant policies, there is a burden that comes along with the opportunity of having those funds. Since the legislation was passed, we've been trying to get information out and provide technical assistance in any way that we can," Nida said. When the state government passed its budget in Nov. 2021, (the first time in three years), Nida said, the state received funds from the federal government, some of which was allocated to the LOM to

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help towns wade through the process of receiving and reporting ARP grant money. "About \$5.4 billion dollars went to the state," he said. "We were fortunate they appropriated a portion of those funds to the League." The money provided the LOM two grants — one to provide technical assistance services in administering funds at the local level; and one to help provide financial software and assistance. "We are excited to begin hiring staff and setting up some programs to provide direct technical assistance to you all," said Nida. "The LOM can provide help in administering these funds, spending these funds and creating partnerships."

**Ryan Eggleston**, chief ARP officer at the LOM, "is in charge of implementing the funding and putting into place programs to help you directly with the issues you are facing with the American Rescue Plan," said Nida. **Eggleston** spent 16 years as a town manager in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, most recently he was in Morehead City for about four years. "I love local government," **Eggleston** said. "It was uplifting to feel the energy and camaraderie among elected officials and staff members in this group. You have a great thing going on and it is very inspiring to a local government junkie," he said.

His position is new and was formed to help develop the grants the LOM received from the General Assembly. "[The grants] are particularly focused on smaller communities that may not have 150 full-time employees — or any employees," he said. He said he understands there are a lot of other pressing things affecting each community. Also, with ARP dollars, "there is a generational opportunity to reinvest money back into your community," he said. "But I also know you are trying to juggle all those other hats that you all wear daily such as census concerns, resident issues, and emergencies that come up. "We are here to help you and take some of the burden when you are feeling stressed or worried about ARP," he said. "It is our hope we can be the folks that can help you get answers; and be a sounding board you can call on, email or, have us come by." Over the next few months, the League plans to have staff available in each region to meet with town leaders one-on-one. The mayors in attendance agreed it ARP was a complicated process. Nida said they needn't be worried. "There are a lot of communities that are in that exact same spot across the state," he added. "I want to assure you – it is a process — we are working diligently on our end to develop a program to help support you all and we are working as swiftly as we can."

Mayor Charlotte Griffin said, "Most of us had never had any dealings with the federal grant process. Then they said you had to have all these policies, then they sent you the templates. I redid some of them and broke them down, and we still don't know what we are doing." Nida told them, as elected officials and staff members, they should give themselves a pat on the back, "because of what you have worked through, and gone through the past few years, between COVID and all of the other challenges that have come up," he said. "It has been a challenging few years. Kudos to you all for stepping in and being involved and wanting to see those things move forward in your communities."

"[The League] is here to help in any way we can. We are really excited to grow the ARP program. It is our hope to get vital feedback on how we can help daily, weekly, monthly and in

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the years ahead. It is not an overnight process. We are going to be talking about this collaboration for the next several years," said **Eggleston**.

Nida said in addition to having staff in the field that can sit down next to them at a computer and share expertise in how to navigate the website, "we are hoping to contract with service providers and experts to provide additional [help]." For instance, he said some small towns were reporting the town attorney didn't want to weigh in on the American Rescue Plan, or, it was entirely new to them. "We have identified some attorneys that are familiar with the American Rescue Plan," he said. "We want to offer our members legal consultation — an attorney to look over your policies to make sure they are right, or to check the boxes on certain federal regulations. We want to use our funds to make that kind of service available to small towns. We hope to have this in the very near future. "We don't want you to spend your General Fund money or ARP money finding service providers to check boxes, if we have the funds available to provide you with that kind of assistance — and let you focus your investments into your community," he continued.

He said another area towns need help with is in grant writing and grant identification. "There are all these opportunities out there, and all these federal funds and state dollars going into these grant programs. If you don't have a full-time staff, or a very limited staff, they don't have time to be filling out these grants or learning how to fill out all these applications," he said. The LOM "is looking at securing service providers, who could consult with our small towns and let them know of the opportunities available. They could sit down and help them fill out an application," said Nida. Griffin said she was hoping they could provide help with filling out Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants.

"Any funds we spend have to be in conjunction with ARP funds. There may be ways, though, we can achieve that goal," **Eggleston** said. There is a separate grant for software and financial assistance. One of the biggest challenges of financial accounting at the small government level is the number of different accounting software programs used across the state, he said. "A lot of these programs are legacy, that have been modified [who knows] how many times over the years," he said. "There may be [only] one person who knows how to use the software – or there may not be anybody that knows how to use the software."

The LOM hopes to use their funds to identify a small, government-appropriate accounting software program, he added. "Then secure a license for the program, and fund staff to help [towns] with the implementation, training and technical assistance; then standardize it across small towns," he added. The ultimate goal being the sharing of resources — such as one finance officer who could work among five or six towns.

"I can't promise it will be a quick process. Our hope is to make it a widespread thing and make that service available to a number of our members," Nida said. It is his hope grant funds would largely subsidize the upfront implementation of installing the software. Towns have until 2024 to commit to what they are planning to use the funds for and until the end of 2026 to use the funds.



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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
July 30, 2022

**Morehead City Police Chief's resignation withdrawal denied; Kelly discusses his story in a Q & A interview**

Author/Byline: Lockwood Phillips and Matthew Adkins

The resigning chief told the News-Times Thursday afternoon that he had initially submitted his resignation out of concern that he was going to be fired once an interim manager was selected to fill the position of outgoing manager **Ryan Eggleston**, whose contract was terminated under mutual agreement with the town board on July 7.

It is that period of time that is the subject of emails received by the Morehead City Town Council that Chief Kelly contends was the primary issue related to Mr. **Eggleston's** problems with the town council and he feared would lead to his own dismissal.

[Phillips]

What is your relationship with **Ryan Eggleston**? What was your feeling about that? Because you made a pretty abrupt move shortly after his termination, which, by the way, has also been named firing by one council member twice.

[Kelly]

From the day I met **Ryan (Eggleston)** was the day that I came up here for the department head interview. Immediately I like this guy. I could tell that he was very smart. He knew what he was doing. Very personable. One of the best interests at heart for the town and for the departments, and especially for the police department. He recognized that I was the outside person, not from here originally, an outside person coming in, which had not been the case for many, many years here at the department. We had a great working relationship. He was an excellent boss and supervisor, excellent town manager, really worked with me acclimating from state law enforcement back into local government and stuff like that. A lot of time working on processes and budgets. He allowed me the opportunity to come in and analyze the agency, provide feedback in a report and a 30-60-90-day plan, address inefficiencies and ineffectiveness and really work with the department and gave me the latitude that I needed. I think that went over resoundingly well with a lot of the members of the of the police department. You know I was surprised that it got to the point that it did. Especially with his termination, or firing, for doing what was right. He was a really good boss. He loved the town, and he really had a vision of where he saw Morehead City, both from a business growth perspective, a residential growth perspective, the involvement with programs and organizations, everything from the Big Rock to the Seafood Festival to the Marlins. He really worked hard to make sure the whole town was moving in the right direction.

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
July 8, 2022

**Morehead City terminates city manager's contract**

Author/Byline: Rachel Jacob

On July 7, by a vote of three to two, the Morehead City Town Council terminated the contract of City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** without cause, effective immediately. He will receive a severance package that includes six months pay, six months continued health benefits and reimbursement for unused vacation time.

On Tuesday, July 5, the town's Finance and Administrative Committee chaired by Councilman Harvey Walker and co-chaired by Councilman George Ballou, met at 9 a.m. in the town hall. That meeting was followed by a closed session of the full town board at 11 a.m. which had been scheduled the previous Friday at the beginning of the Fourth of July weekend. At the conclusion of the closed session Tuesday, the board convened a brief open meeting. According to Town Clerk Cathy Campbell, the only action taken at that time was a vote to hold the special public meeting scheduled for Thursday afternoon. The special meeting was held Thursday, July 7 in City Hall at 3 p.m. The 10-minute meeting was called to determine the future employment of Mr. **Eggleston**.

**Ryan Eggleston** had been the city manager since May 2018, just over four years. Mr. **Eggleston** was hired by unanimous decision. According to Councilwoman Diane Warrender, Mr. **Eggleston** "was evaluated a year ago this past May and his contract was extended for three years."

Prior to his time in Morehead City, Mr. **Eggleston** served as city manager for several Pennsylvania municipalities, including South Fayette, a position he held for five years and 11 months. Mr. **Eggleston** is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

At the meeting, Councilwoman Warrender expressed her dissent: "I am not in agreement with the three councilmen who wish to fire our manager, **Ryan Eggleston**. I strongly feel he is capable and has been a good city manager for our town employees and citizens." Councilman Bill Taylor also spoke at the meeting. "My vote no would indicate I do not agree with this being done or how it's being accomplished," he said. Councilwoman Warrender moved to allow public comment, a motion seconded by Councilman Taylor. However, when voted on, the motion failed three to two.

Following the passing of the motion to terminate the employment of Mr. **Eggleston**, Mayor Jerry Jones allowed him to respond. Mr. **Eggleston** read from a letter as he addressed Mayor Jones and the council. "Thank you, Mayor Jones, for the opportunity to serve Morehead City and the members of this fine community for the past four years. It has been a privilege and honor to work for you, and I thank you sincerely for your wisdom, good advice, positive attitude and constant professionalism." Mr. **Eggleston** continued to share his gratitude, "Bill, Diane, and Keri

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(McCann, the former councilwoman who was in attendance), I definitely wanted to thank you so much for always having the best intentions for the city in your hearts. Together, we were able to move the city to great financial security and to have a vision for the new City Hall. Your ability to collaborate and to understand the important issues that govern a city permitted me and my staff to move the city forward.

"Bill, you were also instrumental in always being thorough and asking the right questions for the right reasons, and Diane, I appreciate your never-ending, can-do attitude and your willingness to believe in the greater good. Thank you, Keri, for always understanding the responsibilities and dynamics of a board and for your sagacious input as a successful businesswoman in our great downtown."

Ms. McCann, expressing frustration following the conclusion of the meeting, stated she plans to run for town council next year.

When asked about the reason for Mr. **Eggleston's** termination, Councilman Ballou stated, "It's a personnel matter. By law, I cannot comment on that right now." Councilmembers had the opportunity to comment about the reason for Mr. **Eggleston's** employment termination at the July 7 meeting, but none chose to do so.

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
June 15, 2022

**Morehead City Council approves \$30 million 2022-23 budget: no tax or utility fee increases**  
Author/Byline: Brad Rich

The Morehead City Council voted 5-0 Tuesday night to adopt a \$30.3 million budget, including a \$20.1 operating or general fund, for the 2022-23 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The council's action followed the state-required public hearing in the panel's chambers in city hall off Bridges Street. "We are extremely excited to present and have the board adopt a budget that maintains our current tax rate and does not include a utility rate increase to our businesses and homeowners for the second year in a row," **Ryan T. Eggleston**, city manager, said in a press release Wednesday. "More importantly, we are very proud of the service level that our citizens receive day in and day out from our talented employees, and this budget is a continued commitment to that cause."

The property tax rate remains 38 cents per \$100 of assessed value. That means the owner of a \$200,000 property will face a tax bill of \$760. In addition to the general fund, the budget includes an \$8.8 million water and sewer fund and a \$1.3 million sanitation fund.

In the press release, city council member David Horton said he was pleased. "I thank Jewel Lasater (finance director) and the department heads, **Ryan Eggleston** (city manager) and staff, and all those who participated in the budget," he said. "I think the budget process went very well this year."

Some of the capital improvement plans for the next fiscal year include six new vehicles for the police department, two new vehicles for the fire department and a new knuckle boom truck for yard waste pickup in the sanitation department.

Other highlights include:

\$500,000 of funding for street, sidewalk and drainage improvements.

Two new message boards and removable barricades for the police department.

A new fire pump for the fire department boat and new power hose rollers.

New kayak storage racks at the 11th street water access and kayak launch.

Bathroom and gazebo rehabilitation at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park along with new pour-n-play rubber on the pirate ship playground.

Gazebo rehabilitation and installation of a new water station at Mitchell Village Park.

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Basketball and pickleball court improvements at Rotary Park.  
Improvements on some of the structures at Shevans Park.

A variety of infrastructure upgrades to the water and sewer utility systems.

The budget represents an increase of .82% over the current fiscal year's revised budget.

In his budget message, Mr. **Eggleston** wrote that although revenues from several sources – including the property tax and state-shared sales tax – have increased in recent years, personnel costs have, too. "Inflation is the highest it has been in 40 years," he wrote. "This, along with rising pension costs, rising post-retirement police supplementary benefit costs, performance and merit increases and increased health care insurance costs, all attribute to this surge. "In 2022 and beyond, there is a vital need to significantly adjust current service levels or find additional resources to fund the services Morehead City residents and businesses have come to expect," he added.

The budget includes money for a 4.7% cost-of living adjustment for employees to address salary compression and market competitiveness, and to maintain the current performance plan with compensation percentages from 0 to 3% based on performance scores.

The property tax is expected to be the biggest source of general fund, or operation budget revenue, at \$8.9 million.

In 2022, Morehead City employs 175 full-time workers and 45 part-time. Public safety (police, fire and EMS service) is by far the largest expense in the general fund budget, listed at \$12.7 million.

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
December 20, 2021

**Morehead City approves one-time bonuses for employees using American Rescue Plan funds**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

Morehead City employees who worked throughout the coronavirus pandemic will receive a one-time bonus of \$500 to \$1,000, depending on their personnel status, to be paid for with funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The Morehead City Council authorized the payments during its meeting Tuesday in the council chambers of city hall on Bridges Street. The city is set to receive about \$2.8 million from ARPA, but federal guidance on how exactly the funds may be used has been slow to come.

One definitive way ARPA recipients can use the funds is as premium pay for essential employees, Morehead City manager **Ryan Eggleston** shared Tuesday. Who is eligible for premium pay is based on interim final guidance from the U.S. Treasury. "Premium pay would be eligible to workers based on their hire date, either full-time or part-time as their personnel status and work hours during the period of March 16, 2020, through Nov. 30, 2021," Mr. **Eggleston** said.

Full-time employees will be eligible to receive up to about \$1,000, after applicable taxes and withholdings, and part-timers can get up to \$500. In total, the payments will cost the city about \$275,000, spread across multiple funds, most of which is covered by ARPA. "The large majority of all of those funds for premium pay, almost 86% of that total pot, if council decides to act on it...would be funded by the ARP funds," Mr. **Eggleston** said.

The city council unanimously passed a resolution and corresponding budget amendments to authorize the bonuses, which will be paid out by the end of the year. The city joins several other municipalities in Carteret County, including Emerald Isle, Cape Carteret and Cedar Point, that decided to use ARPA to fund staff bonuses.

The ARPA, which President Joe Biden signed into law in May, is a nearly \$2 trillion stimulus package that made about \$350 billion available to state and local governments for coronavirus relief assistance. Morehead City was set to receive about \$2.8 million paid out over two years, about \$1.4 million each year. The city received its first payment, which was placed in a special fund for accounting purposes, earlier in 2021.

The city had also been considering starting up a utility assistance program using ARPA funds, but that has been put on hold as officials await more guidance.

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
December 13, 2021

**State earmarks \$2M in budget for Sugarloaf Island stabilization project to protect against erosion**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The N.C. General Assembly earmarked \$2 million in the recently adopted state budget for a shoreline stabilization project on Sugarloaf Island designed to protect the island from the damaging environmental effects of shoreline erosion.

The proposed project is a collaboration between the N.C. Coastal Federation and Florida-based aquatic restoration firm Sea & Shoreline. According to a proposal letter sent to Rep. Pat McElraft, R-Carteret, and Sen. Norm Sanderson, R-Pamlico, – who Mayor Jerry Jones said were key to helping secure the state funds – the goal of the project is to "diminish shoreline erosion, improve water quality, recover lost critical habitat, provide food, shelter, and protection for sea life, sequester carbon, and increase coastal resiliency."

To do that, researchers wrote they intend to utilize three different techniques on Sugarloaf: wave attenuation devices, oyster reefs and living shoreline. The estimated cost of the project is around \$2 million over two years, and city manager **Ryan Eggleston** said there would be no local match required if Morehead City chooses to proceed with the proposal.

During a discussion about the state earmark at a city council workshop Dec. 8, council members David Horton and George Ballou expressed some hesitancy over accepting the funds without having reviewed the proposal for work first. To that end, the council plans to host a workshop sometime in January with the NCCF and Sea & Shoreline to learn more. "It just puts us in a dangerous situation where we've got money that's earmarked for a project for Sugarloaf that the council has not seen and approved," Mr. Horton cautioned.

Mayor Jones, on the other hand, believes the city has no time to spare when it comes preserving Sugarloaf Island, which he said essentially acts as a protective barrier island for Morehead City's waterfront. As a lifelong resident, he said he's watched the island shrink over the years, with erosion accelerating recently. "Back in the 60s when I was growing up, we used to swim over to Sugarloaf from 12th Street, the Walter Lewis Landing in Promise Land, and now it's to about 9th Street, and it's eroding away more," he said. "...If we don't do this, the future of the Morehead City waterfront is gone. Timing is everything and now it's the opportunity. The iron's hot and we need to strike."

Mayor Jones said the project, to him, was a "no brainer." "We need to push it on through, it's got to happen," he said. "...Sugarloaf is an outer bank for Morehead City, if we lose that, it would like us losing Bogue Banks."

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In addition to the \$2 million earmark in the state budget, Morehead City is in the process of applying for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, or BRIC, grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to study erosion on Sugarloaf Island. A multi-stepped application process, the full proposal is not due to FEMA until February, so Mr. **Eggleston** said the city still has time to decide whether to proceed with the BRIC grant. "That will probably also be discussed at the workshop in January," he said Monday.

If selected, the BRIC grant would give the city about \$150,000 – including a required local match – to study shoreline erosion on Sugarloaf and recommend possible solutions. Later rounds of the grant could then fund a project, but that would be several years out, if it happens at all. With the earmark from the NCGA already secured, it's possible the city could choose not to proceed with the BRIC grant.



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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
September 22, 2021

**Morehead City files civil complaint, seeks preliminary injunction against downtown property owner over street dispute**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The town of Morehead City last week filed civil action seeking a preliminary injunction against a downtown property owner who claims ownership of portions of municipal streets the town insists it has full authority and control over. In the complaint filed Sept. 15 in Carteret County Superior Court, the town alleges the dispute threatens its ability to hold the 35th annual North Carolina Seafood Festival, which is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, Oct. 1-3, in downtown Morehead City. The action was taken against John Poag, who owns the building at the intersection of Evans and Shepard streets occupied by Southern Salt restaurant, formerly Capt. Bill's, along with a parking lot directly north of the intersection.

According to the complaint, Mr. Poag claims "that he owns these portions of Evans Street and Shepard Street (surrounding his property) and can decide whether and to what extent they can be closed during the Seafood Festival." The town, on the other hand, asserts it has full "authority and control" of the municipal street system, including the streets and sidewalks near Mr. Poag's property, under North Carolina general statutes that date back more than a century.

The complaint goes on to state Mr. Poag "has engaged in inappropriate conduct, including but not limited to preventing festival vendors from using 'his' streets — conduct that, if allowed to continue, would seriously jeopardize Morehead City's decades-long tenure as the host of the Seafood Festival."

Mr. Poag claims otherwise. In emailed statements to the News-Times, he said he has cooperated with the town and N.C. Seafood Festival organizers in the past. "There is a statute that gives the town the right to turn over their streets to non-profit organizations for different events. That statute is not an issue here," he said. "In the past we have always supported those non-profit events. One such way we have supported these events is by providing our parking lot, free of charge for the past 35 years, to the North Carolina Seafood Festival so that they in turn could make money to support other local non-profit groups."

However, the town alleges Mr. Poag has "increasingly engaged in conduct that threatens to undermine the Town's ability to continue hosting the Seafood Festival," for example by physically blocking portions of Evans Street with sandbags on the eve of the most recent event in 2019. The town claims that action required heavy machinery to remove the sandbags and resulted in a dispute with Seafood Festival organizers over who could use the area around Mr. Poag's property.

In his statements to the News-Times, Mr. Poag stated the case is "strictly a legal issue between the Town of Morehead City and us concerning a street easement." "I have been unable to find a

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written easement for Evans Street located in the block between 7th Street and 8th Street," he said. "I have asked the town for a copy of that easement, if one exists. They have not produced a written easement and have chosen to file a lawsuit instead."

The preliminary injunction requested by Morehead City seeks immediate action from the courts in upholding the town's authority over its municipal street system, allowing the town to host the upcoming festival without risk of conflict. The filing also seeks a declaratory judgement to settle the controversy over who owns the streets and affirm the town's right to close public streets for public events.

Finally, the complaint requests the defendant pay attorney's fees and other associated costs with the case.

The civil complaint was filed by attorneys with the Raleigh-based law firm Poyner Spruill on behalf of the town of Morehead City. City manager **Ryan Eggleston** told the News-Times the firm has specific expertise in this area of municipal law and they will be working "hand in hand" with city attorney Derek Taylor on the matter.

The city council voted during a special meeting held Sept. 8, directly following its monthly workshop session, to allow the attorneys proceed with the civil action. "I believe we have a pretty good case to present to the superior court," Mr. Taylor said in briefly introducing the matter Sept. 8. However, there was not a quorum present for that special meeting, so the matter was included on the consent agenda for the city council's regular meeting Sept. 14. A quorum requires at least four of the six council members, including the mayor, to be present, and only three of the six were there for the special meeting Sept. 8.

In a news release from Sept. 10 announcing the town's intent to file a complaint, Mayor Jerry Jones said, "It is our obligation to protect the rights of our citizens' public interest and quality of life, including control of our municipal streets."

Last week, prior to the complaint being filed, Mr. **Eggleston** told the News-Times the town wanted to proceed as quickly as possible with the civil action because the Seafood Festival is coming up in just a few weeks. "(We're) really focused on the town making sure that when we need to, that we can exercise control of our streets for the better of the public," he said. "Timing-wise with the Seafood Festival coming up...I think the timing is important to make sure that we're doing what we need to protect those rights."

As of Thursday morning, a preliminary injunction had not yet been ordered for the case, according to a court representative.

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
June 12, 2021

**Morehead City adopts \$30M FY22 budget with no change to tax rate**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

Without fanfare, the Morehead City Council voted 5-0 Tuesday evening to approve its fiscal 2021-22 budget, adopting the nearly \$30 million tax-and-spending plan that includes, among other things, funds to cover increasing personnel costs and some large capital purchases that were put off last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The council held a public hearing for the budget during its regular monthly meeting Tuesday in the municipal building on S 8th Street. Nobody spoke during the hearing, and the council voted, without discussion, to adopt the budget ahead of the start of the fiscal 2021-22 year Thursday, July 1.

That doesn't mean, however, the council has had nothing to say about the budget. Since it was first introduced by city manager **Ryan Eggleston** May 7, Morehead City's governing board met multiple times to hear from department heads and dig into the plan line item by line item, making suggestions and tweaks that were incorporated into the final version.

The adopted budget totals \$29,785,352 across all funds and maintains the tax rate at 38 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. It includes no utility fee increases and calls for a one-time use of fund balance to pay for capital purchases. The adopted budget represents a 13.7% increase, or about \$3 million, over the current fiscal year plan, which officials described as "conservative" due to previously unknown effects of the pandemic on sales and property tax revenues. Mr. **Eggleston** originally estimated the city could lose up to \$1 million due to COVID-19 and budgeted accordingly, but collections exceeded expectations in almost every revenue category.

Tuesday, Mr. **Eggleston** pointed out one slight change that had been made to the five-year capital improvement program, or CIP, the addition of \$50,000 in committed funds for future playground improvements. "Really everything budgetwise is the exactly where it was last week when we met, with the exception of that one item," he noted.

Other items in the CIP include more than \$1 million for the purchase of new vehicles across multiple departments, including 12 new police patrol cars. It also sets aside funding for the future purchase of a new ladder truck for the fire department.

Along with the required budget ordinance, the council also adopted a resolution Tuesday eliminating the 2% prepayment discount on property taxes paid between July 1 and August 31. Mr. **Eggleston** said during a previous budget workshop the incentive was adopted in 1998, and Morehead City was the only municipality in Carteret County with such a discount in place. He estimated getting rid of it could give the city an extra \$100,000 or so in property tax collections per year.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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While the city is in a strong financial position as far as revenue collections for the time being, Mr. **Eggleston** acknowledged Morehead City could begin facing funding challenges in years to come. Personnel costs are up significantly in the fiscal 2021-22 budget and are expected to continue to increase, driven by rising pension costs, post-retirement police supplementary benefit increases, performance and merit raises and the increasing cost of health insurance.

The council also approved adding several new staff positions in the upcoming year and decided to implement salary adjustments as recommended by a recent class and compensation study, which have also contributed to rising costs.

As for funding of vital city services in the future, Mr. **Eggleston** said there is a particular need to identify the true costs associated with the city's fire and EMS department as it embarks on a plan to build a new fire station No. 3. "There is a clear and vital need in 2021 and beyond to either significantly adjust current service levels or find additional resources to fund the services the Town of Morehead City residents and businesses have come to expect," Mr. **Eggleston's** budget message reads, in part. "While growth of assessed property value and increased sales tax numbers benefit the town, we still have significant challenges ahead, most pressing beyond the fire department funding sources is how to fund much needed capital improvements," he continued. "Only through public discourse, hard work, cooperation, and innovative thinking can the Town succeed and prosper in the future."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
June 8, 2021

**Morehead City plans more than \$1M in vehicle purchases as part of 5-year capital program**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

Following a fiscal year with little in the way of capital purchases, Morehead City will be picking back up its spending plan in fiscal 2021-22 with an emphasis on updating the city's fleet of vehicles. The Morehead City Council held a workshop June 1 to review the proposed 2021-22 budget, focusing its attention on the five-year capital improvement program. It was the council's fourth and final budget work session before the required budget public hearing, which is scheduled for the council's next regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. That meeting takes place in the council chambers of the Morehead City municipal building at 202 S. 8th St. and online via Zoom. Following the public hearing, the city council is expected to vote to adopt the budget ahead of the new fiscal year, which begins Thursday, July 1.

The proposed five-year capital improvement program, which outlines major planned purchases through fiscal year 2027, calls for \$3,748,235 in capital spending on what city manager **Ryan Eggleston** identified as "priority funding" items. The manager also identified about \$1.5 million worth of items categorized as "under review for priority funding," which are not recommended for immediate funding but could be revisited later in the year, perhaps if grants or other outside funding sources become available. "If it's under priority funding... that means that there is funding recommended and proposed for council to consider acting on," Mr. **Eggleston** said. "If it's under review for priority and funding... that means that there is no funding allocated in the draft proposed budget toward those items for consideration, but they're not just dropping off. They're items that we may want to review throughout the year or additional funding may become available for."

Combining the priority and under review items, minus \$248,000 expected to come in from state-shared Powell Bill funds for street paving, the recommended capital budget for fiscal 2021-22 totals more than \$5 million, of which \$3.7 million is funded. That's significantly higher than the roughly \$1.1 million budgeted for capital purchases in the current fiscal year, which was restrained due to uncertainty around the financial impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

With a clearer understanding of the pandemic's effect on the budget, the city is ready to make headway on its multi-year capital improvement program. A large portion of the draft FY22 capital budget – more than \$1.1 million in priority funding and an additional \$377,000 in funding under review – is dedicated to purchasing vehicles for multiple city departments. "From the general fund side, you can see that most of our funding this year, or at least a good chunk of it, is going to vehicles," Mr. **Eggleston** said.

Morehead City public services director Daniel Williams told the council Tuesday he analyzed his fleet using a program that assigns each vehicle a point value based on various factors, including

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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age, mileage and condition, to determine if it needs to be replaced. He said any vehicle that scores 28 points or more is eligible for immediate replacement. Many of the vehicles in his departments scored more than 40 points. "If I did it strictly by the points system, all of my vehicles within the (capital program) should be replaced this year, but I scattered them out over a five-year replacement program because I just know that's not realistic," Mr. Williams said.

The capital budget recommends \$190,415 in new vehicle purchases between the buildings and grounds and transportation departments, both of which Mr. Williams oversees. That total includes \$80,615 for a new dump truck to replace a 1999 model, as well as several new Ford F-250 work trucks at a cost of \$36,600 each. The price includes all upfit and related costs.

Meanwhile, roughly half of the \$1.1 million vehicle budget, \$536,720, is recommended for the police department to purchase 12 new patrol vehicles. The city bought 10 new patrol cars for the police department last year, which Chief Bernette Morris said Tuesday was certainly appreciated but below the 16 she had requested, and not quite enough to get her aging fleet up to date.

Chief Morris said if the police department receives the 12 new cars it asked for this year, it can get into a steady replacement cycle of five cars per year for the rest of the five-year capital program. "What we're trying to do is play catch up, if we get the 12 this year, then it will be five (new vehicles requested per year) thereafter," she said. "That's why we asked for the 12, we're trying to get these...immediate replacements out of the way." Most of the new police vehicles will be Dodge Durangos at a cost of \$46,108 per car, with all upfit costs included in the price.

The capital budget also sets aside \$300,000 for the future purchase of a new ladder truck for the Morehead City Fire Department. Chief Jamie Fulk estimates the total cost of the new truck will be around \$1.2 million, and he's hopeful Carteret County may pitch in funds to help with the purchase, so there's an additional \$300,000 placed in the "under review" funding category.

Aside from the new vehicle purchases, the largest capital expenditure in the recommended budget is \$1,755,000 for various water and sewer and wastewater infrastructure upgrades. There's also \$500,000 allocated for paving, \$60,000 to replace the floor in the gymnasium of the recreation center and a few miscellaneous capital purchases.

Councilman David Horton said the program seems like a good plan, but he worried about funding it in future years. There is no tax increase recommended this fiscal year, which he hopes to maintain, so he urged fellow council members to begin thinking ahead about how to fund future capital purchases as some large items loom in the distance, such as construction of a new fire station. "This year because we were conservative with our revenue estimates...we have a big surplus." Mr. Horton said. "...My concern is that with all the increases that we're having that next year, the budget is not going to cover anything for capital like it did this year. "I just hope the council is committed not to raise taxes," he concluded.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
March 11, 2021

**Morehead City Council approves dog park plans**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

In other news:

Approved renewing City Manager **Ryan Eggleston's** employment contract for an additional three years. The council held a closed session to discuss the contract renewal prior to the regular meeting Tuesday.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
February 9, 2021

**Mid-year review finds Morehead City in better financial position than expected with pandemic**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

A mid-fiscal-year review of the city's finances show the coronavirus pandemic has not had as significant of an impact on the budget as originally expected, but officials still want to plan conservatively for the 2021-22 fiscal year ahead.

Planning for the current fiscal year took place in spring 2020, just as the coronavirus pandemic was beginning to sweep the nation. With so much still unknown about the virus and its potential effects at that time, Morehead City officials projected losing up to \$1.4 million in sales tax and other revenues and took several measures to cut back on expenses, including laying off 18 employees. The result of last year's fiscal planning was a \$24.1 million budget that funded essential services and programs and some urgent capital needs, but not much else. With budget discussions for the 2021-22 fiscal year kicking off this month, Finance Director Jewel Lasater appeared at a Morehead City Council workshop Feb. 2 to give a budget update as of Dec. 31, 2020, the midway point of the fiscal year.

Ms. Lasater went line-by-line with the council on budgeted and actual revenues and expenses up to Dec. 31, with numbers for the prior fiscal year included for comparison. She also prepared an end-of-fiscal-year projection for major general fund revenue categories based on collections to date.

The mid-year review shows collections on ad valorem property taxes, the city's single largest source of income, are up about \$500,000 compared to last year, which Ms. Lasater said was expected due to the countywide property revaluation that took effect in 2020. In addition, she projects collections by the end of this fiscal year will be about \$400,000 above what was originally budgeted. If the projection pans out, Morehead City will collect around \$8.35 million in ad valorem taxes by the end of the fiscal year. "The collection rate is better than we thought it was going to be," Ms. Lasater said, "but I'm still going to do these projections conservatively, I just think that's the right way to do revenue."

Sales and use taxes, another major source of revenue for the city, are also trending higher than anticipated. Ms. Lasater said those could be up nearly \$1 million above what was budgeted, around \$4.9 million rather than \$3.9 million. "Near the end of last fiscal year and the first few months of this fiscal year, sales and use tax trended above (expected), which was completely in contrast to what everybody was seeing, so that was great," she said. "...I think a lot of it in our area has had to do with the tourism and kids being out school and people working remotely from home."



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Some revenue categories, however, are trending below what was budgeted, especially investment earnings, which officials project to come in about \$82,000 under budget. Overall, the city projects it will bring in about \$1.28 million in extra general fund revenue by the end of the fiscal year.

Despite the generally good news, Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** urged the council to continue its conservative approach to budgeting. He pointed out there are numerous capital needs and other potential expenses the city will have to address in the coming years, meaning the council will still have to carefully consider its priorities moving forward. "There are some legitimate, serious questions of funding related to capital improvements and other items that are going to require a significant amount of financial commitment from the town," he said. "...From a budget kickoff standpoint, it should be an interesting budget process and there are certain decisions that the board will need to make related to how we allocate funds."

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
February 5, 2021

**Parents highlight budget concerns for Carteret County school board**

Author/Byline: Cheryl Burke

From funding to hire more minority teachers to budgeting for the Marine Science and Technologies Early College High School, Carteret County parents and other residents shared Tuesday what they want included in the county school system's 2021-22 budget.

In addition, another group of parents, represented by Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston**, appealed to the County Board of Education to provide more funding for academically and intellectually gifted programs.

The school board is in the process of developing its 2021-22 county budget request and invited the public to share concerns during a hearing at the beginning of the board's meeting in the school system's central office on Safrit Drive.

Missy Oden, a member of Citizens for Diversity in Education, said, "CDE is here to prompt each one here to move from our seat of complacency on issues and matters that we know is going on and affecting our minority students, teachers support staff — which also includes the lack thereof. It's time we take action." Ms. Oden was flanked by several members of the grassroots group, which presented copies of a three-phase plan to increase the recruitment, hire and retention of minority educators to each board member and school administrator. The estimated cost to implement the plan is \$487,500. The plan's three phases are identification and removal of barriers and stigmas and a minority retention plan; improvement of the hiring process; and accountability.

Several MaST parents also shared comments on the budget via emails, which Assistant Superintendent Blair Propst read to board members. In her email, MaST parent Erin Gordon said, "...Programs like MaST are imperative, they serve a large group of diverse students that don't always excel in a typical high school environment..." MaST parent Robin Meyer, in her email, stated, "...Our county needs to continue to provide and encourage an affordable pathway for these students to access higher education while in high school...."

MaST is an early college high school that meets on the campus of Carteret Community College in Morehead City and allows students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. The school has been embroiled in a legal battle with the school board since a group of MaST parents and students filed an amended complaint and a motion for a preliminary injunction in September seeking a court order to force enrollment of a freshman class. This came after the school board voted in June to not enroll one, citing budget concerns. Only already-enrolled sophomores and juniors comprise the school this year. The latest ruling on the case took place Dec. 4, when Superior Court Judge Josh Willey Jr. denied a motion for a preliminary injunction to require the school system to enroll a freshman class. The MaST group is still pursuing a

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
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breach-of-contract claim. Wednesday, BOE attorney Neil Whitford said Superintendent Dr. Rob Jackson is continuing to use a resolution the school board adopted in July 2019 to operate the school and is reviewing those plans. "As soon as practical, he will report to the board on the main study points in the resolution, those being (1) recruitment of students into the school who will likely choose vocational training and enter the Carteret County workforce in skilled maritime trades, and (2) reduction of negative impacts on East Carteret and our other high schools," Mr. Whitford said.

As for the academically and intellectually gifted program, Mr. **Eggleston** said more funds are needed to provide additional staff and program offerings to the estimated 1,000 county AIG students. He pointed out that AIG staff has been cut from nine teaching positions to 5.5 districtwide. "These 5.5 positions are required by state law to provide services as outlined under Article 9B of the N.C. General Statute for almost 1,000 third- through 12th- grade students districtwide. These students are scattered between 17 school buildings," he said. "This is not sustainable for the teachers, providing very little value to 1,000 students identified as AIG in our district."

He also said that while the county receives an estimated \$450,000 from the state for AIG programming and staff, the amount has remained flat for more than 10 years. "Without a revenue stream from the board of education to fund AIG at the local level, we believe the long-term viability of the program is in serious jeopardy," he said.

Mr. **Eggleston** asked the school board's finance committee, which began discussions last year on providing adequate funds for AIG programs, to "begin discussions anew this month with the focused goal of securing sufficient local funding to be included in the upcoming 2021-22 approved school budget for the AIG program."

The school board held a budget workshop Jan. 28 to take its first look at a proposed \$3.1 million list of facilities needs and is scheduled to hold additional workshops this month. The board must have a finalized budget request to county commissioners by the end of March. Commissioners will then have to decide how much to give schools for the 2021-22 fiscal year, which begins Thursday, July 1.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
January 12, 2021

**Morehead City hopes to move past coronavirus, focus on citywide improvements in 2021**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

It's officially a new year, and while much of 2020 was dominated by the response to the novel coronavirus pandemic and the challenges it presented, officials in Morehead City are hopeful they can begin to shift the focus back to other priorities in 2021.

Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** met with the News-Times Thursday to reflect on 2020 and share some of the city's goals for the year ahead. He said many projects were placed on the back burner last year as officials dealt with the emerging and ever-evolving COVID-19 crisis beginning around mid-March. "Obviously, that has been a great challenge for us in 2020, and lot of our time, energy and resources were spent on preparing for the disease and trying to keep folks safe, and also doing the business that we need to do on a daily basis," he said. "But I think even through that, we're continuing to move forward with a host of projects in 2021."

The pandemic is likely far from over, but Mr. **Eggleston** said the city seems to have a handle on how to manage when employees get sick and the council chambers were upgraded with better audio-visual equipment to improve the quality of virtual meetings. With those and other COVID-related issues addressed, and vaccinations now underway, Mr. **Eggleston** is hopeful Morehead City can start to move on.

Before officials can think too far ahead though, they have to first get through the budget process for the 2021-22 fiscal year, which begins Thursday July 1. That may still be six months away, but the Morehead City Council kicks off budget discussions next month with its yearly goal-setting retreat taking place Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 9 a.m. "That's coming up quick, and what we'll probably see is a carryover of some of our goals that we've been working on, and probably also some new ones that have come up, as well," Mr. **Eggleston** said.

Chief among Morehead City's goals already in place for 2021 is completion of the new city hall building on Bridges Street. Construction began in 2020, and despite the pandemic and occasional poor weather, the project mostly stayed on track. Mr. **Eggleston** said the building itself should be finished by Memorial Day at the latest and staff should be moved in by Labor Day. The new city hall building will house all the city's government offices under one roof, except for the police and fire departments, which have their own facilities. Offices are currently split between the old city hall on Arendell Street and the municipal building on S. 8th Street. As for the old city hall, that building is pending sale, with buyers AJK Acquisitions LLC expected to close within the next few weeks. Mr. **Eggleston** said the buyers intend to use the building for office space, with the company expected to announce formal plans later. There are no current plans to sell the municipal building.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
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As in the past, Morehead City will continue to plan and execute street paving and related drainage projects this year. Crews repaved a large portion of Bridges Street in 2020, and a forthcoming citywide road assessment will inform officials which areas need to be prioritized for paving moving forward. "It's one of those costs we have every year, it's not going away," Mr. **Eggleston** said.

Another recurring expense Mr. **Eggleston** expects Morehead City will face in the years to come is related to stormwater management. In 2019, the city council hired the firm Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. to help develop a stormwater plan, and representatives from Wood are set to present next month recommendations based on a pilot study conducted on a small area downtown. Eventually, officials hope to develop a comprehensive, citywide stormwater plan. "Much like paving, it's a project we're going to have to do on an annual basis as we continue to deal with the variety of stormwater issues here," the manager said. "...Hopefully in the coming year, we can begin to move some of (Wood's) recommendations forward to being to implement an overall stormwater plan."

Officials will also continue to think about the long-term future of Morehead City in 2021. Mr. **Eggleston** said the city is due for a land-use plan update soon, which will help guide growth for the next decade and beyond. There's also a study wrapping up soon on staffing and space needs for Morehead Fire Station No. 3, with a new station potentially in the future.

There are a few other projects officials would like to see come to fruition as well, like continuing beautification efforts, shoreline stabilization at Sugarloaf Island and a dog park. The council will begin to set those and other capital project priorities during its upcoming budget discussions. "We're excited for 2021 and feel like it's really going to be a really good and prosperous year for the town," Mr. **Eggleston** concluded, "and we're just looking forward (to) working with residents and business owners to continue to make Morehead City the wonderful and attractive town it is."

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
January 9, 2021

**Morehead City to reinstate some positions lost to pandemic budget cuts**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

With finances appearing to stabilize somewhat after an uncertain start to the 2020-21 fiscal year, Morehead City officials are ready to bring back some of the positions that were lost to budget cuts as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. In May, the city laid off 10 full-time and 8 part-time employees across several departments due to an anticipated budget shortfall brought on by the pandemic. At the time, finance officials projected Morehead City could lose more than \$1 million in revenue from the general fund, largely from lost sales tax collections.

However, Carteret County ended up posting record-breaking tourism numbers in 2020, and Morehead City benefitted from high visitation all summer and into the fall. Tuesday, Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** informed the city council that sales and real estate tax collections are higher than originally expected. "As we've been tracking the trajectory of our revenue, specifically as it relates to the general fund, both our sales tax revenue numbers and our real estate tax numbers are tracking ahead of our projection, which obviously is a terrific thing," he said. With the financial outlook more positive now than it was last spring, Mr. **Eggleston** proposed reinstating some positions that were previously cut, including three full-time and three part-time positions. For full-time positions, he proposed adding a second building maintenance technician, an additional firefighter/EMT and an entry-level police officer to the city's ranks. For part-time positions, he proposed a police records specialist, an animal control officer and a water/sewer administrator, all positions which had previously been full-time before they were eliminated last spring. Mr. **Eggleston** noted the building maintenance technician and police officer positions hadn't been cut for pandemic-related reasons, but all the others were eliminated in the layoffs last May.

The city currently has several other open positions as a result of employee turnover, including for a building inspector and a utility service technician. Mr. **Eggleston** said he expects the city will be able to fill all the vacant positions relatively quickly. He said it's also possible more positions will be added back in the coming months as the city continues to monitor the evolving financial situation. "I don't have any hesitation in thinking that we should be able to fill those (positions)," he said Tuesday. Some employees that were previously furloughed have already been brought back as Morehead City slowly reintroduces certain services, such as reopening the Webb Library and the recreation center on Fisher Street.

Next month, the city council is slated to kick off planning for the 2021-22 fiscal year budget, at which point there may be additional discussions on the city's workforce. The Morehead City Council will decide whether to approve the positions proposed by the city manager during the next voting meeting, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the council chambers of the municipal building and online via Zoom.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
August 4, 2020

**Webb Library reopens for pickup service**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The Webb Memorial Library has reopened for pickup service after being closed for months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Webb Library is allowing patrons to pick up materials at the garden door entrance to the library, which is in downtown Morehead City at 812 Evans St. The library remains closed to walk-in traffic at this time, and current hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays.

To use the pickup service, the library says patrons can browse available items using the website [webb.biblionix.com/catalog](http://webb.biblionix.com/catalog) and place a hold or request for materials using your online account or by calling 252-726-3012, emailing [webblibrary@gmail.com](mailto:webblibrary@gmail.com) or texting 252-888-1002. After making the request, wait for the notification by either email, text or phone call that materials are ready to be picked up at the garden door entrance. Safety protocols, including a glass partition at the window, are in place to protect patrons and staff. Books should be returned to the book drop at the corner of 9th and Evans streets. Sandy Bell, president of the Friends of Webb Library, said the pickup service seems to be catching on, with increasing numbers of people requesting materials by email, phone and text.

After being closed for several months because of the pandemic, the fate of Webb Library was uncertain heading into the new fiscal year. The library's entire staff was laid off in May due to a citywide budget shortfall, and the proposed 2020-21 budget didn't include funding for the operation of Webb Library, only for basic maintenance and upkeep of the building.

Ms. Bell and other supporters banded together to "save" Webb Library, appealing to the Morehead City Council and Manager **Ryan Eggleston** to provide at least enough funding to operate with the help of volunteers. The council ultimately approved a budget allocating \$130,000 for Webb Library in 2020-21. The city rehired Library Director James Swann, who has been coordinating volunteers with the help of the Friends of the Webb Library. Ms. Bell said part-time, paid staff have also started working again, as of last week.

"Many thanks have to go out to the MHC City Council members, Mayor Jerry Jones, and the City Manager, **Ryan Eggleston** for amending the proposed budget to allow for the Webb to be a functioning (albeit modified) library again," Ms. Bell said in an email. "Good news for all the folks who have been faithful library users. It was certainly worth all the effort that it took to get us here!"

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
July 25, 2020

**Morehead City Council grants encroachment request**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The Morehead City Council last week granted an encroachment request to a downtown restaurant owner whose recent renovations to his business ended up encroaching more than 5.5 feet onto city property. The city agreed to allow the encroachment during its regular monthly meeting held July 14. During a workshop meeting the previous week, the city council learned about the situation from City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** and the business owner, Kosta Manousaridis, who operates Catch 109 restaurant at 109 S. 6th St. With the council agreeing to the encroachment request, the new restaurant will be able to open soon.

Mr. Manousaridis explained he recently carried out renovations to the building to improve the overall flow of the restaurant, including moving the front door. In doing so, he also constructed a set of wooden steps to access the doorway. The steps encroached 5 feet 8 inches onto city property. “I currently have a sidewalk permit, which allows me to put tables and chairs in that area and I thought the steps would be covered in that same permit but unfortunately I was mistaken,” Mr. Manousaridis wrote in a memo included in the council’s agenda packet.

Mr. **Eggleston** said as of July 14 the city had received all the necessary building permits and drawings from Mr. Manousaridis to proceed. Mr. **Eggleston** noted the situation was a bit of an unusual one because normally, staff would review the permit application before such changes are carried out, but the council supported the encroachment request regardless. “Given the nature of this one particular request we wanted to bring it before the board for their review,” he said.

The Morehead City Council also took the following action during its July 14 meeting:

Appointed Mr. **Eggleston** to the Highway 70 Corridor Commission.

Reviewed a purchasing policy update and status of current sidewalk requirements.

Heard a brief update on the condemnation process from Mr. **Eggleston**, who said he will provide additional information at future meetings.



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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
June 14, 2020

**Morehead City closes out emergency loan program**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

After distributing 13 loans totaling \$42,000, the city is ending its emergency small business loan program created to help local businesses stay afloat through the novel coronavirus pandemic. The city council approved the loan program in April, making \$300,000 in loans available to eligible small businesses within Morehead City limits. The city held two rounds of applications for the program, the second of which recently wrapped up with only two applicants and one awardee.

Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** gave an update on the loan program during the city council’s regular meeting Tuesday evening. Because of declining interest in the program, he recommended ending it. “At this point, from the staff side, we would recommend to the board that we just close out that program at this time based on the two rounds,” he said.

Mr. **Eggleston** said the city approved 15 loans totaling roughly \$51,000, but a couple of the recipients ended up declining because they received funds from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He said the 13 businesses receiving loans employ a collective 75 workers.

The loans are intended for rent or mortgage/interest payments on brick-and-mortar storefronts of businesses that were forced to close as a result of the pandemic and resultant economic shutdown. To be eligible, businesses had to employ fewer than 25 people and demonstrate financial hardship as a direct result of the pandemic.

A committee comprised of Mr. **Eggleston**, Morehead City Finance Director Jewel Lasater, Downtown Morehead City Inc. Executive Director Lisa Rueh and Chamber of Commerce President Tom Kies reviewed and approved applications. Mr. **Eggleston** said all the businesses that applied fulfilled the loan requirements.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
June 12, 2020

**Morehead City adopts \$24.6M budget**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The city council adopted the 2020-21 fiscal year budget Tuesday evening, putting an end to what city officials have described as one of the most challenging budget cycles they've ever experienced due to the novel coronavirus pandemic and its widespread economic impacts. The adopted Morehead City budget totals \$24,616,371 across all funds with a tax rate of 38 cents per \$100 assessed property value, the same rate as the current fiscal year. The new fiscal year begins Wednesday, July 1. The budget breaks down to \$15,574,746 in the general fund, \$7,815,625 for the water and sewer fund, \$1,066,000 for the solid waste fund and \$160,000 for the newly-created stormwater fund. Revenues and expenditures are balanced with a one-time use of the fund balance for capital expenditures.

The city anticipates a “significant” loss of income next year, possibly upward of \$1.4 million or more, because of impacts of the pandemic on sales tax and other revenue sources. To offset some of the losses, in May the city laid off more than a dozen employees, and the adopted budget includes sweeping cuts to operational and capital costs in an effort to conserve cash. “We feel pretty comfortable that because of some our moves over the past couple of months ...we’re hopeful that a lot of those moves have helped to offset that loss of revenue,” City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** said.

The council voted 4-1 to adopt the plan, with Councilman David Horton opposed. Mr. Horton explained his reasons for voting against the budget in a prepared statement he read for the council and the public. Mr. Horton cited the “extremely pessimistic” revenue projections, a lack of funding for water and sewer capital needs and the desire to reevaluate school resource officer funding as among his reasons for voting against the budget. Also, he pushed for the city to adopt the revenue-neutral tax rate of 35 cents, calling the 38-cent rate effectively a tax increase. Otherwise, there was almost no discussion on the plan Tuesday, which the council has reviewed and talked about at length in budget workshops for the past month.

Mr. **Eggleston** noted staff made a few last-minute changes to the budget based on council feedback from the workshops. The budget for the Webb Memorial Library increased from \$31,690 – enough to fund basic utilities and building maintenance, but not operations – to \$130,000. Of that, \$50,000 is allocated for part-time salaries and the rest is for supplies and building operations. For now, the Webb Library remains closed because of the pandemic, but Mr. **Eggleston** said once it reopens, it will be operated under a staff/volunteer hybrid model. He said the part-time staffers will help coordinate volunteers in close conjunction with the Friends of the Webb Library, which pushed the city to reconsider funding for the library next year.

Also, the city allocated additional capital funds for new police patrol vehicles. The budget previously funded the purchase of three new patrol vehicles at about \$110,000, but after hearing

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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from Police Chief Bernette Morris on the state of the city’s aging fleet, the council urged Mr. **Eggleston** to look into options for purchasing more vehicles. The budget was nearly quadrupled to \$402,000 to fund the purchase of 10 new patrol vehicles.

Two people spoke during a budget public hearing, held prior to the council’s vote Tuesday. Friends of the Webb Library President Sandy Bell and former Library Director James Swann spoke on behalf of the library and its patrons to thank the council and staff for funding operations next year. Ms. Bell encouraged the city to move quickly with hiring part-time workers to get the facility open as soon as possible. “We can get the volunteers, but you need to provide the staff since the previous staff that was furloughed was then let go,” she said.

At Mr. **Eggleston**’s recommendation, the city council will revisit the budget for a mid-year review around January, when the financial impacts of the coronavirus will be better understood.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
May 18, 2020

**Morehead City lays off 18 employees**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The city recently laid off more than a dozen employees due to an anticipated budget shortfall as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** told the News-Times the city laid off 10 full-time and eight part-time workers across several departments. He said for “privacy reasons,” he could not give a breakdown of which departments were affected, but confirmed some of the layoffs were in the fire and police departments. He called the impact to those departments “minimal.” “It was a citywide organizational change and the impact ... was in a multitude of departments across the city,” he said.

Mr. **Eggleston** said Morehead City anticipates “significant” budget impacts as a result of lost revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a Monday news release announcing the layoffs, the city said it anticipates at least \$1.3 million in lost revenue, approximately 10% of the annual general fund balance. The majority of the loss is a result of lost sales tax revenues since the state’s stay-at-home order went into effect in March. “The city is currently facing very serious financial impacts from this pandemic,” Mr. **Eggleston** said in the release. “As we finalize our (fiscal year 2020-21) budget, we are significantly reducing non-personnel expenses and delaying capital improvement projects, but the reality is that the financial impact requires immediate action. My heart goes out to all our employees who have dedicated their service and expertise to this community.”

Mr. **Eggleston** said some of the eight part-time employees laid off had previously been furloughed due the anticipated budget shortfall. Many of those employees work at the Webb Library and are considered “nonessential.” According to the release, Morehead City offered the full-time employees a severance package, and they are eligible to receive unemployment benefits immediately.

Mr. **Eggleston** said he informed the Morehead City Council last week of the decision to lay off workers. One city council member told the News-Times the decision was made Tuesday during a closed session following the council’s regular monthly meeting, but Mr. **Eggleston** clarified it was his decision to make the layoffs. “I advised the city council the layoffs were coming, but ultimately the decision was a city manager decision,” Mr. **Eggleston** said.

The city recently allocated \$300,000 for an emergency small business loan program that has drawn some criticism from residents. Certain eligible small businesses affected by the pandemic can receive up to \$5,000 in loans to help pay rent or mortgage payments. “Unlike a hurricane, tornado or past economic downturns in Morehead City, the duration of this crisis is unknown,” Mr. **Eggleston** said in the release. “COVID-19 is impacting every community across the world. It is creating very real financial hardships for businesses and individuals, and there is incredible uncertainty about a timeline on when we can begin a new normal.”

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
April 11, 2020

**City considers loan program to help small businesses**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The city is considering launching a loan program to help small, local businesses stay afloat through the ongoing novel coronavirus crisis. The city council discussed the potential program during a workshop held Tuesday in the council chambers of the municipal building. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, the in-person meeting was limited to members of the council, select staff and a News-Times reporter, but others could attend virtually via the online meeting platform Zoom.

City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** introduced the proposed program to the council, explaining it is meant to provide emergency relief to small businesses that cannot currently operate due to the ordered closure of non-essential businesses. According to a draft resolution outlining specifics of the program, the short-term loans would be used for paying up to two months' rent or mortgage/interest payments in order to prevent eviction or foreclosure of storefronts during the state of emergency declaration.

“The essence of it is to try to help get a small amount of cash in the hands of our local businesses, folks who have brick-and-mortar stores in the corporate limits of Morehead City,” Mr. **Eggleston** said. “It basically would be tied to their rent or mortgage payment or interest on their business and would allow them just an opportunity, in a quick fashion, to get some revenue to help offset the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

If the city council adopts the draft resolution as presented during its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, the city would make approximately \$300,000 available in loans to qualifying small businesses within Morehead City. The businesses would receive a maximum of \$2,500 per month for up to two months, for a total of up to \$5,000 per small business. Mr. **Eggleston** described the loans as “gap funding” for small businesses to stay afloat long enough until federal money through the Small Business Association or other sources comes through. Small businesses who wish to access the funds would have to meet certain criteria to be considered and submit an application to the city for review.

However, some council members expressed hesitation at creating such a program because of the potential complications it could create for the city. “The devil is always in the details, and this gives me a good thumbnail of the overall objective of the program, but what are the details?” Councilman Bill Taylor asked. “Who’s going to manage these loans? Is it a bank? How long will it take to implement? What is the failure rate of nonpayment? ... These are the things I’d like to know before we agree to this.”

Councilwoman Keri McCann, who owns Jack’s Waterfront Bar and Restaurant, said, as a small business owner who is tapped into the local business community, the loan program sounded like

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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a good idea that could help a number of struggling businesses. “I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt that the SBA and the banks are not streamlining this process,” she said. “...This would be a tremendous help to some of our businesses who just need to bridge the gap to survive.”

The other council members agreed the program would be beneficial for small businesses, but they wanted more information before deciding whether to approve it. The members also suggested the city look into other ways to help small businesses, such as suspending utility payments until the coronavirus crisis has passed.

The council directed Mr. **Eggleston** to consult with city attorney Derek Taylor about the program and present more information during the upcoming regular meeting set for Tuesday.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
April 3, 2020

**City pauses some projects, set to finish others**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

City staff say ongoing projects like street paving and the Shevans Park playground construction will continue as scheduled amidst the novel coronavirus outbreak, but other plans may be put on hold until after the situation has improved. “We’ve kind of pressed pause on projects that are not yet in the contract stage, just to really be fiscally prudent,” Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** told the News-Times this week. While there are no more major projects coming down the pipeline in the current 2019-20 fiscal year, Mr. **Eggleston** said the coronavirus will almost certainly influence the city’s 2020-21 budget and five-year capital improvement plan. The city council met in February for an initial budget planning retreat to set broad goals for the upcoming year and was scheduled to hold several budget workshops over the next few months before the new fiscal year begins Wednesday, July 1. “The board will have to look at those long-range projects and really decide what we can afford and what we might have to put on hold,” Mr. **Eggleston** said. He said the council will still hold the budget workshops, but they may have to happen virtually over video or conference call. City staff are working to develop a teleworking and meeting policy that allows for the public to continue to participate in government matters. “This will be an interesting budget cycle, I think,” Mr. **Eggleston** said. A few high-profile capital projects in Morehead City are continuing as planned, for now. Mr. **Eggleston** said paving on Bridges Street is about halfway done, and the contractor hopes to wrap up that work in about two weeks, weather permitting. “There won’t be any traffic out on the roads at that point, but at least we’ll have it done,” Mr. **Eggleston** said, referring to the fact the state is under mandatory stay-at-home orders by the governor until at least Wednesday, April 29.

In addition, construction of the new Shevans Park playground and splash pad is still on track to wrap up by the beginning of May, but the ribbon-cutting ceremony officials planned for the new structure will likely be delayed. In fact, with all public playgrounds closed until further notice as part of Gov. Roy Cooper’s executive order, it could potentially be weeks or months until children can break in the new playground. Construction of the new city hall building on Bridges Street is also moving forward as scheduled, Mr. **Eggleston** reported. The city held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new building in February, and the work is still in the early stages. Officials hoped to complete construction in about 15 months, with the new building ready in spring 2021. “If we have an executed contract ... we’re obligated to see those through,” the city manager noted. The city is also trying to make it easier on residents who are still carrying out their own building projects. Mr. **Eggleston** said staff accelerated the rollout of a new online planning and inspections software that allows people to submit documents and obtain permits without seeing someone face-to-face. “We’ve been in the testing phase for a couple of months just to make sure everything is working properly, so we just decided to go ahead and move that forward so that if folks out there are working on projects, they can go onto our new portal now and submit their drawings and applications online,” Mr. **Eggleston** said.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
March 20, 2020

**City council gives mayor, manager additional authority amid outbreak**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

As one of the latest municipalities to declare a state of emergency over the global coronavirus outbreak, Morehead City has granted its mayor and city manager extra authority relating to certain government policies and operations. During a special meeting Thursday, the Morehead City Council adopted a resolution granting such powers to Mayor Jerry Jones and City Manager **Ryan Eggleston**. Mayor Jones previously declared a state of emergency in Morehead City effective March 16.

The resolution allows the officials to make decisions regarding personnel, utilities, meetings and other general business operations. Mr. **Eggleston** said there are several items, like a teleworking policy, the city needs to put together as quickly as possible because there is not a relevant policy already in place. He said some employees have already begun working from home. “This, from a housekeeping standpoint, makes clear that the council is authorizing us to move forward with some of these fast-moving, fluid things that normally might run through the full process, but we’re making more rapid given this is an unorthodox time,” Mr. **Eggleston** noted.

The council talked about the possibility of holding electronic public meetings as a way to follow the current public health recommendation of limiting groups to fewer than 50 people. Although the council met in person Thursday, the members and audience were seated at least 6 feet apart from each other, and the department heads who spoke did so over video call. City attorney Derek Taylor said the city would need to ensure the public still has adequate access to meetings, among other considerations, and recommended the council pass an ordinance laying out the process. The council directed Mr. **Eggleston** to draft an ordinance for consideration at the council’s next regular monthly meeting.

“Under emergency situations you have greater latitude,” Mr. Taylor said. “Technically speaking, from the statutory (requirements), we probably would have problems with electronic meetings, but there is a general consensus that under these circumstances it’s highly unlikely we would ever get challenged in a lawsuit, so that’s about the best we can do. Under emergency situations you take emergency action.” Councilman George Ballou said he’d like to continue doing business as usual as much as possible, but said he recognizes the health concerns, so he supported the electronic meeting structure.

The council also considered the possibility of temporarily suspending water disconnects but decided to take things on a case-by-case basis rather than adopt a blanket policy. Mr. **Eggleston** indicated the city would be willing to work with individuals who experience economic hardship as a result of the coronavirus.



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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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County Health Department Director Stephanie Cannon and Emergency Services Director Stephen Rea also presented, via conference call, updates on the coronavirus to the council. Ms. Cannon reported, as of Thursday morning, there are 97 official confirmed COVID-19 cases in North Carolina, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, though other sources reported higher numbers. She stressed there have been no confirmed cases in Carteret County, so far, but she warned the council that would likely change soon.

The council also heard updates from the city's department heads, some who said they are looking into teleworking and other measures to limit employees' exposure to the disease. Most reported it is essentially business as usual, with some obvious changes to operations. The city already closed the recreation center and Webb Library and closed the city hall building and municipal building. Residents should visit the city's website, [moreheadcitync.org](http://moreheadcitync.org), for more information about what services are currently available and how to reach a staff member.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
November 16, 2019

**City nabs grant to restore 7 homes**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The city was recently awarded a Community Development Block Grant from the Rural Economic Development Division of the N.C. Department of Commerce to help seven families rehabilitate their homes from damage caused by Hurricane Florence in September 2018. The city will receive \$750,000 in grant funds, which come from federal sources and are administered through the NCDC's Neighborhood Revitalization Program. North Carolina received approximately \$47.9 million in CDBG funds in 2018, of which about \$10 million was set aside for the Neighborhood Revitalization program.

The program is aimed at helping low- to moderate-income families, with income thresholds set by federal U.S. Housing and Urban Development standards, improve their living conditions through home repairs and rehabilitation. The application this round made special considerations for storm-affected areas, and all of Morehead City's participating families sustained major damage to their homes during Hurricane Florence. "We are really excited. Three-quarters of a million dollars for housing rehab obviously is really exciting, it's going to be transformative for those seven homes," City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** said of the recent notice the city was selected to receive funds.

The city submitted its application for the grant in July, at which time officials identified the seven residences to participate in the program. Mr. **Eggleston** said the participants' homes were inspected and vetted at the time of the application submittal. "The homes have been vetted, they have been surveyed in accordance with the federal guidelines, which are stringent guidelines," Mr. **Eggleston** said. "We worked with a consultant company as well just to make sure all our I's were dotted and T's were crossed, so the identification process and surveying process has all been completed."

Of the seven planned rehabilitation projects, three are complete rebuilds and four involve major renovations. All the homes are single-family structures in the neighborhood north of Arendell Street between 4th and 28th streets.

According to a release from the city announcing the award, there are some funding conditions which must still be met before construction can begin. If all conditions are met, construction will begin this summer.

Mr. **Eggleston** extended his thanks to the city's planning department, including Planning Director Sandi Watkins and planner Mackenzie Todd, for leading the charge on securing grant funds. He also thanked the city council for their blessing in pursuing the program.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
November 9, 2019

**Morehead City launches new website**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The city recently launched a newly-designed website, a project six months in the making that helps further the city’s broad goal of improving communication with residents, visitors and business owners in Morehead City. Officials worked with CivicPlus, a technology company that specializes in designing websites for local governments, to develop the new site. It can be found at the same web address as before, moreheadcitync.org, but the website has a totally updated look and includes several new features to make it more helpful and user-friendly.

Morehead City Communications Manager Alizé Proisy led the website redesign project and has worked closely with CivicPlus over the past few months. She said the new website officially went live Oct. 31, but she waited to make an announcement about the changes until some initial kinks were worked out. Overall, Ms. Proisy said the new website is easier to navigate than before and includes a few new features residents and visitors may find useful. “We think it looks really good, and we hope it’s easier for people to navigate,” Ms. Proisy said. “...The goal was to try and make it as user-friendly as possible, so we kept it very straightforward.”

Near the top of the website’s home page are several tabs containing a drop-down menu with links to information about and for government, services, residents, visitors and business. A tab labeled “How do I...” includes links to other useful services, like a contact form and applications for boards and commissions. Other prominent tabs connect users to information about paying bills, receiving emergency notifications, trash and recycling pickup and parks and recreation.

One new feature the website boasts is the option to sign up for emergency notifications sent directly to a person’s email or cellphone. A button on the home page labeled “Notify Me” takes users to a form where they can enter an email address and phone number to sign up for any of three notification types, including emergency alerts, important alerts and weather alerts. Users can pick and choose which alerts they want to receive and how they want to receive them.

Ms. Proisy said the city got to test out its new notification system Wednesday when an abandoned home on Bay Street near 14th Street caught fire. She said the city sent out an alert warning people to avoid the area while crews worked on the blaze, and the system seemed to work well.

Other features include a calendar of events, including council and board meetings, closings and special happenings. The website also integrates the city’s various social media feeds and has links to follow Morehead City on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Eventually, Ms. Proisy said the website will also include a place for residents to report problems that need the city’s attention, such as potholes or street lighting outages. She said that link will be featured prominently on the website’s home page so it’s easy to find and issues can be addressed quickly.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Another feature still in development is the ability for residents to pay bills online. Currently, Morehead City residents can pay utility bills online through a third-party company, but the company charges a \$3 service fee for each transaction. The new online bill pay portal will be integrated into the city's website and will not require a service fee, but Ms. Proisy said that feature is still about six months away from rollout.

As for the website's new look, it is a more modern design that incorporates Morehead City's new logo, which was unveiled earlier this year. It also features photography of the city's scenic waterfront and other notable sights by local photographer Marc Montocchio. Ms. Proisy said although the website has gone live, it is a constant work in progress and will probably undergo minor tweaks as it is optimized for users: Morehead City residents. She encourages feedback on the new website, and said so far people seem to like the redesign.

The new website was part of a larger push by Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** to improve communications between the city and its residents. Ms. Proisy was hired earlier this year as the city's first-ever communications manager, and she has undertaken several projects to further the city's goals. Now that the website has launched, she said her next big project is to create a quarterly newsletter that will go out to residents.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
May 24, 2019

**City council hesitates on tax increase**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

Council members have about another month to decide whether they will levy a property tax increase on residents in the upcoming fiscal year. The council continued budget talks that began earlier this month during a special workshop Tuesday at the municipal building on S. 8th Street. During the May 7 budget meeting, City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** proposed a 5-cent property tax increase as a means to generate more funds for capital projects planned in the next few years.

The proposed 5-cent increase would bring the ad valorem tax rate to 40 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. Under the current rate of 35 cents, Morehead City ranks around the middle of the pack in terms of tax rates of the county’s municipalities. If all other towns maintain their current rates, the proposed increase would make Morehead City’s tax rate the second highest in the county, only behind Beaufort’s 41.35 cents.

However, some council members expressed hesitancy to raise taxes, at least in the upcoming fiscal year. Councilman George Ballou said the increase could be a burden to residents who may already be experiencing financial hardship due to last year’s Hurricane Florence. “We’ve just gone through a major catastrophe in Morehead City and there are families that are still in binds and trying to get their bearing. I don’t know if it’s right to have any increase,” Mr. Ballou said. “...Especially because we could do it without (a tax increase), working toward knowing that next year we might have to do something.”

Some of the other council members asked Mr. **Eggleston** to consider a less significant tax increase, perhaps around 2 cents instead of 5. The city is in good financial standing and a tax increase is not necessary to operate at full capacity next fiscal year, Mr. **Eggleston** said, but the city needs some sort of revenue stream to fund capital projects. “The thing I would caution you is where we’re left next year without a mechanism to create capital funding,” he said of a suggestion to eliminate the tax increase.

Mr. **Eggleston** intends to put the extra tax revenue into a fund for planned capital improvement projects. To that end, he proposes freezing the majority of capital projects next fiscal year so the city council and staff can develop a true five-year capital improvement plan. Most of the city’s department heads, who briefed the council on their needs and budget requests for fiscal 2019-20, said they will forgo most capital requests this year so the city can build up the fund and create the CIP.

“Council, you will notice there is nothing there (in capital outlay). That doesn’t match our initial request, we asked for vehicles,” Deputy Police Chief Brian Dixon said of his department’s request for several new patrol cruisers, which was not granted under the proposed budget. “This is us cinching our belt, this is us looking at the bigger picture, this is us on board with the five-

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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year plan.” Under a budget amendment approved by the council Tuesday evening, the police department will receive two new patrol vehicles as part of the current fiscal year, which Deputy Chief Dixon said will help in the meantime.

The budget does lay out funding for a few capital projects, but Mr. **Eggleston** said most will take a back seat for the next year. Items the budget does give funding to include a new fire command vehicle, phase one of a stormwater management project, shoreline stabilization and dredging of Sugarloaf Island and a new street sweeper, among a few other things.

In total, the manager recommends allocating about \$1.1 million for capital outlay from the city’s general fund next fiscal year. However, certain departments are funded through sources other than the general fund, like the water and sewer enterprise fund. Public Services Director Daniel Williams said the sewer department is due to receive a new jet vac truck in 2019-20 at a cost of about \$450,000. Mr. Williams said the city’s current truck is reaching the end of its useful life and is an essential piece of equipment the department utilizes nearly every day. “It’s an imperative piece of equipment,” he said. “We use it every day, I’ve got a man dedicated to that piece of equipment.”

The public works department will also receive new trucks, a new backhoe and a few other capital items next year for a total cost of about \$870,000 in capital outlay from the water and sewer fund. As for operating expenses, which encompass day-to-day costs such as salaries and supplies, department heads said they expect to mostly hold the line from this year in the upcoming budget, with some minor increases requested here and there.

The council also approved a suite of budget amendments during the regular monthly meeting that directly followed the special budget meeting. The items were originally included in the consent agenda, but Mr. Ballou pulled them for further discussion during the city manager’s report.

One budget amendment included the following projects and their costs: police patrol vehicles, \$80,000; SmartGov software, \$57,866; website upgrade and implementation, \$25,000; Munis phase three implementation, \$378,000; and JIB improvements, \$55,775. The amendment also included about \$1.1 million in paving and surfacing projects, but the council decided to remove that item for further discussion at a later time.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
November 17, 2018

**New position coming in light of effects from hurricane**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

The city council Tuesday evening approved the creation of a full-time communications director position, and officials will soon undertake a search to fill the new role. The council met for its regular monthly meeting in the municipal building on S. 8th Street. Members voted 4-0, with Councilman George Ballou absent, to create the new position and begin advertising for applications.

City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** formally introduced the idea of a communications director to the council, but he said it had been discussed among city staff and officials for some time. He said the position is a step toward creating an updated communications strategy for Morehead City. “Right now, we do the best we can with what we have, but a lot of it is individualized department communication,” he said. “I think there’s a great opportunity to bring it under one roof with that new position.”

The new position will be full-time, and the person hired will be the head and sole employee of a new department within city government and report directly to the city manager. Salary will be based on experience, and Mr. **Eggleston** assured the council Morehead City is in good financial shape to support the position. “I had a chance to talk with (Finance Director) Jewel (Lasater) and feel pretty confident that savings from several different areas in the budget, coupled with the fact that this position would be supported not just from the general fund, but from our enterprise funds, as well,” he said. “From a budgetary standpoint ... we would be able to support it economically.”

The council was in favor of creating the new position, especially in light of Hurricane Florence. Councilman Bill Taylor said he has heard for years from residents wanting more transparency from government officials, but said the September storm highlighted some of the gaps in Morehead City’s communications. “When the TV went out and the radios didn’t come through on the proper wavelengths, we didn’t have communications during that storm,” Mr. Taylor said. “This is our opportunity to use texting and Facebook and all those other devices that I don’t use and do a better job creating a city- and county-wide communication plan for our citizens.”

Mr. **Eggleston** said communication was one of the city’s biggest lessons learned from Florence. “A lot of the feedback we heard during the storm, and I know some of you heard it, was related to our communication and really the need to bring about positive change on that end,” he said. “Obviously, from the emergency operations side, there is a great benefit to having a dedicated person for external communications.”

According to a draft job description included in Tuesday’s agenda packet, the communications director will be Morehead City’s primary spokesperson and liaison with the public. The person

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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will be responsible for managing the city’s website, social media accounts and periodic publications, among other duties. Mr. **Eggleston** said a major component of the job will be to upgrade and maintain the city’s website. In that regard, he plans to work with the new communications director to roll out a notification system so residents can sign up for email or text alerts concerning traffic, emergencies and other important information. “It will allow for further-reaching communication with the technology that we have available today,” he said.

The new communications director will also manage social media, actively posting and monitoring Morehead City’s Facebook page and Twitter feed. Mr. **Eggleston** said some individual city departments, such as the police and the fire/EMS departments, are already active on social media, but a communications director will ensure consistent messaging across platforms and pages.

For the less technology-inclined, Mr. **Eggleston** plans to work with the communications director to launch a quarterly print publication with information such as garbage and recycling pickup schedules, storm-preparedness tips, staff introductions and other less time-sensitive information. “There are a lot of residents that still maybe aren’t on Facebook or don’t spend a lot of time on the computer, and we’ll be looking at that next component of public education, so we’re looking at a quarterly publication that will be mailed out to residents,” he said.

Mr. **Eggleston** undertook similar communication initiatives when he was city manager in South Fayette, Penn. That township was recognized in 2016 with the Governor’s Award for Local Government Excellence for its online communications. When he took over as Morehead City manager in May, Mr. **Eggleston** said expanding communication was one of his biggest goals.

Mr. **Eggleston** said an overhaul of the city’s communications will not happen overnight, and some aspects, including the website upgrade and new print publication, will take time to develop. But with the council’s blessing to create the position, he plans to begin the search right away, and said he hopes to have some of the upgrades in place by next hurricane season. Mr. **Eggleston** plans to open the application process this month, begin interviewing candidates after the new year and hire a communications director in February.



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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
December 14, 2018

**South Fayette approves budget for 2019 with no tax increase**

Author/Byline: Brad Hundt

"It reflects no tax increase." That's the summary South Fayette Township finance director Nancy Degenhardt offered about the 2019 budget the township's board of commissioners approved Wednesday. The township's property tax rate will remain at 4.73 mills, even though its budget is nudging up from 2018's \$11.6 million to \$12.1 million in 2019.

The budget was approved at a transitional moment for South Fayette as it awaits the arrival of new manager John M. Barrett, who was hired last month at a salary of \$123,000. Barrett is replacing **Ryan T. Eggleston**, who departed earlier this year for a job in Morehead City, N.C. Barrett will be starting his new job after the first of the year.

The approval of the budget comes after a year marked by growth for the township, with South Fayette having hired two additional police officers in 2018. It also added an emergency management intern and expanded its summer camp staff by two. In April, the township opened Preservation Park, a \$2 million project just outside Oakdale Borough that has three athletic fields and a half-mile walking trail.

The budget document also identified challenges South Fayette is facing in the new year, including traffic congestion and the need to upgrade its roads; municipal facilities that are aging and in need of repairs; a lack of space for township programming and community events; and the increasing costs of health insurance and pensions.

Also in 2019, the township will continue to look at what to do with the site of the former Star City multiplex, which is located off Miller's Run Road near Interstate 79. The township purchased the property almost 10 years ago, with an eye toward making the defunct moviehouse a community center. The theater has since been torn down, and a market analysis has been undertaken to determine the best use of the property.

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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC)  
October 12, 2018

**Costs pile up as removal crews clear town streets**

Author/Byline: Elise Clouser

To the east of Newport, cleanup efforts in Morehead City, the county’s largest municipality, are well underway, as well. Morehead City Manager **Ryan Eggleston** gave an update on recovery during a city council meeting Tuesday. “We’ve been quite busy, to say the least,” he said.

Mr. **Eggleston** said the city’s contracted storm debris removal company, Johnson Environmental & Disaster Consulting Services of Wilmington, currently has six trucks collecting vegetative debris from city streets. In addition, two N.C. Department of Transportation trucks are collecting debris from state-maintained roads in areas outside of city limits, and the city’s own debris collection trucks are running, as well. “We have six trucks running pretty much nonstop, and those trucks are not your normal trucks, they’re the extended semi-load trucks,” Mr. **Eggleston** said. “(They’re running) seven days a week for at least 12 hours every day of the week.”

As of Tuesday, the city manager estimates they’ve collected about 70 percent of the city’s vegetative debris, amounting to about 52,000 cubic yards of material. Mr. **Eggleston** painted a visual of just how massive that amount is. “An average pickup truck, say an F-150 or an F-250, you can fit about 3 cubic yards of mulch ... filled up to the brim,” he said. “So we’re talking 17,000 pickup trucks full of debris.”

The city hopes to finish the first pass, which is focused on vegetative debris, within about two weeks. Then, the trucks will transition to collecting furniture items and construction materials. “We definitely still have weeks and weeks of cleanup,” Mr. **Eggleston** said.

To ensure the process moves as quickly as possible, the city asks residents to separate debris into three piles, one for vegetative, one for furniture and carpet and a third for C&D materials.

The city manager said the total cost of cleanup is approaching \$400,000 with the contractor, while the in-house cost is an additional \$25,000. The majority of that cost should be covered by FEMA. The city is working to enlist a professional consulting service to help coordinate with FEMA. “It’s basically to help us maximize to make sure we’re getting as much money as we can to be reimbursed through FEMA and their processes,” he said. “...Obviously, those companies charge fees, but they are reimbursable fees under FEMA because of the natural disaster declaration.”

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
March 6, 2018

**South Fayette's township manager leaving for job in N.C.**

Author/Byline: Jacob Calvin Meyer

After nearly six years as South Fayette's township manager, **Ryan Eggleston** is leaving for a job as city manager in Morehead City, N.C. **Eggleston's** last day at South Fayette will be April 27. He will begin his new job in North Carolina May 1.

**Eggleston** said the decision to leave South Fayette was "bittersweet." "It was definitely a difficult decision," **Eggleston** said. "It really was one of those unique opportunities where it just was something that after a lot of thinking and praying on it, I felt it was something for us to try and take. South Fayette has been great. It'll be hard leaving here. We met a lot of good folks, a lot of good friends."

**Eggleston** gave the Board of Commissioners his 60-day notice in an executive session during its last meeting Feb. 21. Community Development Director Andrea Iglar said the township hired GovHR USA, a consulting firm that specializes in hiring for government position. She also said the process for finding a replacement will begin later this month, and a goal date has not yet been determined. Iglar added the township will have to name someone as the interim township manager after **Eggleston** leaves and before the full-time replacement is hired.

Ray Pitetti, president of South Fayette Township Board of Commissioners, praised **Eggleston** and said they would select a replacement "who can build on the great work" he did over the past six years. "We thank **Ryan** for his hard work and leadership and wish him well in his future endeavors," Pitetti said.

**Eggleston** said he is working with the board to make the transition "as seamless as possible." "I'm working with the board to have some discussions to have an interim person to guide that along until the new person is here," **Eggleston** said.

Morehead City is located on North Carolina's coast in the southern Outer Banks area. As most vacation destinations, a big focus on Morehead City is tourism. "It will be similar to my job now in that it's local government," **Eggleston** said. "They do a lot of work focusing on the tourism world. They're one of the few places that has a port in North Carolina. They do a lot with boating and fishing there, so I've started to immerse myself with that. There's always similarities in local government."

Growing up in Titusville, **Eggleston** has lived in Western Pennsylvania his entire life, outside of his time as an undergraduate at Syracuse University, where he majored in political science and history. Morehead City will be **Eggleston's** fourth stop in the last 15 years. Before South Fayette, **Eggleston** served as city manager in Greenville and Oil City. "I've been managing Western

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Pennsylvania my whole life," he said. "This is a little bit of risk and a little bit of something different to give North Carolina a try."

**Eggleston** said the "timing is right" for his wife, Julie, and their five kids to make the jump south. "Having lived and grown up our whole lives in Western Pennsylvania, it's a place I think that has always been interested, personally, to see," **Eggleston** said. "It was just an appealing opportunity, and I say that with great feelings about South Fayette. I'm bittersweet to be leaving, but I'm excited to relocate and give it a try down there in North Carolina."

During his time at South Fayette, **Eggleston** said he's most proud of the "financial stability" the township now has. "We've worked really hard over the last five or six years really building a solid foundation of finances," he said. "We've had our bond upgraded twice, two separate times over the last six years. We're one mark below the best bond rating you can get in America, which I'm very proud of."

**Eggleston** also said the township has also made great strides in its communication with the board, the school district, the developers and the community. "With bringing Andrea (Iglar) on board and just our website overhaul and our new South Fayette Connect magazine and our Facebook and Twitter presence, I feel like we're doing a better job now than we've ever done in the past of communicating with our residents," he said.

Most of all, **Eggleston** said South Fayette has been a "welcoming place to work and call home." "It's been a wonderful six years," he said. "South Fayette is a great community. We met a lot of wonderful friends during our time here, personally and professionally. We've got a top-notch, grade-A staff here and a lot of folks that are competent individuals here. I'm definitely going to miss those interactions on a daily basis."

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
September 29, 2017

**SOUTH FAYETTE CONTINUES TO CUT ELECTRICITY COSTS**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

South Fayette expects to save at least \$30,000 a year on its electricity costs. Township commissioners approved a 48-month contract with Direct Energy on Sept. 13, the second action in less than a year to save on energy costs. In 2016, the township installed nearly 1,400 LED streetlights.

"Just from the LED lights alone, we are saving several thousand dollars a month in electric bills," township manager **Ryan Eggleston** said.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
August 30, 2017

**Traffic grant to complete South Fayette adaptive signal project**

Author/Byline: Jacob Calvin Meyer

Last year, South Fayette Township received a \$387,000 state grant aimed at reducing traffic on Washington Pike and Route 50. Earlier this month, the township announced it received the same grant, this time for \$77,000, to complete the project. The Green Light-Go Municipal Signal Partnership Program is a statewide grant that began in 2013. The grant requires a 20 percent match, meaning the township will be responsible to pay \$15,000 toward the project.

Township manager **Ryan Eggleston** said the grant money will go to implementing adaptive signals, which are designed to align the timing of the traffic lights to the flow of traffic. Rather than a programmed timer, the adaptive signals will create databases of information, share it with the other adaptive signals in the township and they will all be timed efficiently. “It’s monitoring and adjusting based on live real-time data, so it’s basically cueing and picking up cars every day and kind of building its own database,” **Eggleston** said. “It used to be all program or time-sensed. This is actually based on the traffic patterns that are actually happening. It’s very kind of futuristic.

”Starting within a month, **Eggleston** said the adaptive system will be implemented into seven intersections in the township. Those intersections are part of the original, larger grant. Within a year, two more intersections will use the system, meaning every traffic-centric light on Washington Pike and Route 50 in the township will be adaptive. The two intersections that the most recent grant will go toward are Bursca Drive at Washington Pike and Twin Ponds Lane at Washington Pike. “We knew those two lights were really the only other lights right now on that kind of stretch of Washington Pike and Route 50 that weren’t tied in,” **Eggleston** said.

**Eggleston** said adaptive signals have been used in other townships in the commonwealth, mostly in the east. Like most of the South Hills community, traffic is an issue in South Fayette, **Eggleston** said. While this system will help, it isn’t the “end all, be all,” he said. “We’re excited about it and excited to see how the adaptive helps to kind of improve some traffic flow as we continue to focus traffic improvement in the township,” **Eggleston** said. “Obviously, traffic is something we’re focused on and have been working closely on.”

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
March 15, 2017

**Changes worry SF residents**  
Author/Byline: Katie Drozynski

The board also received information from the developer regarding a proposed Resort Lifestyle Communities senior community in the Hastings Development. The three-story building would be adjacent to Mayview Road and contain 130 total units for seniors.

“It is a for-profit company for seniors who are retired, and it really seems like an absolute home run,” township Manager **Ryan Eggleston** said. “From a taxability standpoint, it could have a significant impact on the township. I think it easily has the potential to be one of our top 10, if not top five, tax generators.”

The board will vote next week on the proposed land development plan with a goal of construction to begin in May or June of this summer.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
February 8, 2017

**SF’s Eggleston receives honor**  
Author/Byline: Luke Campbell

South Fayette Township manager **Ryan Eggleston** recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association. **Eggleston** is one of only 45 credentialed managers in Pennsylvania, and only one of a dozen located in the western part of the state.

“It’s something I’m excited about,” **Eggleston** said. “I’ve always been pretty active in trying to stay up on training opportunities that will enhance the best practices. I’ve always been a believer in the idea of knowledge sharing. I’m definitely lucky to have a lot of like-minded managers around where that’s a comfortable conversation to have. It’s being able to have an ability to pick someone’s brain or learn something from one of our neighbors that might have already dealt with something that we as a township have to deal with in the future.”

To receive the credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, earned a college degree, preferably in public administration or a related field and have demonstrated a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. Holding this title with ICMA will allow **Eggleston** to further the continued focus on educating, networking and improving the practices put in place by the township.

**Eggleston** used experiences of serving as the manager of Oil City and Greenville to apply the same concepts of looking at the past, present and future. “It’s been an interesting ride and I’m so very thankful that Greenville took a chance on a kid that was 25 years old,” **Eggleston** said. “When I came into that role it was a community that was trying to hold its head above water. It was the same with Oil City. However, they experienced that same heyday we are experiencing now in South Fayette. That experience helps me to shape conversations to make sure we are saving for the rainy day. Are we making decisions that will provide us with flexibility 30 or 40 years down the road when somebody else is sitting in this seat? We want to make sure we’ve done our best to minimize the challenges for the next wave of leaders.”

**Eggleston** began working as South Fayette’s municipal manager in 2012.



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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
January 11, 2017

**Ryan Eggleston - Four-and-a-half years into his role as South Fayette’s municipal manager, he’s seeing incredible growth in the area**

Author: Unknown

**Ryan Eggleston** moved to South Fayette in June 2012 to begin working as the township’s municipal manager. **Eggleston** grew up in Titusville and worked as the city manager for Greenville in Mercer County and Oil City, before coming to South Fayette. He holds a degree in political science and history from Syracuse University and a master’s degree in public administration from Gannon University. He and his wife, Julia, will be married 10 years this summer and have two boys and two girls, ages 2 to 8. “It’s crazy to think it’s been this long already. Definitely loving it and very much enjoying it. We’re settling in and consider this home,” he says. “It’s a great place to be.”

*You’re originally from northwestern Pennsylvania, so what attracted you to South Fayette and the position of township manager?*

Coming from up in northwestern Pennsylvania, I’ve always consider Western Pennsylvania my home. A couple things, specifically, drew us to South Fayette. From a professional standpoint, it was a great opportunity, lots of room to grown, a lot of economic development percolating. It’s very rewarding. It’s a different dynamic managing (South Fayette) rather than the ‘shrinking city’ component. This was an opportunity to come around with the growth. How do you grow and how do you grow smartly?

Personally, we love the amenities with so many around here and in nearby communities. Being a short drive from Pittsburgh and all the cultural things it has to offer – sports, arts, theater. And the schools were a draw as well.

*A young, professional family seems to be the exact demographic South Fayette is catering to. What is your favorite part of living and working in South Fayette?*

One of the things I really like in my role and being the township manager and a resident, it gives me a really good pulse and day-to-day understanding of what is happening in our hometown – even nights and weekends, when I’m not in the office, just out and about.

We try to be engaged in the different sports programs – soccer, basketball and baseball with our kids – and some of the extracurricular activities. We really feel like it’s been a place we’ve enjoyed it. I’ve worked with a lot of great people in local government, but I feel like the team we have in place here, from managers to rank and file, it’s just a great environment.

*South Fayette’s slogan is “A community growing together.” Not long ago, the township was mostly farmland. What challenges do you face as one of the fastest growing municipalities in Allegheny County?*

We love the fact we’re growing, but it can at times be taxing on our resources. That goes back to the great team we have in place and people who care about moving us forward. There’s a great opportunity for us to be a diverse community. Our strongest demographic is young,

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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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working professionals with children. As we grow as a community, how do we diversify and make this as a place (for young families) or folks who have retired, how do we make it attractive for someone to be here and long-term where we have more than just single-family home with kids in the school district? It's a great place to be, but you want that diversity – a well-rounded neighborhood. What are the services people have come to expect from South Fayette and what do they want to see in the community? Parks and recreation are an area that continues to grow with the desire of people to come in and use those amenities. Community space, indoor or outdoor, continues to be a need where we must grow. Obviously, the library is a space that we do a lot of work out of a very small space. I always look at it and say all of these services for less (in township taxes) than what an average family pays for a sewage bill in a calendar year. What are you getting for your buck? Access to parks, walking trails and community assets.

The (proposed) community center falls into the need for better facilities. We're getting on that and that is still out there and the forefront of our thoughts. Multi-purpose outdoor fields behind Boys Home Park that will have new fields and alleviate the need for recreation space. That's what we're focusing on for priority needs.

*Where do you see South Fayette 10 years from now?*

My hope would be for South Fayette – the general community of residents and business owners – that this is the ideal place to be in Western Pennsylvania. When people talk and think of communities that are the shining example of how local government should be, that we're one of, if not the first one, people are talking about 10 years from now, and talking about it for all the right reasons.

A community that really is growing together and trying to further that diversity between commercial growth and housing, so we can attract school-age families, young professionals and seniors who have lived here all of their lives and might want to downsize. We're really excited about the opportunities that are on the horizon for South Fayette Township

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
December 23, 2016

**SOUTH FAYETTE PASSES BUDGET, MAINTAINING CURRENT TAX RATE**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

South Fayette commissioners unanimously passed a 2017 operating budget that keeps the tax rate at 4.48 mills. The \$10.8 million operating budget was approved Dec. 14. A preliminary budget had called for a 0.23-mill increase and included funding for an additional full-time position for the police and public works departments as well as two part-time administrative positions.

After further review, however, staff reworked the final budget to include one full-time position for the public works department, and two to three part-time police officers. The two proposed administrative positions were eliminated. Staffers also chipped away at other line items, such as the snow/ice removal reserves and funding for park improvements, public works vehicle maintenance and overtime.

"The board's vision is to live within our means, hit our revenue targets, and keep our expenditures in check," said township manager **Ryan Eggleston**. "It is also a major benefit that our debt is as low as it is. Other than last year, when we raised taxes to specifically fund an annual road improvement project, the millage rate hasn't gone up in years."

South Fayette Library Board president Bob Milacci had asked the commissioners for \$12,000 more in funding at their meeting last month. He compared per capita municipal contributions made to neighboring libraries and said South Fayette was on the low end.

The draft budget included a 3 percent increase in library contributions, or just over \$3,000. The approved budget includes an additional \$5,000, totaling more than \$8,000 in additional funding for the library. The 2017 total contribution will be \$125,000 - an increase of nearly \$50,000 since 2012, when the township's overall contribution was \$76,500.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
December 21, 2016

**South Fayette preparing to add automated defibrillators at parks**

Author/Byline: Luke Campbell

South Fayette Township is preparing to place automated external defibrillators at its parks as early as this spring.

The conversation of placing AEDs in the township’s main recreational outdoor spaces – Fairview Park, Boys Home Park, Sturgeon Park and the new multipurpose fields off Seminary Avenue near Oakdale – was spurred by the various sports associations that use the facilities.

The township is currently researching costs and models of the potentially life-saving device, which can be used by both adults and children in the event of an emergency. The AEDs have voice-prompting instructions to instruct people how to properly operate the device. “One thing I’ve been impressed with is how user friendly those devices have become,” township manager **Ryan Eggleston** said. “It doesn’t take a physician to understand how to do it. It just takes someone who is willing to listen and follow directions.”

To pay for the devices, the township is looking at its reserves in the capital fund budget. “We’re starting to look into prices but they can really vary,” **Eggleston** said. “They can range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for each device, typically depending on the model and the different accessories that come with it.

”**Eggleston** and other township officials are also working on ideal placement for the potentially life-saving device. Ideally, the AEDs would be placed in a lighted area, in front of cameras and out of the elements to extend its longevity. “If it has the potential of saving a life, then it’s worth it,” **Eggleston** said.

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**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
August 12, 2016

**West Penn Power seeking rate increase**  
Author/Byline: Rick Shrum

Implementing an LED program was an illuminating energy prospect for South Fayette Township. “The great allure was that we anticipated large savings of 30 to 50 percent,” township manager **Ryan Eggleston** said Thursday afternoon. “With a rate increase, LED doesn’t have the same savings appeal as it did before.”

**Eggleston** was one of four people who testified at a Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission hearing to solicit public reaction to four FirstEnergy Corp. subsidiaries seeking rate increases in 2017. The hearing unfolded at the DoubleTree Inn in North Strabane Township. Testimony gathered at seven statewide hearings will be considered before a decision on the rate requests is made, probably early next year. Administrative Law Judge Mary D. Long, who presided over the local proceeding, will make a recommended decision in November, then the PUC will have until Jan. 27 to render a final decision.

West Penn Power, the subsidiary that serves Southwestern Pennsylvania – including all of Washington and Greene counties, is requesting a \$98.2 million increase, 5.7 percent above its current rates. If that occurs, the monthly bill for an average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would rise from \$112.99 to \$123.88 – 9.6 percent.

Addressing an audience of 12, including three PUC representatives, Long advised speakers they could testify under oath or off the record. Those under oath were subject to cross-examination from three attorneys – Tori Giesler of FirstEnergy, Gina Lauffer of the PUC and Lauren Burge of the state Office of Consumer Advocate.

**Eggleston** spoke second. Stressing several times that South Fayette has a “great working relationship with West Penn Power,” he said the township nevertheless would like the company “to either reduce or mitigate the increase (over subsequent years).” “This could be roughly a \$30,000 increase in the next fiscal year. That is a police cruiser, playground equipment.” He said a January decision on the increase poses problems for local municipalities, many of which establish budgets in November for the upcoming year. Not knowing the final outcome, he said, can play havoc with budget planning.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
February 19, 2016

**NEW DISTRICT WEBSITE DRAWS IN RESIDENTS - OFFICIALS SAY IT IMPROVES TRANSPARENCY**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

The South Fayette website has yielded strong statistics and proven to be an effective tool for prioritizing residents' interests since its launch in December 2014, according to the township's community development director. "When we initially launched the site," said Andrea Iglar, "we expected the website was going to be a great way to get information out to people, but really the strength of our online outlets has been the interaction from the community." In addition, she said, resident involvement in township government has increased and the number of phone calls from people seeking information has declined. Citing the recent budget discussions, Ms. Iglar said that at least 1,000 people visited the finance page. "You can really tell what is trending." Furthermore, residents were discussing it and offering input on social media. She found the feedback to be enlightening. "Sometimes the comments reinforced our thoughts, other times it broadened our perspective. We were also introduced to ideas that we had not thought of." Ms. Iglar surveys the website and social media daily and forwards information to staff when appropriate. She was able to tally information on the budget and on a plan to start having residents pay directly for garbage pickup into a report for township officials to review. "Through education, and being able to hear so much more feedback, we were able to have an organic community decision," she said.

Township manager **Ryan Eggleston** said, "With Facebook especially, we are able to keep our pulse on what our residents are thinking and tweak what we're doing to serve them better."

Ms. Iglar also noted that new faces are coming - or returning -to commissioners meetings. "Having those online outlets is getting more people involved in a more permanent way," she said. Ms. Iglar said that the township office receives fewer phone calls now that information is posted online. "It just goes to show how having simple information online helps people and saves them from making a call," she said. "It's much easier to notify residents of any announcements we have," said Peggy Patterson, township administrative assistant. The website also offers a tracking system for communication. If a resident complains about a pothole, public works has a way to track the progress on the matter. In addition, residents can choose to sign up for notifications such as township agendas, emergency alerts, job postings, news items, road projects and community events. Notifications can be received via email, text or both. With the exception of the homepage, the most frequently visited page was trash and recycling. Other information revealed that 70 percent of the "likes" on Facebook are from women, and the website had over 220,000 views, with the most popular search terms including fireworks, election results, Fairview Park, police, dye test, zoning, budget and trick or treat. "I'm thrilled with the new website, and it absolutely was worth the investment," Mr. **Eggleston** said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
December 16, 2015

**SF raises taxes for first time in 16 years**

Author/Byline: Suzanne Elliott

Rather than charge residents a garbage fee, the South Fayette Township commission passed its \$9.70 million 2016 budget and opted to raise taxes by one mill to help fund needed repairs on the municipality's 65 miles of roads. The decision to raise property taxes by one mill came after a number of residents told township commissioners for more than 90 minutes at the Dec. 9 meeting that the proposed \$214.92 annual garbage fee would be too much of a burden on some in the township who are already finding it tough to pay bills and put food on the table.

Besides township residents expressing their opposition to the fee at the township meeting, **Ryan Eggleston**, the township manager, said there have been more than 1,000 visits to the township's budget web page and the majority said they were against the proposed charge.

The property tax increase amounts to less than \$200 a year for a township resident and can be a tax write-off, unlike the proposed garbage fee. Seniors, age 66 and older, would have been exempt from the garbage fee, **Eggleston** said. "This is a decision we are not taking lightly," said commission president Joseph Horowitz. "It has kept me up at night."

Instead, a portion of the one mill increase, which will bring the property tax rate in the township to 4.48 mills, will generate an additional \$1.14 million in revenue, most of which will be earmarked toward road improvements. This is the first time in 16 years that property taxes have been raised by the township. "Taxes have remained stagnant," said commissioner Jessica Cardillo. "Costs have gone up."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
October 23, 2015

**MANAGER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO UK - INTERNATIONAL MEETING HELD**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

South Fayette Manager **Ryan Eggleston** has returned from a summit titled "Reclaiming Public Leadership," held Oct. 7-9 in Bournemouth, United Kingdom. Mr. **Eggleston** was one of two township managers chosen from the United States to be invited by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, SOLACE. Mr. **Eggleston** is a member of the International City/County Management Association from which attendees were drawn. Registration and hotel expenses were covered by the Society, and Mr. **Eggleston** obtained a scholarship from the Association of Pennsylvania Municipalities to pay for airfare and additional expenditures.

Mr. **Eggleston** acts as a US liaison to Solace from the international management association. ICMA strives to advance professional local government worldwide, its website says. Summit attendance was international, and Mr. **Eggleston** spoke with managers from countries including Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. "It was really neat to enjoy fellowship with everyone," said Mr. **Eggleston**. "It's crazy how we are so different, and yet so much alike." He observed that although they came from different corners of the globe, they often shared similar circumstances in managing small governments.

The three-day summit covered everything from digital innovation to ethics and accountability, he said. Mr. **Eggleston** noted some memorable speakers. Jean Tomlin served as director of human resources for London's 2012 Olympics and Special Olympics, and inspired managers with her lecture. "She reminded us that leaders need to have the courage to believe," Mr. **Eggleston** said. "We need to embrace possibility." Award winning broadcaster, novelist and journalist, Gavin Esler, encouraged managers to understand the power of storytelling. Through narratives, leaders can educate, persuade and bring about change, he said.

Mr. **Eggleston** was most fascinated with "devolution," the movement to decentralize government in the UK and give more powers to the nations that make up the union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The transfer of such powers includes agriculture, education, environment, housing, social services, economic development and local government. "It is proving to be challenging on the local government level," said Mr. **Eggleston**. "For years, Parliament steered the ship and provided funding locally, and now they are giving up control to local government bodies. Now districts and councils are trying to figure out how to manage and cover costs." One program Mr. **Eggleston** plans to transport back to South Fayette, was inspired by an Australian speaker and manager who issued certificates of empowerment. On any given day, a staff member can step out their traditional role, and choose to make a positive difference in the life of a resident instead. They then receive a certificate of empowerment. "It is nice to see a strong desire from folks worldwide who work locally to want to make a difference at a staff level," Mr. **Eggleston** said.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
October 9, 2015

**SOUTH FAYETTE SEEKS TO JOIN SHACOG - TRASH COLLECTION A BIG REASON FOR JOINING**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

South Fayette is seeking to become a member of the South Hills Area Council of Governments by the end of this year. Commissioner Joe Horowitz called the move to SHACOG a good fit. "They offer a number of programs that will benefit our residents."

"I have nothing but good things to say about the Char-West COG," said Mr. Horowitz. "We always enjoyed our relationship with them and received a lot of benefits from our association with them. However, Commissioner Gabriel and I have felt for a long time that we have more in common with the communities in the SHACOG."

The South Hills group include 20 municipalities from Pleasant Hills to Peters. Members pay a fee based on the programs in which they participate, but the group's website claims members almost always save more money than the fees they pay. Char-West has 18 communities concentrated in the Chartiers Valley area. South Fayette's growth is part of the reason for the move. "We feel that we can learn more from some of the townships that have been through similar issues that will be affecting South Fayette," said Mr. Horowitz.

In August, commissioners voted 5-0 to approve sending a letter to the South Hills group expressing an interest in joining that council. Since then, Commissioner Lisa Malosh and Mr. Horowitz met with three representatives who explained the benefits that council offers to members. "It was a very informative meeting and certainly left us feeling like we were making the right decision," said Mr. Horowitz.

Trash collection is another reason for seeking membership. South Fayette's contract ends in December. "We pay nearly \$1 million a year for the service," said **Ryan Eggleston**, township manager. The South Hills council has a comprehensive garbage program that serves multiple municipalities and offers competitive pricing.

"With our contract expiring at the end of this year, it gives us an opportunity to jump in with their program," said Mr. **Eggleston**. He speculated the provider would remain the same, but the recycling experience might change because pick-up is automated.

Other programs that South Fayette would benefit from include training programs, the technical rescue team, joint police testing and a purchasing alliance where the township could purchase items such as police vehicles at group prices.

According to Mr. **Eggleston**, approval for membership could occur as early as November.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
December 18, 2014

**TOWNSHIP ADVANCES STUDY OF TRAFFIC CORRIDORS - JOINS WITH 3  
OTHER TOWNS IN TASK FORCE**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

South Fayette administrators are dedicating \$40,000 from their capital fund in 2015 to further their traffic task force efforts. Enacted in April 2014, the advisory task force was formed with neighboring Bridgeville, Collier and Upper St. Clair to research and examine traffic issues along Route 50 and the Washington Pike corridors and make recommendations to PennDOT.

"We have heard from a lot of residents about the traffic issues, and we recognize that we want to make improvements," said township manager **Ryan Eggleston**. Both roads are state-owned and only PennDOT can make changes to them. Communities can suggest alterations to current traffic arteries.

"Each municipality is trying to prepare the information that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation needs in order to make their decisions," said township engineer Mike Benton.

Each community is responsible for exploring traffic challenges and solutions for portions of the state routes within their municipality limits. Mr. Benton said the collective goal is to "develop a unified strategy and voice for working with PennDOT and other transportation funding organizations." The \$40,000 line item will help South Fayette conduct research, as well as include drawings for suggested infrastructure improvements such as widening roads and bridges or adding lanes.

"Our goal is to be proactive," Mr. **Eggleston** said. "We want to continue to grow and develop, but we must take a smart approach and be forward-thinking in terms of tackling potential traffic issues."

Bridgeville manager Lori Collins said, "We are committed to moving forward with this effort. "At such time if monies over and above engineering and conceptual planning is required, council will review what is needed and take the appropriate action." She said council has authorized conceptual traffic engineering of portions of the project in the borough.

"Working with the other municipalities and PennDOT has been great so far," Mr. **Eggleston** said. "We want to work cooperatively for a resolution."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (PA)  
November 20, 2014

**South Fayette revisits tax-abatement plan**

Author/Byline: Alex Ferlser

As growth continues in South Fayette, township and school district officials are taking another look at an 11-year-old tax ordinance. The Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance program introduced to South Fayette in 2003 is a tax abatement program in designated areas, allowing a tax-free period to new and growing businesses. Under the plan, a business pays no taxes in its first year. Payments gradually increase to a full tax bill during five years.

A joint meeting between township and school officials was held earlier this month. “The intent is to reintroduce the concept, look at it and begin dialogue related specifically to the LERTA program, said **Ryan Eggleston**, township manager. “Are we happy where it’s at? Are we trying to keep it the same? Make changes? Should it go away?”

In the past year, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh opened an outpatient center on part of the former Star City Cinemas site. Across Route 50, EQA Landmark Communities’ \$450 million Newbury development is being constructed and will include retail, office space and a hotel. Developer Dale Greco is building the Crossings at South Fayette near the Route 50 and Washington Pike intersection with a planned Aldi grocery store, Starbucks and other retailers.

More discussions are expected in coming months before decisions on whether to make changes to the ordinance are made; the LERTA ordinance last was revised in 2007, **Eggleston** said. The school board has requested materials from the township regarding the ordinance’s history and results, before scheduling another meeting.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
August 28, 2014

**TOWNSHIP REDEFINES RECREATION DIRECTOR**

Author/Byline: Amy Philips-Haller

South Fayette manager **Ryan Eggleston** is working to redefine the recreation director job description after receiving approval to advertise from commissioners for someone to fill the post.

The focus of the office historically has been "brick and mortar," Mr. **Eggleston** said at the Aug. 13 meeting. Previously, the job priority was maintenance of the facilities, combined with lawn care. "As the township grows and evolves, so should this title," he said. Preparing to advertise for the position, he suggested a new direction for the office with a large concentration on community programming. "The change is an opportunity to improve efficiency of operations within the organization, as well as address the increase of our recreation needs," Mr. **Eggleston** later said.

Officials continue to plan for, and anticipate, a civic center. Mr. **Eggleston** confirmed the new recreation director could be involved in the planning and implementation of the facility. "I'm very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our residents in relationship to our parks and programming activities," he said. Mr. **Eggleston** hopes to have the description completed by the end of the month.

Butch Truitt, newly appointed public works director, was hired for the recreation director position in April 2013, after the resignation of Jerry Males. He will continue to serve in his original role until a replacement is found.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
April 4, 2014

**Former Mayview property taken by eminent domain**

Author/Byline: Deana Carpenter

South Fayette Township commissioners recently passed a resolution to take possession of a 69-acre portion of property at 1601 Mayview Road, adjacent to Fairview Park. The property is part of the former Mayview State Hospital site owned by Aloe Brothers.

The resolution approved March 19 states that the township is taking the property by eminent domain “for use as a park as authorized by sections 1901 and 3001 of the First Class Township Code.” According to Section 1901 of the code, which outlines the township’s right to exercise eminent domain, a township can take property for many reasons, including “the establishing of parks, playgrounds and recreation places.” Eminent domain is defined as the right of a government to take private property for public use. “The resolution has authorized the taking of that property for public use related to the park,” said South Fayette Township Manager **Ryan Eggleston**.

Prior to passing the resolution, the township was in negotiations with Aloe Brothers for the property. According to minutes from September’s township parks and recreation board meeting, the asking price for the property was \$1.4 million. Aloe Brothers paid \$505,505 in 2011 for the nearly 160-acre site of the former state hospital along Mayview Road in South Fayette.

**Eggleston** said the township was in negotiation with Aloe Brothers for the property for “longer than a few months.” “We feel it’s necessary to have that property to enlarge Fairview Park to continue to meet the growing needs of the township,” **Eggleston** said. He said because South Fayette is a growing community, there is a need for more green space and recreational fields.

**Eggleston** said there will be “some type of remuneration” to Aloe Brothers for the property. “There is payment involved,” he said. Aloe Brothers could not be reached for comment.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
February 27, 2014

**TOWNSHIP MIXES IT UP TO SAVE SALT**

Author/Byline: Andrea Iglar

To save on road salt, South Fayette crews have been using a combination of salt and antiskid material to melt snow. "Instead of throwing just straight salt, we've been mixing recently a lot heavier on the antiskid, basically to preserve salt," township manager **Ryan Eggleston** told commissioners last week.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation also uses antiskid material - a mixture of small stones and sand-to improve road conditions during snowstorms, according to the PennDOT website.

The antiskid material, resembling pebbles, will be cleaned up when warmer weather arrives, Mr. **Eggleston** said in a letter to residents and business owners Tuesday. Due to statewide road salt shortages, South Fayette is being cautious with its remaining 300 tons of salt by mixing it with some of the township's 350 tons of antiskid, he said.

"With our supply also low, we decided to take a proactive approach to making our salt supply go farther," Mr. **Eggleston** said. About 125 tons of combined material is needed to treat the township's 60 miles of road, he said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)  
January 9, 2014

**SOUTH FAYETTE, ROBINSON PROJECTS GET \$5.5 MILLION IN GRANTS**

Author/Byline: Andrea Iglar

Two major building projects, in Robinson and South Fayette, are getting a boost from \$5.5 million in state grants.

In South Fayette, a \$4 million grant will help build Newbury Market, a plan for 1.2 million square feet of retail, restaurant, hospitality and office space bordered by Route 50 and Presto-Sygan Road, near the Bridgeville interchange of I-79. Developer EQA Landmark Communities of Pittsburgh expects to open the first businesses about late 2015.

South Fayette manager **Ryan Eggleston** said the township had written a letter of support for Newbury's grant application. "It's competitive, so it's a pretty big deal to be able to snag one," he said.

The \$450 million, 300-acre Newbury plan - including the 88-acre market, a neighborhood of 200 single-family homes and a 250-unit apartment complex - is a brownfield redevelopment of the former Koppers chemical plant property. The initial phase of Newbury Market is set to include a Giant Eagle supermarket, a Courtyard Marriott hotel and two office buildings plus a pedestrian-friendly, Main Street-style section with a plaza, fountain and mix of retail, restaurant and banking uses.

Deron Gabriel, president of the South Fayette commissioners, said the township has been supporting the Newbury project for six years. "It is becoming more and more evident that our efforts, particularly over the past two years, are bringing us closer and closer to reaching full development potential," he said.

The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, or RACP, is administered by Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget. The most recent round of funding awarded more than \$133 million to 58 projects, with applicants having to secure 50 percent matching funds.

State Sen. Matt Smith, D-Mt. Lebanon, announced the grants Dec. 23. "These investments will spur long-term economic development, create jobs and enhance the community," Mr. Smith said in a statement. "With each of these projects shovel-ready, state investment is poised to generate immediate returns."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
January 8, 2014

**New members begin serving in SF**  
Author/Byline: Deana Carpenter

Also at the meeting, the board renewed the township's agreement with manager **Ryan Eggleston** and appointed him as township secretary as well.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
November 22, 2013

**No tax increase in South Fayette**  
Author/Byline: Deana Carpenter

Taxpayers in South Fayette Township will not see a tax increase in 2014, according to the first draft of the municipality's budget for next year.

Township manager **Ryan Eggleston** presented the draft budget in detail at a public hearing last week. It is a balanced budget with revenues and expenditures standing at \$9.096 million. The proposed millage rate of 3.48 will also remain the same. Commissioners voted to authorize the advertisement for the adoption of the budget at its December voting meeting. **Eggleston** is not including a separate garbage fee in the budget for the coming year.

The proposed budget includes a few changes for 2014, including the addition of a public works superintendent. **Eggleston** said the township currently employs a public works director and two foremen. He is proposing that one of the foremen's titles be changed to superintendent and that one will remain a foreman.

A part-time community development director is also included, with a proposed salary of \$19,000 per year. **Eggleston** said hiring a community development director would be a "smart move" for the township as South Fayette "tries to increase the things we're doing from a development standpoint." An additional \$5,000 is proposed for community development expenses.

A \$640,000 capital budget was also presented at the meeting. **Eggleston** said when the budget process began, he went to each department head and asked them for "reasonable requests." He said the original request from all of the departments combined was nearly \$2 million. "This is less than one-third of what was requested," **Eggleston** said.

Items in the proposed capital budget included a police car at \$30,000, a used street sweeper at \$50,000, a used lawn mower at \$50,000 and tires for the township's grader at a cost of \$20,000.

Website upgrades were also included in the proposed capital budget at \$30,000. **Eggleston** pointed out that the proposal received from Civic Plus for website upgrades was less than the budgeted amount.

**Eggleston** also included a disc golf course for one of the township's parks in the capital budget at a cost of about \$20,000.

About \$300,000 was included in the proposed capital budget for paving projects. The board will continue discussion on the 2014 budget at its Dec. 4 workshop meeting and is scheduled to adopt it at the Dec. 11 meeting.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Ryan T. Eggleston** is listed below.]

Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
September 10, 2013

**Communities make security a top priority**

Author/Byline: Deana Carpenter

This year marks the 12th anniversary since the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Although no local threat has been made, there has been heightened international “chatter” among terror groups, and in August, an Al-Queda threat closed United States embassies in the Middle East. Still, local communities are continuing to train to keep up with anything that may arise.

Ken Truver, chief of police in the Borough of Castle Shannon said his department constantly reminds residents that if they see something to say something. “This is a common mantra we use to echo Homeland Security’s message, but we use it for everyday crime prevention efforts,” Truver said. Truver added that at the local level, “we are more concerned about keeping our residents safe from the criminal element. We ask our residents to call police immediately if they see suspicious people, vehicles or activity.”

At least one local community has gone as far as having a police officer present at all board of commissioners meetings. “It was my call,” explained **Ryan Eggleston**, manager of South Fayette Township. He said having an officer regularly attend meetings is a “smart precaution” in light of what happened in August at a municipal meeting in Ross Township near Philadelphia. In that incident, a gunman opened fire and killed three people. The assailant, who’s property was run down, had code enforcement issues with the township. **Eggleston** said given that incident, an officer will be present at township meetings until further notice.

Truver attends most council meetings in Castle Shannon as a resource officer. Mt. Lebanon’s police chief, Coleman McDonough also attends council meetings in that municipality.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
June 12, 2013

**South Fayette manager travels to Denmark for municipal managers conference**

Author/Byline: Deana Carpenter

Recently, **Ryan Eggleston**, manager of South Fayette Township, had the opportunity to go to Copenhagen, Denmark, for a conference with other municipal managers from across the country and around the world. **Eggleston** has been a member of ICMA, or the International City/County Management Association, since the fall of 2011 when he was manager of Oil City. He is a member of the organization's International Committee, which he said focuses on "looking at what managers can draw from other managers in the U.S. and other countries."

The international committee's conference was held from April 30-May 4 in Copenhagen. Managers from states like Wisconsin, Michigan, California, Washington, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arizona were in attendance, as well as managers from China, Slovakia, Finland, Norway, Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark. **Eggleston** was the only manager from Pennsylvania at the conference.

**Eggleston** first got involved with ICMA after longtime city manager Peter Marshall advised him if he ever had the opportunity to be involved with the international committee of ICMA to go for it. He said the city council in his former town of Oil City was very supportive and the board of commissioners in South Fayette has also been supportive of his involvement with ICMA. "It is a great opportunity for myself personally and professionally and a neat opportunity to represent South Fayette Township," **Eggleston** said upon returning from his trip. He added that he was able to go on the trip because the state manager's association, the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management, awarded him a scholarship for \$1,500, which covered a large portion of his expenses. The township paid the remainder of his expenses as part of **Eggleston's** professional development.

**Eggleston** said he learned a lot at the conference, which was a mix of meetings, classes and study tours. One thing he said really stuck out as "cutting edge" was something that the municipality of Gentofte in Denmark is doing with its website. Called "Digitalization Municipal Service," the municipality's website is a portal for all citizens. **Eggleston** called it "futuristic" in that all citizens can go on the site, which contains several databases of information. Residents are given a unique identification number to go on the website, which takes them to the portal where they can see anything from their kids' school schedule and homework to library books that need renewed, and health insurance information. Citizens can also pay bills and renew their passport from the website. "It was like something you'd see in a Tom Cruise movie," **Eggleston** said of Gentofte's website. "It's very progressive."

While there, **Eggleston** had the chance to meet and speak with Frank Jensen, the mayor of Copenhagen, and also attend a speaking engagement where the prime minister of Denmark, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, spoke. **Eggleston** said the trip also provided him with the opportunity

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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to see what municipalities are struggling with or succeeding with, both here in the United States and abroad. He is also toying with the idea of South Fayette having a sister city in another country. **Eggleston** said Denmark is very different than the United States in that it is such a smaller area and that most people use either public transportation or bicycles to get around – there are more bikes than cars in the country.

Also, **Eggleston** said during the conference officials from Denmark talked about how the country has been reformed, going from more than 250 municipalities to 98. He said Denmark has also been affected by the economic downturn, as the U.S. has. "They wanted to try to be more efficient," **Eggleston** said. "They're very progressive on that front."

"Overall it was a wonderful opportunity," **Eggleston** said. "I'm very glad the board of commissioners has been so supportive," as well as the state manager's association, **Eggleston** added. "It was the best professional opportunity I've had," **Eggleston** said. "It was a great chance to meet new faces and to represent South Fayette."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
December 12, 2012

**South Fayette approves lower millage rate**

Author/Byline: Deana Carpenter

In order to keep up with changing assessments in the township, administrators in South Fayette are recommending a millage rate of 3.37 mills in the township for 2013. The current millage rate in the township is 3.84.

Commissioners will be required to take action on two ordinances at the Dec. 12 voting meeting – one ordinance is revenue neutral with a millage rate of 3.21 mills. Township Manager **Ryan Eggleston** said the township is required to pass the revenue neutral ordinance which is 100 percent of the assessed value of real estate in the township and also will have to pass an ordinance for 105 percent of the value – or the 3.37 rate.

The budget for real estate taxes for 2013 is about \$3.6 million. **Eggleston** noted the first ordinance would protect the township if assessed values do not come in as high as they are projected.

Township solicitor Jonathan Arminas added that the language was added to adjust the millage rate if the township's real estate values plummet, which is highly unlikely. He said if that happens, the millage can be adjusted in January. "It's probably not going to happen," Arminas said.

"If the values come in where we hope and think they would be the millage would go from 3.84 down to 3.37," **Eggleston** said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA)  
April 21, 2012

**South Fayette officials hire new township manager**

Author: Deana Carpenter

After a four-month search for a new township manager, commissioners in South Fayette Township voted unanimously Wednesday to hire **Ryan T. Eggleston**. Under a two-year agreement, **Eggleston**, who is the city manager for Oil City, will be paid \$82,500 plus benefits as well as a \$500 per month car allowance. **Eggleston** will start June 4.

Marshall Bond has been serving as interim township manager since November 2011 after former manager Mike Hoy resigned to pursue a job in the private sector. Bond said about 30 applications for the position were received through the nationwide search for township manager.

From the 30 applications, 12 were selected for online interviews conducted by a search committee. Three were then selected to be interviewed by the board of commissioners in person. “When I depart, I’m leaving the township in very good hands,” Bond said. “We definitely hired the best person,” said Commissioner Tom Sray.

**Eggleston** will be relocating to South Fayette with his family. The agreement states that the township will pay \$5,000 in relocation costs. “I’m excited to be here and look forward to being active in the community,” **Eggleston** said. He added that personally and professionally South Fayette is a “very exciting area.” He said he liked that the township was home to a lot of development but still provided a country setting 10 minutes outside Pittsburgh.

**Eggleston** added he is looking forward to working with the school district and has had a good relationship with the superintendent of Oil City schools. He said he also is impressed by South Fayette School District since he has two young children.

**Eggleston** previously worked as the borough manager in Greenville, Mercer County. He holds bachelor’s degrees in political science and history from Syracuse University and a master’s degree in public administration from Gannon University.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
October 28, 2009

**UPDATE: No tax hike likely in 2010 but financial future murky**

Author: Unknown

In what's likely one of his last official acts as Greenville Borough Manager, **Ryan T. Eggleston** presented a 2010 budget to borough council Wednesday that doesn't include any tax increases. The budget totals about \$2.9 million and is supported by a 31.5 mill property tax levy and wage tax rates of 1.65 percent for residents and 1.42 percent for non-residents. The spending plan deals with a 12 percent increase in the cost of health insurance and anticipates collection of less real estate taxes based on 2009 collections, **Eggleston** said.

Mayor Dick Miller noted that the borough has the highest municipal property tax rate and the fourth-highest wage tax rate in Mercer County. He again lobbied for shifting more of the tax burden to workers through wage taxes. Hermitage and Sharon both have higher wage tax rates and Sharon Mayor Bob Lucas pulled off a similar shift to balance the 2009 city budget.

Lowering Greenville's property taxes would help in these trying times, Miller said. Leading the county in millage is "not going to do us any good with this many homes to sell." Shifting the taxes to workers, while dependent upon people being employed, isn't as variable as some argue, Miller said, mentioning people who don't pay their property taxes or have let their property's lapse into foreclosure.

The borough's debt load is the real problem, Council President Pete Longiotti said. Ten mills a year have been allocated to pay off a \$3.67 million bond issue the borough initially floated in 2000. It won't be paid off until 2025, he said.

There's also the borough's designation as a distressed community under state Act 47 to contend with, a moniker the borough won't be shedding anytime soon, council members agreed. "Until the state reforms local government procedure, I don't see anyone getting out of Act 47," Miller said. "It gets to be frustrating," Longiotti said.

Councilman Jasson Urey said there's no easy way for the borough to exit the program, which allows Greenville to collect wage taxes more than 1 percent on residents and to impose such a tax on non-residents. "There's no end in sight, unfortunately," Urey said.

Greenville became an Act 47 community in 2002.

**Eggleston** is finishing up work as Greenville borough manager. He accepted a similar position in Oil City and his last day of work in Greenville is Nov. 6.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
October 13, 2009

**UPDATE: Borough manager resigns - Eggleston accepts post in Oil City**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

**Ryan T. Eggleston** on Tuesday announced he's resigning as Greenville's borough manager. "This was not an easy decision," **Eggleston**, 28, said at the council meeting where his resignation was approved with regret. His last day will be Nov. 6 and he'll begin a new job Nov. 9 as city manager of Oil City, a position he said is an opportunity for him to continue to grow professionally and live closer to his family. Since **Eggleston** was hired in June 2006 to replace Vance Oakes, who is Grove City's borough manager, his time in Greenville has been very rewarding personally and professionally, he said.

He takes pride in what he and council members accomplished like completing the downtown renovation project and continuing to meet goals to exit Act 47, the state's debt-recovery plan for financially distressed towns. "Moving away from Greenville is a difficult decision. I feel privileged to have been mentored by Pete Longiotti; his wisdom and dedication have impacted my life greatly," **Eggleston** said of the council president in a letter he read to council. He also thanked council for being committed to progress and said he has a lot of respect for them.

Becky McFadden, who said she's worked with **Eggleston** while serving with the Women's Action Group and Greenville Area Leisure Services Association, said he's been an excellent borough manager. "If I was his mom, I'd be really proud of him," she said on the verge of tears, urging council to hire a new manager just like him.

Council agreed to advertise for a new borough manager. Longiotti, whose term ends Dec. 31, suggested council wait until after Jan. 1 to interview applicants because new council members will be in place. The last two managers have been good ones, Mayor Richard H. Miller said, adding he hopes the borough can find another good person.

All the council members thanked **Eggleston** for his work and wished him well in his new job. Brian Shipley said he admired **Eggleston**'s youth and enthusiasm. "Greenville's loss is certainly Oil City's gain," he said.

**Eggleston** is a "straight shooter" who's very good with numbers, and the borough is "losing a gem," Councilman David Henderson said. Henderson's term also expires Dec. 31 and he urged the new council to take its time to find the right person for the job.

Longiotti recalled when he first met **Eggleston**, saying he came to Greenville as "just a kid" who is younger than his grandson. "He's steadily improving himself," Longiotti said.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
October 12, 2009

**Rec plan surprises GALSA board - Members learned details from media**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville Area Leisure Services Association board members said Monday they were left in the dark about borough council's proposed plan to restructure the recreation group. "You could have waited a couple weeks. The communication was horrible," GALSA member Joe Ribley told council member Brian Shipley, who headed the committee to study GALSA and create a new plan to run the financially struggling organization.

Shipley presented the proposal to council on Thursday and it recommends dissolving GALSA and replacing it with a new group called the Greenville Area Recreation Commission. Council plans to vote on the plan today and changes to GALSA could include the number of board members and who would appoint them, its director's duties and how fundraising is handled. The new director would also oversee Greenville's street and sewer departments, eliminating those current positions. Shipley told the GALSA board the plan is by no means final and council isn't "steamrolling" or imposing anything. He admitted the committee, which included council President Pete Longiotti and former GALSA member Alfred "Skip" Peden, could have involved the GALSA board more.

Ribley said he found out about the plan by reading Friday's newspapers and council needs GALSA's advice before any changes are made. "It's not easy doing what we do," he said. He had numerous phone calls from people worried that GALSA had shut down and canceled activities, programs and events like Saturday's Party in the Park. Shipley disagreed that people would take Friday's news articles to mean GALSA had dissolved.

GALSA board member Becky McFadden said the board wanted to meet with council's recreation committee to give input on the plan but was turned down. "It was not a good thing," she said. GALSA board member Mark Gaus said borough officials already do a "poor job" of running Greenville. "And now you want to run the park?" he asked, referring to Riverside Park.

Shipley said the committee spent time with Erik Bielata, GALSA's executive director who was laid off Sept. 28 for financial reasons, and Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston**, who's on the GALSA board. The committee thought their input was enough, but Shipley again said the whole GALSA board should have been included in creating the proposed plan.

Mrs. McFadden told Shipley she wanted to know how the proposal can assure neighboring municipalities will help with recreation expenses. She attended a Hempfield Township supervisors' meeting in August and was told they couldn't afford to donate money to GALSA. Shipley said the township has shown interest in updating the Greenville and Hempfield Township Joint Comprehensive Plan to include more on recreation. "It's all just chit chat," Mrs. McFadden told him. Shipley assured the board that council is committed to helping recreation

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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stay alive in the Greenville area and he's open to more suggestions. Mrs. McFadden asked who would run GALSA's programs, sports and other activities, and Shipley said council is looking to change the people already handling those things.

Everyone agreed there's still many questions left to answer if a new recreation plan comes to light, including who would pay for maintaining the pool and the borough's parks, and whether donations and fundraisers will be enough to keep recreation afloat.

Shipley and the GALSA board agreed all of council needs to meet with GALSA board members to discuss the proposed plan and make any necessary changes that will keep recreation going.

GALSA board member Jennifer Groleau said the plan looks good, but everyone needs to work together before big decisions are made. "If it works, we end up saving recreation in Greenville. ... If not, everyone loses," said David Henderson, GALSA board president and Greenville council member.

GALSA is still working on filling Bielata's shoes and some board members ended the meeting by volunteering their time to pick up where he left off.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
September 5, 2009

**UPDATE: We need volunteers for borough boards and agencies, Greenville council says**  
Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville Borough Council members are hoping more residents come forward to fill current and upcoming board and authority vacancies. Council President Pete Longiotti said at Thursday's work session he wants more citizens to serve in those capacities, especially since some of those seats sit empty for months because no one applies for the spots.

Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** said Friday serving on a board doesn't require a large time commitment like some people might think. Some of the boards meet once a month while others meet as needed, often only a few times a year. It's an easy way to get involved with the community where you live and a good learning opportunity, he said. "We're interested in trying to get folks who haven't been involved before or folks who have," **Eggleston** said.

Council members in August agreed to reduce the Greenville Water Authority Board from seven to five members after two resigned. Longiotti had said that made more sense because it would be hard to fill two vacancies.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
July 14, 2009

**UPDATE: State approves Trinity site for tax-free zone**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

The state has approved the Trinity Industries Inc. site in Greenville as a tax-free Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone for 10 years.

Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** told council Tuesday he received notice from Penn-Northwest Development Corp., which urged council in November to apply for the designation because it's an important tool for redeveloping the site. It's good news for the borough since council members had said the designation could attract new businesses to the empty site, which used to house a railcar production plant, **Eggleston** said after the meeting.

Council agreed in December to submit the KOEZ application for consideration to the state Department of Community and Economic Development. The application was also approved by Mercer County commissioners and Greenville school directors, the property's other taxing bodies.

Businesses in KOEZ areas are exempt from most state and local taxes and the Trinity property now brings the borough about \$500 to \$1,500 a year in those taxes, **Eggleston** had said.

Council members have said if any developers are interested in the site, the borough could try and negotiate payments in lieu of taxes.

School directors in February voted to freeze property taxes instead of making the land tax-free. Freezing the taxes would allow the district to collect property taxes based on current rates, but any developers wouldn't have to pay taxes on buildings during the 10 years, the board said. Without having to pay taxes, Trinity would have no incentive to move faster on cleaning the property of hazardous materials as required by the state, the board said.

State legislation in the fall allowed for 15 new properties to become KOEZ sites. When Greenville submitted its application, seven sites had already been approved for the designation, which begins Jan. 1 and expires Dec. 31, 2019.

**Eggleston** said he didn't know if any potential development on the site would be delayed by the cleanup or Trinity's lawsuit against the former Greenville Steel Car Co., which occupied the site before Trinity.

Trinity is still preparing the site for cleanup and claims Steel Car also dumped hazardous waste, making them responsible for helping with the cleanup.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
March 26, 2009

**UPDATE: Some landlords are registering tenants**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Less than a week before the deadline, only half of Greenville's known landlords have complied with the borough's demand for lists of tenants.

Borough council members on March 5 said they want to enforce Greenville's tenant registration ordinance to better track who's renting residential and commercial properties.

A letter dated March 6 was mailed to the 450 rental property owners borough officials know of, asking them to register names and addresses of all tenants 18 and older. A form was included with the letter, which must be turned in to the borough office by Wednesday. Rental property owners are also required to notify the office within 30 days of any changes of tenants. Only about half of those lists have been returned, so borough employees are still adding up the numbers, Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** said.

The letter also says there are severe penalties for any landlord who's convicted of failing, neglecting or refusing to register and identify tenants or for refusing or neglecting to notify the borough office of any change of occupancy. Violators can be fined up to \$300 or jailed for up to 30 days if they don't pay up, according to the ordinance. The code committee will decide how best to enforce the law, **Eggleston** has said. The registration process has been going well with few complaints, he said.

According to the 2000 census, there are 2,464 housing units in Greenville, with 1,471 occupied by their owners and 993 – or 40 percent – renter-occupied. Figures weren't available for rented commercial properties.

Keeping track of tenants will also ensure Greenville collects all per capita and wage taxes, and the ordinance may be revised to make landlords responsible for any tax revenue lost because of unregistered tenants, council President Pete Longiotti has said.

Any rental property owners who didn't receive a letter and form can pick one up at the borough office or download one at [www.greenvilleborough.com](http://www.greenvilleborough.com) under the "Download Forms" heading on the menu. For questions or more information, call the borough office at 724-588-4193.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
December 5, 2008

**Judge lets Greenville hike income tax rates**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville council's request to increase the borough's earned income tax rates was approved Friday morning during a court hearing. "I think it is necessary," Mercer County Common Pleas Judge John C. Reed said after testimony and a quick review of Greenville's 2009 budget. Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston**, the only person who testified, said Greenville needs to raise earned income taxes in order to balance its \$3,509,599 budget. The borough's proposal was to increase those rates to 1.65 percent from 1.6 percent for residents and to 1.42 percent from 1.34 percent for nonresidents.

Greenville's status as a financially distressed town under the state's Act 47 debt-recovery program allows the borough to raise those taxes beyond the standard 1 percent with court approval. The new tax rates will generate about \$700,000 for the borough, about \$50,000 more than what was collected this year, **Eggleston** said. If those rates had remained at 1 percent, Greenville would have collected only \$300,000, which wouldn't have been enough to help cover a projected deficit of \$159,866, he said.

Council members said they cut as much as they could from the budget and found no other funding sources to make up for the shortfall. They studied property taxes and said those rates would have had to increase by 10 to 12 mills to cover the deficit if earned income taxes didn't go up, **Eggleston** said.

Increasing real estate taxes from the current 31.5 mills was not a viable option for council or residents living on fixed incomes, he said. Council recently voted to keep property taxes at 31.5 mills in 2009. Greenville's property taxes are already the second highest in Mercer County, he said. If Sharon council adopts the city's 2009 proposed budget, property taxes will go from 39.5 to 43.5 mills. Reed asked **Eggleston** what kind of surplus Greenville will have at year's end. **Eggleston** said he expects that figure to be less than \$100,000.

Council will vote Tuesday to adopt the ordinance that sets the new earned income tax rates, said council President Pete Longiotti. He and Dr. Henry Mueller were the only other council representatives at the half-hour hearing. The men agreed that this year's budget process was more open and organized than last year's, when council and Mayor Richard H. Miller were at odds over the 2008 budget and a \$1 million surplus that has since been earmarked for a number of projects.

"The budget process went very well. We're looking forward to 2009," **Eggleston** said after the hearing. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value; assessments are based on the 1970 market value. At 31.5 mills, a home assessed at \$15,000 carries a tax bill of \$473. One mill brings the borough \$36,800.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
November 13, 2008

**Resolution eyed to Greenville post office land dispute**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville council members are still worried that a property dispute will make U.S. Postal Service officials change their mind about keeping the new post office in the borough. Council members Tuesday agreed to try and settle the borough's case against Anthony Petricini, who owns property adjacent to the proposed site of the post office.

Council on July 24 approved an ordinance closing part of Fessler Place, an alley, to accommodate the new post office at West Main and South Second streets. Petricini owns a building on South High Street, next to the post office site. He's opposed to the postal service closing part of the alley that borders his property because his garage doors are accessible only from Fessler. Petricini appealed council's decision at a hearing Sept. 4, which council members denied. He has since filed an appeal against council in Mercer County Common Pleas Court. Council members agreed to spend up to \$20,000 from the general fund to settle the dispute.

Borough officials still have to decide what they can do to resolve the issue, Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** and borough solicitor Joe Joseph said after Tuesday's meeting. Both refused to comment further because it's a pending court case.

Mayor Richard H. Miller said he hopes moving forward in trying to settle the dispute will help the post office stay in Greenville. The current Clinton Street post office is in disrepair and a new one is expected to cost about \$1.2 million. Postal officials are hoping to open it by the end of 2009.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
November 11, 2008

**Greenville council plans to raise tax rate on earnings**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville is set to receive about \$84,900 more than expected in delinquent earned income tax collections in 2009, but council members are still proposing raising those tax rates to cover a \$159,866 deficit.

Council members Tuesday voted to raise earned income taxes from 1.6 percent to 1.65 percent for residents and from 1.34 percent to 1.42 percent for nonresidents. They also agreed to file an appeal in the Mercer County Court of Common Pleas to raise those taxes above the standard 1 percent. Greenville's status as a financially distressed town under the state's Act 47 debt-recovery program allows the borough to go beyond 1 percent with court approval.

Council's finance committee proposed setting earned income tax rates at 1.7 percent for residents and 1.5 percent for nonresidents to make up for the shortfall in the proposed budget of \$3,509,599.

Dr. Mary Jane Kuffner Hirt, the borough's Act 47 coordinator, told council members Thursday she wasn't comfortable with that proposal and suggested the committee get accurate numbers on projected earned income tax returns, which could be enough to cover the deficit. Keystone Collections Inc., Irwin, Pa., the borough's tax collection agency, has been erratic in collecting delinquent earned income taxes, Dr. Hirt said.

Current numbers from Keystone show Greenville should receive \$214,900 in 2009, up from the budgeted \$130,000, based on past years, Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** told council Tuesday. The finance committee feels it's still necessary to raise earned income tax rates to make up for the part of the deficit not covered by the extra tax revenue, he said. The deficit is a result of higher costs for employee salaries and benefits and utilities.

"I was glad we were able to decrease the (proposed) tax rate slightly," said Pamela Auchter, council and finance committee member.

Property taxes are expected to remain at 31.5 mills. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value; assessments are the 1970 market value. At 31.5 mills, a home assessed at \$15,000 carries a tax bill of \$473. One mill brings the borough \$36,800.

The proposed budget is on display for public viewing at the borough building. Council members will vote on adopting it at a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 24 at the borough building.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
October 28, 2008

**Greenville council seeks citizens' input for 2009 budget**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville's proposed spending plan of \$3,509,599 for 2009 is comparable to this year's budget of \$3,508,387, but council will take comments and questions from Monday's public meeting into consideration when preparing the final draft. "Nothing's set in stone," Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** said at the beginning of the meeting.

The 20 or so people who attended the meeting each had copies of the 16-page tentative budget. **Eggleston** reviewed the draft page by page, noting that council has proposed an increase in earned income taxes to cover a projected \$159,866 deficit, but property taxes are expected to remain at 31.5 mills. While many utility costs are on the rise, **Eggleston** noted an expected decrease of about \$4,000 in those bills for the borough building because of a new boiler.

Police department costs are increasing by about \$20,000 because of pay raises and higher fuel costs for cruisers. Public works costs are also going up by about \$12,600 because of increases in salaries and utilities, he said.

Fire department costs for 2009 are similar to this year's expenses. Contract negotiations with the firefighters' union are ongoing, but the 2009 budget includes a 3 percent pay raise for union members and the possible hiring of another firefighter to replace Dan Miller, who died over the summer in a motorcycle crash, **Eggleston** said.

Protective inspection costs are going down by about \$20,000 because the borough recently hired an outside company to perform inspections of new construction and existing residential and commercial properties. The finance committee budgeted \$22,300 more for 2009 to cover rising costs of supplying electricity to street lights and maintaining roads and parking lots during the winter, he said.

Council members have a big challenge ahead of them in completing the budget because there are not many areas where cuts can be made, especially since 75 to 80 percent of it is employee benefits and wages, **Eggleston** said. "It becomes more difficult each year," he said. Council needs to continue looking at long-term finances and **Eggleston** said he hopes to have projections for the next three years when preparing the 2010 budget.

The deficit came from higher costs of health care, employee pay raises and utilities. The finance committee recommends that council raise earned income taxes to cover the shortfall because the only other option is to cut personnel, which would reduce services Greenville provides to its residents, he said. The committee has proposed an increase of earned income taxes from 1.6 percent to 1.7 percent for residents and 1.34 percent to 1.5 percent for non-residents who work in the borough. If council members approve the increase when they vote on adopting the budget at

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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their Nov. 11 meeting, borough officials will have to ask common pleas court for permission to raise those taxes, **Eggleston** said. Greenville’s status as an Act 47 financially distressed community allows the borough to increase earned income taxes beyond the standard 1 percent.

Several council members agreed that personnel cuts aren’t a good idea, especially since new jobs aren’t likely to come in the near future. “It’s a regional problem. Jobs are moving out of the area,” councilman Jasson Urey said.

The public then had a chance to comment, bringing the meeting to a close after nearly two hours of discussion. Resident John Wilson told council the trend of the national economy is to lay off people and he doesn’t want to pay higher taxes. “Everyone’s being clobbered. We’re all going to have to bite the bullet,” Wilson said.

After the meeting, **Eggleston** said the 2008 year-end surplus is expected to be between \$20,000 and \$50,000 because of expenses that have come in under budget. Council will have to decide what to do with the surplus, a topic that was the highlight of budget talks at the end of 2007. Greenville’s audit for 2007 shows the borough ended the year with a \$2.2 million fund balance, most of which has already been earmarked for capital improvement projects, emergencies and debt payments, he said.

Last year, Mayor Richard H. Miller vetoed both the 2008 budget and the ordinance that allows Greenville to set higher earned income taxes. Council members voted to override both vetoes after several heated meetings in which Miller criticized them for developing what he called a flawed and incomplete budget and not clearly identifying the surplus.

In recent weeks, Miller has suggested council members not decrease taxes and urged them to work together peacefully. He wouldn’t comment on the budget process so far after Monday’s meeting.

Council members will continue budget talks at their work session set for 6:30 p.m. Nov. 6 in the borough building. They also plan to discuss Miller’s request to allocate an additional \$15,000 to organizations that support Greenville’s art and culture.

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a home’s assessed value. Assessments are the 1970 market value. At 31.5 mills, a home assessed at \$15,000 carries a tax bill of \$473. One mill brings the borough about \$36,800.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
September 29, 2008

**Audit: Greenville borough had \$2.2 million balance - But most of it is earmarked**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

Greenville ended 2007 with a fund balance of \$2.2 million, but that doesn't mean it's nearing the end of its state Act 47 distressed community status. Most of the money has already been earmarked for capital improvement projects, set aside in a "rainy day fund" for emergencies and transferred to an account to pay off debt, Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** said Monday while reviewing the audit report. About \$100,000 to \$200,000 of the \$2,238,147 fund balance is not designated for specific expenses. An exact figure wasn't available because those numbers reflect the borough's finances as of Dec. 31, 2007, so some of those funds have since been spent, he said.

Council members on Sept. 9 approved the audit as prepared by Papparone, Stillwaggon & McGill, LLP, Grove City. The auditors' opinion said Greenville's basic financial statements are fairly stated and they encountered no significant difficulties in completing the audit. The 40-page report is available for public viewing at the borough office, and **Eggleston** encourages anyone who is interested in Greenville's finances to take a look. It's a lot of information to digest, but he wants people to know how the borough handles its finances, especially since there have been concerns about Act 47 and the \$1 million surplus that was the hot topic during budget talks for 2008. Mayor Richard H. Miller criticized council for not clearly identifying the surplus in financial reports and called the 2008 budget of \$3,508,387 flawed and incomplete. Miller vetoed the budget and the ordinance that allows Greenville to set higher earned income taxes because of Act 47. Council voted to override both vetoes.

Council members had said the \$1,132,998 surplus came from the overestimation of expenditures and underestimation of revenues for 2004, 2005 and 2006. That surplus is part of the \$2.2 million fund balance, most of which council has already designated for certain accounts, **Eggleston** said. Of that balance, \$860,903 has been or will be spent on capital improvement projects like phase two of the downtown streetscape project and a new public works garage. Also, \$1,310,878 has been earmarked for future debt payments and projects like paving borough-owned streets and parking lots and electrical work and replacing culverts in Riverside Park, and \$350,000 was set aside for emergencies, he said.

As borough officials get ready to tackle the 2009 budget, they're also working toward leaving the state's debt recovery plan for financially distressed communities, which Greenville adopted in 2003. The plan was recently revised and the updates were approved, and the borough hopes to exit Act 47 by 2014. The borough is working on becoming more self-sufficient to reach that goal and members of the finance committee have been producing more detailed fiscal reports, **Eggleston** said. Over the next few months, the borough's computer system will be converted to new software that better organizes financial information, he said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Herald, The (Sharon, PA)  
July 11, 2008

**Greenville borough's contract appeal burns up \$40,000 - Fees budgeted in pact dispute with firefighters**

Author/Byline: Monica Pryts

The borough of Greenville has spent about \$40,000 on legal costs since taking the firefighter union's contract to binding arbitration in 2005 and appealing the deal through several court levels. Attorney W. Timothy Barry, Canonsburg, Pa., has represented the borough on contract disputes with International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1976. The borough also had to pay Michael Zobrak of Aliquippa, the neutral arbiter who issued a ruling in August 2006 on a new contract after both parties in October 2005 agreed to take it to binding arbitration. To date, those legal fees have added up to \$40,508.26, Borough Manager **Ryan T. Eggleston** said Friday. The borough paid \$7,490 in 2005; \$14,940.50 in 2006; \$13,544.66; and \$4,533.10 in 2008.

To cover those costs, money was set aside in the budget during the arbitration and appeals, **Eggleston** said. A total of \$15,000 has been earmarked in the 2008 budget for legal expenses related to the contract appeal, which is now at the state Supreme Court level, he said.

Borough officials have argued that the contract doesn't conform to Act 47, the state's debt recovery plan for financially distressed communities. The state declared Greenville an Act 47 town in May 2002. The borough in 2006 appealed Zobrak's ruling on the contract and the issue went to Mercer County Common Pleas Court Judge Thomas R. Dobson, who ruled in favor on certain items for both parties. The borough appealed Dobson's ruling in April 2007 and Commonwealth Court on April 22 ruled that Dobson's decision stands. The borough in May filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania asking for a review of the Commonwealth Court decision, **Eggleston** said.

The borough disagrees with manpower issues in the contract that say two firefighters should be on duty at all times and fire department apparatus can't respond to a fire call with less than two firefighters, violating Act 47. Greenville's Act 47 plan was recently revised, saying the borough should determine if it can continue to support a paid fire department. Greenville Mayor Richard H. Miller has suggested council decide if a volunteer fire department would be more feasible. Council could vote to get the measure on the ballot in the spring for voters to decide, but council has yet to hold a discussion.

Meanwhile, in the wake of a manpower shortage, the borough and firefighters are working on a plan to ensure the department is covered, details of which **Eggleston** declined to release because nothing has been finalized. Firefighter Dan Miller died June 16 after a motorcycle crash in Kentucky, firefighter Rob Ensminger is recovering from foot surgery and volunteer Lucas Martsof has resigned. That leaves the chief, four paid full-timers and three active volunteers, firefighter Lt. Dick Craig said Friday. The union's president, Lt. Dale Hightree, was on vacation and not available for comment.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Ryan T. [Thomas] Eggleston**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[https://www.sharonherald.com/news/local\\_news/new-borough-manager-impressed-with-town/article\\_0324beea-2f7e-5eda-a9e4-f62b693f17d2.html](https://www.sharonherald.com/news/local_news/new-borough-manager-impressed-with-town/article_0324beea-2f7e-5eda-a9e4-f62b693f17d2.html)  
October 26, 2021

**New borough manager impressed with town**

Author: Monica Pryts

After his first week on the job, Greenville’s new borough manager said he’s slowly but surely learning what makes Greenville and its people tick. “This week has been a little hectic, but it’s been going really well,” **Ryan T. Eggleston** said Thursday from his office in the borough building. **Eggleston**, 25, of Erie, was hired June 13 to replace Vance E. Oakes, who left Greenville March 24 to become borough manager in Grove City.

Several council members have been helping **Eggleston** become familiar with Greenville, but he said he’s taken it upon himself to meet residents and visit businesses. “I’ve been impressed so far. I think there’s a lot of good things going on in the borough,” **Eggleston** said.

He’s excited about the downtown revitalization project that’s been under way since April. He’s still learning the specifics of the streetscape project and said he plans to become involved with it because it’s important to residents and business owners.

When asked if people have pointed out that he’s much younger than past borough managers, **Eggleston** said age is a relative thing. He said he thinks his youth and the energy that comes with it will be an asset to the borough.

**Eggleston** said he’s always been interested in the history of western Pennsylvania and wants to learn more about Greenville’s past. He said he was fascinated to learn about Stefan Banic, the inventor of the parachute, who lived in Greenville.

**Eggleston** is preparing for Thursday, when he’ll attend his first full borough council work session. He said it’s important for him to learn how the borough is run and plans to attend as many local meetings as possible, including the water authority and Greenville Area Leisure Services Association. “I’m ready to get going,” he said.

He hopes he’ll have the chance to celebrate the Fourth of July with the community during Monday’s festivities at Riverside Park. **Eggleston** lives in Erie with his fiancé and they’re looking for a house in Greenville.

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Research Compiled by:      Shannon Farr  
   Colin Baenziger & Associates



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*CB&A Reference Notes*

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Reference Notes  
Ryan Eggleston

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**Diane Warrender – Council Member, City of Morehead City, NC 252-732-6972**

Ms. Warrender has known Mr. Eggleston since 2018. Mr. Eggleston was an excellent manager for Morehead City. Residents really appreciated that he participated in community activities like little league and soccer. He is family oriented and is a good husband and father.

As a manager Mr. Eggleston is hands-on, and he worked with Directors well. He held department meetings to let staff know what the Council had decided and worked with them to resolve any issues. He has an outgoing, easy personality. Every Director was comfortable with him and respected him.

Employees hired by Mr. Eggleston did well, he made good decisions both in hiring and in general. He was easy to talk to and work with. When he had the decision-making responsibility and resources to complete a project, it was always done in a timely manner. He did not let projects linger and he worked towards the goals in a good way.

When issues came up Mr. Eggleston formed a committee with stakeholders from the business community, residents, and the appropriate department head. One example was a significant paving project, they had to prioritize the streets and address the worst issues first. Some residents felt their streets deserved higher priority. By forming a committee to prioritize the work and publicizing the plan and its details, the community had a greater understanding which resulted in less criticism on projects.

Mr. Eggleston started the budget process in January or February of every year. In the spring, the council worked with departments on the budget plan, and they presented it to the public in June. He is very aware of the funds, and he has a background in finance.

The city had taken out several loans over the years with higher interest rates. Mr. Eggleston suggested they pay off the loans with money from the general fund to save on interest while eliminating the monthly payments. City officials followed his recommendation and really appreciated not having the debt hanging over the town.

When circumstances became stressful Mr. Eggleston was very eager to discuss matters with the Council to receive their feedback. He met with them individually to answer questions and explain matters, which helped him understand how they felt about the matter. He also encouraged feedback from the staff and once he researched the topic, he then made a decision.

Two Councilmembers were not doing what the other Councilmembers felt was in the best interest of the community. In the November 2022 election, another of their group was elected to the Council, which gave them the majority and they have become giddy with control. Mr. Eggleston truly tried to work with them, but they were set on removing people they did not like, and it was a very difficult time in the community. While Mr. Eggleston was on vacation, these councilmembers asked someone to be the interim manager without even discussing it with the full Council. He was very well liked and respected by most residents, and everyone was very



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upset over his departure. His contract had just been renewed for three years. The decision to let him go was entirely political and not performance based. The hiring of the Police Chief was controversial as the aforementioned Councilmembers wanted to promote from within the department rather than hiring from outside. Mr. Eggleston was responsible for hiring and chose who he felt would best lead the department. When anything negative happened in the community, they used it against the Chief and Mr. Eggleston. Once Mr. Eggleston was gone, the Council let the Police Chief go, and later they let the Parks and Recreation Director go. The City was in turmoil at that time and the community was very concerned about the actions taken.

Mr. Eggleston's background was researched prior to his hiring and nothing of concern was found. The only controversy involving Mr. Eggleston personally was when he moved to a new home in the community and the Councilmembers who did not like him accused him of using employees to move. If they did help, it was optional and not mandated. Also, he was well liked in the organization and the employees may have offered to help.

Ms. Warrender would hire Mr. Eggleston in a minute and would love to have him back in Morehead City. He gained valuable experience during his tenure as they have a military base, a port, and the community is known as a resort location. He also gained experience in emergency management and hurricanes. Whatever job he takes, he will do well.

**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Good personality and sense of humor,
- Makes fact based decisions,
- Very professional,
- Attentive to what is happening in the community,
- Very nice person, and
- Easy to talk to and work with.

**Strengths:** Great personality, makes everyone feel very comfortable around him, pleasant.

**Weaknesses:** When the majority shifted on Council, he knew he would have some difficulties. He tried to appease them and walked on eggshells around them instead of standing up to them. However, he bought a home in the community and his parents had moved there and he was trying to protect his job. Standing up to them could have made the situation even worse than it was.

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**Dale Britt – Board of Directors, Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, NC 252-725-5375**

Mr. Britt met Mr. Eggleston in 2018. Mr. Britt works for a charity organization. Mr. Eggleston sought them out and was very innovative with his thinking. He solicited their organization's help to make improvements to the waterfront and they worked together. They never socialized,

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though they may have had a lunch together, and they did not run in the same circles. However, Mr. Eggleston is known in the community as a strong family man.

Mr. Eggleston made many positive changes in Morehead City including a new logo. The employees absolutely loved him and respected him. He always had a smile. He was very active in the community. He was responsive, and he was timely in responding.

One of Mr. Eggleston's strengths is budget and management. He really understands the budget process and is very solid fiscally. He had great people skills and did not cave to demands. Rather, he did his job the way it was supposed to be done. He is very disciplined. From a management perspective, he fit the bill to a T in all aspects.

Decisions made by Mr. Eggleston, both in hiring and in general, were good. He was very innovative. When first hired, he was a change agent in bringing operations up to where they needed to be. He worked extremely well with the public and kept residents up to date through a newsletter.

One project Mr. Eggleston led was the construction of a new park and he invited children from the school district to help name it. He revitalized the parks and placed a large flagpole right in the center of the city. He posted signs to direct tourists to the waterfront area as well as other assets that the city has to offer. He organized a group of artists to paint on the vacant walls and beautify the downtown area. These are just a few of his efforts to improve the community.

The law states that sailboats can stay in the waterway, and some boats that were real eyesores were tied up in front of their waterfront. Mr. Eggleston raised money through the community to pay these individuals to move on and was successful. Residents were very happy with the results.

While some controversial items may be found online about Mr. Eggleston, they were fabricated. Nothing in his background or conduct would concern a reasonable person.

A few Councilmembers bypassed Mr. Eggleston and went directly to staff to discuss their personal agendas behind closed doors, which was not appreciated by the staff. Mr. Eggleston spoke with the Councilmembers as gently as he could and encouraged them to come to him with their ideas and concerns. One of the Councilmembers was particularly controlling and started really pushing back. This Councilmember formed a coalition with two others, one newly elected, and when Mr. Eggleston would not terminate the employment of the Police Chief, they let Mr. Eggleston go and then they removed the Police Chief and later the Parks and Recreation Director. They did not work with the Mayor and other Councilmember, they called a special meeting and then moved forward. Their actions really upset most of the business community and the residents. Mr. Eggleston was railroaded. He had a great reputation and always received very high marks on his evaluations. He stood tall through the whole debacle and did not talk badly about anyone, even though it was very hard on his family.

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Mr. Britt would vote to rehire Mr. Eggleston in a heartbeat. He was the best Manager that Mr. Britt has ever seen. Residents truly cared about him and expressed a high level of concern for his wellbeing and future. Everyone wishes the best for him.

**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Engaging,
- Personable,
- Responsible,
- Innovative,
- Encouraging, and
- Intelligent.

**Strengths:** Budgeting, management, very solid fiscally, good people skills, did his job without being influenced, very disciplined, well respected.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Andrea Iglar – Communications/Community Development Director, South Fayette, PA  
724-825-0099**

Ms. Iglar met Mr. Eggleston in 2012. She was a newspaper reporter for the South Fayette Township when he was hired as the Manager. After a few years, the Township created a Communications Director position, and she was hired. They have remained friends.

When hiring Mr. Eggleston considered not only the individual and their skillset but also how they would work with the team. The team that he built really helped carry Ms. Iglar through her transition into the public sector and built the foundation of her work relationships today. In creating the communications position, they had to establish processes that had never been in place before. He created the same position in Firestone and asked Ms. Iglar to be on the interview panel. His top-rated candidate was hesitant to take the position because she was happy in her current position and had a great relationship with her supervisor. Ms. Iglar assured her that she would not regret working for Mr. Eggleston and highly recommended she take the position. It was not a comment Ms. Iglar made lightly, knowing how this candidate felt about her current role. Mr. Eggleston is the best supervisor that Ms. Iglar has ever had.

When making decisions Mr. Eggleston is very thoughtful and looks at all angles, he wants to know other's perspectives and seeks their counsel. He is a great decision maker. He is not afraid to push forward and take risks to be innovative. He is very creative and is also receptive to the ideas of others.

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Ryan Eggleston

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Active in the community, Mr. Eggleston attended Township events as well as events with other civic groups like the Chamber of Commerce. He interacted with the business community and people in neighboring municipalities. His children were in sports and he attended athletic events. He was well known in the community. With others he is very approachable and friendly. He makes a friendly personal connection before launching into business. He has a great demeanor and was very well liked.

Team meetings were one way that Mr. Eggleston kept the staff informed. He brought them together to have group discussions about various topics. He prioritized the issues and created a work plan to meet the goals of the Council. One goal that he worked on was to improve their brand identity as the community has eight zip codes. The staff all offered ideas on solutions and how they could help. It is a long-term project, but he made progress.

South Fayette hired Mr. Eggleston to address their financial situation, which was dire, because he was able to turn the finances around in Oil City. At one point the Township almost did not make payroll. He is very good in finance and got the Township back on track. Their credit rating improved, and he implemented a minimum fund balance policy. One of his solutions was to sell property that was a thorn in their side and use the funds for building projects to bring revenue to the Township. He also hired a Finance Director who was a Certified Public Accountant. He laid a great foundation, and they were able to borrow on a \$30 million dollar bond issue to pay for a facility, which would not have been possible before he arrived.

While Mr. Eggleston is very responsive, occasionally he had to be reminded on less important matters. When something was urgent, it was at the top of his list. He dealt with stress well and took time for himself as needed. He had a nice sense of humor that helped relieve stress. He never took his emotions out on staff.

Mr. Eggleston left South Fayette because he did not want to be pulled into the politics that were happening at the time. He was involved in political controversy in Morehead City, but it was not due to his performance or decisions that he made, it was all related to the political climate.

Ms. Iglar would hire Mr. Eggleston. He is a great leader and will do well for any community, but particularly for a community that needs to build teams and consensus. He excels at bringing people together on an issue.

**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- People person,
- Appreciative of creativity,
- Innovative,
- Very supportive and encouraging,
- Well-liked and well respected,
- Receptive, and
- Thoughtful.

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**Strengths:** Great, very team oriented, really likes working people with building teams, encourages others to share their resources and acknowledges that everyone has a specific area of expertise.

**Weaknesses:** He does better when working with others in some capacity instead of long stretches of administrative or computer work. He will do the administrative work, but he is a people person and works very well with others.

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**Bill Taylor – Councilmember, City of Morehead City, NC 252-725-3585**

Mr. Taylor worked with Mr. Eggleston from 2018 to 2022. Mr. Taylor always rated Mr. Eggleston a 2, or very good, on his evaluations. He was great at communicating with the residents and helped them understand why decisions were made.

Most employees Mr. Eggleston supervised were inherited. He hired a Police Chief who was not in the country when a party got out of hand. The incident received national attention and the Chief was sacrificed on this internet rumor. The state did not agree that the Chief was responsible as they renewed his certification. This hire was the only one that did not work out well for Mr. Eggleston. He worked with an inherited Parks and Recreation Director who had made some improvement but was still a work in progress when Mr. Eggleston left. Generally, his decisions are very good.

One strength Mr. Eggleston has is his involvement in the community. He spends much of his time in civic activities with his children. He coached soccer and other sports and was well known and well liked. Many in the community felt that he was mistreated by the Board that let him go.

Mr. Eggleston did a great job of keeping the Council informed and was willing to talk on any topic. He formed advisory groups to work on solutions, one such group was formed when their insurance significantly increased. The Employee Health Advisory Group led to many enhancements in their benefit system. He also worked with an advisory committee for Parks and Recreation and another committee on bylaws, which is still active today.

An indication of Mr. Eggleston's financial ability was coming up with solutions to fund a city hall construction project from scratch as well as demolishing the old city hall. He led the installation of additional wells and pumps for freshwater treatment and accomplished many major capital projects during his tenure that he always found a way to fund.

After the Council change that led to his departure, Mr. Eggleston took a little longer to complete assignments because he was trying to be as thorough and detailed as possible. The situation was very stressful towards the end. He maintained a courteous demeanor, but he was looking over his shoulder while trying to be effective at the same time and you cannot do both well.

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These Councilmembers did not appreciate Mr. Eggleston because he told them no when they did not want to be told no. They led the effort to remove him as the Manager. They were nitpicking his work to be destructive. They claimed that he did not do the bidding right on a project, but the City never had a bad financial review or audit while he was in charge.

Mr. Taylor would hire Mr. Eggleston and voted to keep him in Morehead City. He and his contributions were appreciated, and he exceeded expectations. Even in the light of significant negative pressures on him at the final stages of his employment, his performance was more than adequate. Mr. Taylor is sorry that Mr. Eggleston is no longer with Morehead City.

**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Communicative,
- Knowledgeable,
- Open to suggestions,
- Active in the community,
- Cares about residents, and
- Good at managing the resources.

**Strengths:** Very personable, easy to talk to, open, excellent communication skills, liked by employees, knowledge in his field and his attention to detail are above average.

**Weaknesses:** He is easygoing and when the Councilmembers were trying to remove him, perhaps he could have dug in and became tougher. That said, you cannot always find a middle ground if the other side does not want to find a middle ground, and these individuals did not seem to want to find a middle ground.

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**Dean Wagaman – Owner, Kurtis Chevrolet, Morehead City, NC 252-723-1733**

Mr. Wagaman met Mr. Eggleston in 2018. They first met when Mr. Eggleston was coaching basketball. Ms. Wagaman was coaching a team that competed against Mr. Eggleston's team. Besides owning a car dealership, Mr. Wagaman was involved in real estate and had conversations with Mr. Eggleston on various ideas and in seeking clarifications on policy.

On a scale from 1 to 10, Mr. Eggleston was a 9 or 10. He represented the Town extremely well on and off the job. He was very professional, and every interaction was phenomenal. Everyone was quite sad to see him leave Morehead City.

Mr. Eggleston made good decisions. He was good about keeping others informed and requesting their involvement on matters they were interested in. He provided advice on projects and explained the Town's rules and statutes. He connected Mr. Wagaman with department heads to

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Ryan Eggleston

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provide more information and find options. Mr. Eggleston was very responsive and always fulfilled his commitments within an appropriate span of time.

Proactive is how Mr. Eggleston works. Rather than waiting to deny a permit after it has been submitted, he shared guidelines ahead of time on matters related to proper setbacks, right of way, buffers, and vegetative types and options. He never tried to bypass regulations but made sure that residents and business owners knew what the requirements were. He pushed for an annexation to benefit the City and did quite well in every regard.

Hiring a Police Chief was controversial, but Mr. Wagaman was not involved and cannot speak to the details. Nothing related to Mr. Eggleston personally was of concern. He fell victim to politics in Morehead City.

Mr. Wagaman would hire Mr. Eggleston in a heartbeat to run a community or to work in his personal business. He was not perfect, no one is, but he rates extremely high as a manager, and they were sad to see him leave. He is professional, youthful, energetic, and knowledgeable. He did a great job.

**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Positive,
- Leader,
- Role model,
- Knowledgeable,
- Involved,
- Proactive, and
- Represents all parties in a positive manner.

**Strengths:** Great business and personal interactions, people person, tackles any issue and does the homework required as things are not always black or white.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Jerry Jones – Mayor, City of Morehead City, NC 252-241-1315**

Mayor Jones has been the Mayor since 1997 and he hired Mr. Eggleston as their manager in 2018. Mayor Jones worked with many City Managers during his tenure. Mr. Eggleston is an excellent manager and a good person. He is a great facilitator, and he works well with others. He is very knowledgeable.

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Ryan Eggleston

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Mr. Eggleston made good decisions both when hiring and in general. He is very innovative but understands his position and maintains high performance. He was intuitive and they discussed the future of the City and how they needed to plan for the future to stay ahead of the growth.

In the Mayor's absence, Mr. Eggleston represented the City. He coached youth sports and was an active church goer. The public never complained about him. He worked with many volunteers and nonprofit groups. Also, the City hosts the largest seafood festival in North Carolina and the largest fishing tournament in the world. Everyone including staff, volunteers, and residents rallied in support of him remaining the manager.

They worked very closely together, and Mr. Eggleston was great about communicating and keeping the Mayor informed through telephone calls, texting, and emails. He believed in a team effort and did not make decisions on his own without consulting the leadership team.

The city continued to grow during Mr. Eggleston's leadership, which indicates that he had a good handle on the budget and finances. He worked closely with their Finance Director who is also very strong.

While everyone needs a nudge every once in a while, Mr. Eggleston completed tasks in a timely manner. Government moves slower than the private sector because decisions affect so many individuals. It takes time to make the best public decisions that can be made.

Some newly elected officials wanted another City Manager and so they let Mr. Eggleston go, but all the employees came to his defense. Mayor Jones was very much against Mr. Eggleston's dismissal. He was very even keeled and never showed any signs of stress until the very end. However, those who were not close to him most likely did not see the stress in him. Mayor Jones is not aware of any personal controversy related to Mr. Eggleston. His background was squeaky clean when they hired him.

Mayor Jones would hire Mr. Eggleston in a heartbeat, he was one of the best Managers Morehead City has ever had. Anyone who has the chance to hire him should look at him closely. He has great family values that are connected to his morals and ethics. He is very knowledgeable and prides himself on continuing education and networking. He worked locally with other managers and presents himself well. He is a good catch for any community.

**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Good person,
- Great facilitator,
- Works well with others,
- Very knowledgeable,
- Team player, and
- Empowers the staff.



Reference Notes  
Ryan Eggleston

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**Strengths:** Encouraging others, empowering others to do their job to the best of their abilities.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Miles “Butch” Truitt – Former Public Works Director, South Fayette, PA 412-667-0557**

Mr. Truitt has known Mr. Eggleston since around 2009. Mr. Truitt reported to Mr. Eggleston in Oil City. Mr. Truitt liked Mr. Eggleston enough to follow him to South Fayette. Mr. Truitt would have followed Mr. Eggleston to Morehead City if he were not so close to retirement.

Mr. Eggleston is an extremely good manager and a good person. He does everything from his heart. He puts a great deal of effort into every decision, which is why he does so well. His greatest strength is maintaining an organization at a high level, but he is also very innovative. He kept everyone informed through a daily leadership meeting. The departments all knew what the other departments were doing, and they all worked together.

Mr. Eggleston is very visible in the community, and he works very well with residents. He was always out meeting people. In Oil City he walked into every business in the downtown area to ask what he could do for them.

A resident had raw sewage in her basement and called Mr. Eggleston. He and the staff were able to help her with the sewage removal. Another time an oil company was considering moving to a new location because their infrastructure was not adequate. Mr. Eggleston took the initiative to go to the Mayor and Council, and he suggested they put in a 12” water line to keep the company in Oil City. The idea worked and this company remained in the community.

Even when they called Mr. Eggleston in the middle of the night, he answered the phone and responded in person when needed. He was very responsive. He responded to stress better than most. Working with an elected body with different personalities and agendas can be difficult, but he handled it well.

Mr. Eggleston has not been involved in any controversy. Someone in the community and asked for things that were borderline illegal and he refused, as he should have. She gathered some friends, and they all ran for office. Mr. Eggleston saw the writing on the wall and left for a job in Morehead City. This is the nature of public service at times.

If you have a chance to hire Mr. Eggleston, you should as he is just too good to be true. Mr. Truitt has never worked with anyone like Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Truitt enjoyed a long career over fifty years and Mr. Eggleston was the best manager he ever had. He will be the best hire for any community, wherever he goes.

Reference Notes  
Ryan Eggleston

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**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Dynamic,
- Very energetic,
- Did what was needed to get the job done,
- Asked for help when he did not know something, and
- Too good to be true.

**Strengths:** Personality, good with the budget and numbers – everything was always right on, overall good person, very enthusiastic.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Jim Browder – Executive Director, Crystal Coast Tourism Authority, NC 252-773-3113**

Mr. Browder has known Mr. Eggleston since 2018. Mr. Browder worked primarily with the County, but the County offices are in Morehead City and so he worked with Mr. Eggleston on some projects and events.

Mr. Eggleston's departure from Morehead City was a significant loss, and no one saw it coming. He is one of those rare talents who is really good at what he does. He knows every employee in the city by name along with the names of their spouse and children. He connects with everyone. He was well loved and well respected for his work in Morehead City.

One of Mr. Eggleston's greatest attributes is that he was fair, he listened to all sides prior to making a decision. On matters that were not popular, he explained why it was necessary. He was good at seeing the big picture and helping others catch the vision. You cannot make everyone happy all the time, but he spoke in a way that everyone maintained their dignity, and no one was pointed out as being wrong. He was very good at balancing differing perspectives.

Mr. Eggleston attended all the community events, and everyone loved him. He worked very well with the public. He is very sharp. He responded within the hour to texts, emails, or voicemails most of the time. He has a stressful job, but that stress does not translate to anyone else.

As far as Mr. Browder knows, Mr. Eggleston has not been involved in any controversy. The community only expressed disappointment at his departure.

Mr. Browder would hire Mr. Eggleston in a heartbeat and wishes him well. He is a great manager and a wonderful person.

Reference Notes  
Ryan Eggleston

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**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Caring,
- Understanding,
- Professional,
- Knowledgeable,
- Strategic, and
- Strong management and leadership skills.

**Strengths:** Communication and also communicating at the proper level to the proper person, treats everyone with respect, lights up a room, personable, very clear so everyone knew what he was talking about.

**Weaknesses:** Being close to employees comes with a little baggage at times, but it is better to err on the side of getting to know employees than being distant from the staff.

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**Elise Clouser – Former Reporter, Carteret County News Times, NC 704-589-1436**

Ms. Clouser was the reporter who covered Morehead City when Mr. Eggleston was hired in 2018. She has since left that position, but they keep in touch now and again. Many cities have an almost adversarial relationship with the press, but Mr. Eggleston was not like that. They worked very well together. He was very responsive.

Mr. Eggleston was a very involved, very hands on manager. He was the face of the town, and many people knew him because he was very accessible. He made the right call on several difficult choices and in many budgetary matters.

Mr. Eggleston was present in the community and attended the ribbon cuttings. He spoke to people in the community and was always out there. He was very accessible to the public and very responsive via email or phone. He held public meetings where anyone could speak to him.

When something big was coming, Mr. Eggleston gave the press a heads up prior to the press release, though this was generally for positive items. He was very much in touch with the media. He helped facilitate difficult conversations and was a great mediator in budget workshops and in hashing matters out with the Council. The budget was always handled well by him, and the city never had a deficit. He was always very cheery and in a good mood.

Mr. Eggleston was let go by the City Council, though Ms. Clouser does not know the full story. All his decisions were well received even when he had to make tough decisions that included laying off some employees. However, he was never involved in anything scandalous.

Ms. Clouser would hire Mr. Eggleston. He is a really great person.

Reference Notes  
Ryan Eggleston

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**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Personable,
- Responsible,
- Charismatic, and
- Professional.

**Strengths:** Great communicator, very personable, accessible, maintained a good relationship with the press, people person.

**Weaknesses:** Like all government representatives, he did not enjoy sharing the negatives and occasionally tried to spin a matter, but that is a given in the industry.

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**Bob Garvin – City Attorney, South Fayette, PA 412-849-8473**

Mr. Garvin has known Mr. Eggleston since 2012. Mr. Garvin was the external solicitor for the Township. In terms of job performance, Mr. Eggleston is a 10.

Decisions made by Mr. Eggleston are very good. He is innovative and always looking for new and better ways to accomplish the goals, particularly with finance and operations. His demeanor is always the same no matter the situation.

Mr. Eggleston was well known in the community. He communicated well with the legal team, primarily through phone calls or email as they did not work in the same building. He was very responsive, and he was quick to respond.

Mr. Eggleston resolved a multitude of issues including resident complaints and stormwater drainage. He worked with the staff to resolve all the issues. He was very good at working with residents in public meetings to resolve their issues.

While Mr. Eggleston was involved in controversy due to the nature of his work, none of it was created by him. Nothing in his background would concern an employer. Mr. Eggleston left South Fayette for a better job and Mr. Garvin is still upset at him for leaving. Everyone was shocked when he left, he was well liked in the community.

Mr. Garvin would hire Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Garvin has been in the field for over 40 years and has worked with several managers, Mr. Eggleston is at the top of his list.

Reference Notes  
Ryan Eggleston

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**Words or phrases used to describe Ryan Eggleston:**

- Patient,
- Intelligent,
- Caring, and
- Diligent.

**Strengths:** Communication, calmness in difficult situations, intelligence, good experience in his field.

**Weaknesses:** Too patient, he could speak up at times.

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**Prepared by:** Lynelle Klein  
Colin Baenziger & Associates