



Section 4

Brian M. Bulthuis

*Lake Worth Beach City Manager
Candidate Report*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
COVER LETTER AND RESUME	1
CANDIDATE INTRODUCTION	7
BACKGROUND CHECKS	13
CB&A REFERENCE NOTES	17
INTERNET SEARCH	31

Cover Letter and Resume

BRIAN M BULTHUIS
3783 PING COURT
ACWORTH, GA 30101
770-652-9928
brianmbulthuis@gmail.com

June 18, 2021

The Honorable Mayor Resch and City Commission,

It is with great interest that I submit my application for the position of City Manager. As you consider my credentials, that includes considerable experience in leadership, business, and finance, I am confident you will find me to be an excellent candidate to serve the City of Lake Worth Beach.

When reviewing my resume, you will see that I am a leader with maturity, professionalism and expertise. I possess a strong work ethic and believe firmly in fostering team unity, mentoring, and helping the Community, Mayor & Commission, and Staff identify and achieve goals and objectives.

You will note in my resume I am not an individual that uses one community as a steppingstone to move on to "bigger and better things". This is evident in that I have served the City of Acworth Georgia as City Manager for the past 25 years. Due to my longevity, I have taken the opportunity to take an early retirement which affords me the opportunity to look for a new incredible opportunity where I can settle down, become part of the community, and help that community reach its highest potential.

I attribute my success and longevity in Acworth to my ability to be a critical thinker always looking for new ways to address issues. When I arrived in Acworth it was a community of 6,000 with a deserted downtown, no community events, bad reputation, and low employee morale. Today it is a vibrant community of 24,000 with a thriving and expanding downtown, commercial centers on our borders, events and activities that draw thousands and employee morale as at an all time high. In 2010 Acworth was name an All America City by the National Civic League, in 2019 Acworth was recognized by the State as an Exceptional Main Street Community, in 2020 we were named the healthiest employer in the Metro Area by the Atlanta Business Chronicle and just this month we were named to the National Civic League All America City Hall of Fame. In addition, our Parks & Recreation Department and Police Department have received numerous awards for their activities and programs.

I attribute our success in Acworth not because of what I have done, but because we have been able to foster a "team" approach in tackling issues. I believe the Manager needs to be a partner with the Mayor and City Commission sharing ideas and being able to listen. I hate surprises as I know elected officials do. I strive hard to make sure an organization is always trying to anticipate issues before they become problems. One of my favorite aspects of being a manager is being able to get out from behind a desk and see what is going on and becoming part of a community.

Over the past several years Acworth has seen a boom in new and redevelopment. I understand the complexities of dealing with the issues that come with development. Acworth has a historic downtown and making sure we have protected that historic character while fostering the needed development has been important. We have implemented façade grants to help businesses and created a Tax Allocation District to foster the development of a phenomenally successful commercial development.

Section 4

Working in Acworth which is in the Metro Atlanta Region has given me the opportunity to deal with and handle many complex issues. In addition, Acworth is one of 6 cities in Cobb County. Acworth contracts with Cobb for fire, water & sewer services and there are many county, regional and state issues that the City Manager is called upon to address on behalf of the city. I have been able to forge great working relationships with other city managers in the area as well as county staff and elected officials to make sure Acworth's concerns are addressed.

Acworth is in one of the best financial positions it has ever been in. Even with the growth we have seen there comes new expenses that must be accounted for. We have been incredibly careful and deliberate to anticipate long term costs of projects and developments and budget conservatively to make sure our budgets are sustainable. Today, we have grown our general fund reserves to equal 4.2 months of operating expenses, the best practice guideline set by GFOA is 3 months reserves.

Investing in our infrastructure has been a high priority in the city. We have been able to invest over \$160,000,000 in infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, sidewalk, stormwater, parks, city facilities). This infrastructure investment has been the catalyst for much of the new and redevelopment the city is experiencing. In addition, the State of Georgia is currently widening a two-lane highway in the city to four lanes and building a new vehicular and pedestrian bridge over Lake Allatoona, with a total cost of \$65,000,000. This has been a 10–15-year project that I have worked on with State Legislative Leaders and the State Department of Transportation to get funded completely by the state.

Since the early 1900's Acworth has had its own power department. In order to meet power supply needs for the community the city purchased power from Georgia Power and the market. In 2002 I was able to negotiate an agreement that had the city join MEAG Power. MEAG Power is a non-profit joint action agency made up of 49 public power communities. By joining MEAG Power the city has been able to steady its power reliability and be less susceptible to market fluctuations. Acworth Power has just over 7,000 customers.

I am extremely proud of the success we have had in Acworth. It is a wonderful community. I would encourage anyone to visit its website at www.acworth.org to find out what we have been able to accomplish and what is going on. Under the Visitors tab you can find links to the city's State of the City and town hall videos, you can also find residents' oral histories (mine included).

After reviewing information about Lake Worth Beach from your job advertisement and website I feel it would be a great fit for me and the community. I believe my record of being someone that gets things done while also being someone that is a motivator and creates a culture of family would allow me to be extremely successful.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you and go over my qualifications.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Bulthuis

Brian M. Bulthuis

BRIAN M. BULTHUIS

3783 Ping Court
Acworth, GA 30101
(770) 652-9928
brianmbulthuis@gmail.com

A dedicated professional in Public Administration with extensive experience in public sector management. Experienced in business creation, finance, economic development, strategic planning for municipal innovation, contract negotiation/compliance, growth management and land use.

CITY MANAGER, CITY OF ACWORTH GA, October 1996 – July 2021

24,000 Population 165 Full Time Employees 30 Part-time Employees

Departments/Operations Managed

Finance	Human Resources	Technology Support
Police	Solid Waste	Building Inspections & Code Enforcement
Public Works	City Cemetery	Economic Development
Stormwater	Power Utility	Utility Billing
Municipal Court	Community Center	Parks & Recreation

- Full-Service City With \$18 Million General Fund, \$14 Million Power Fund, \$2 Million Sanitation Fund And Varies Other Internal Service Funds
- City Awarded Excellence In Financial Reporting For Past 21 Years
- 2010 All America City, 2021 All America City Hall of Fame
- Constructed New City Hall, Jail & Court Facility, Police Headquarters, 48,000 sq/ft Community Center, Sports Complex For Baseball And Youth Football, 120-Acre Park In Center of the Community
- Completely Transformed Downtown Business District, 90% Occupancy Rate, New Roads, Streetscape And Pedestrian Connectivity
- City Designated Georgia Main Street City, National Main Street City, Georgia GEM City
- City Has Seen Commercial Corridor On South Side of City Develop Into A Major Retail Hub With Almost All National Retailers And Restaurants Locate In City
- Over Past 20 Years City Has Transformed From Just A Parks Department To A Parks, Recreation And Community Resource Department Offering Programs For All Ages And Abilities, Has Community Events For All Seasons Attracting Thousands Of People To The Community.
- Managed Millions In Road Improvements Including Construction Of Railroad Underpass, Downtown Street Streetscape Projects
- Police Department Recognized As One Of Top Departments In State, Leader In Community Policing
- City Electric Utility - Over 7,000 Customers
- Sanitation Department -

Section 4

CITY MANAGER, CITY OF MT. MORRIS MI, November 1990 - October 1996:

3,292 Population 16 Full Time Employees 40 Part-time Employees

- Responsible For Preparation Of Annual City Budget With 5 Major Independent Funds Totaling \$2.015 Million And 4 Minor Funds
- Increased City's General Fund Reserve Balance 35%
- Established Annual Goal Setting Exercises For City Council, Departments, And Community
- Negotiated Labor Contracts With AFSCME And Police Officers Labor Council
- Planned And Oversaw Water Main Construction Projects
- Updated City's Comprehensive Community Master Plan
- Developed Job Descriptions For All City Employees
- Updated City Personnel Policy and Fire Department Rules and Regulations
- Helped Write New City Charter
- Implemented Community Policing Program

Administrative Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, City of Whitehall, MI

December 1987 - November 1990 3,027 Population 22 Full Time Employees 25 Part-time

- Assisted City Manager With Day To Day Running Of City, Served As City Clerk, Zoning Administrator, Tax Increment Finance Authority And Local Development Finance Authority Secretary, Served As City Representative To Solid Waste Authority
- Oversaw Planning Process To Implement Downtown Redevelopment Program
- Updated City's Tax Increment Finance Authority Plans
- Assisted City Manager In Developing City's Industrial Park And Attracting Major Manufacturing Firm To Locate \$8 Million Dollar Plant In The City
- Prepared Coastal Management Grants for City
- Served As Acting City Manager From 3/88 - 9/88 While City Council Searched For Permanent Manager

INTERN TO CITY MANAGER, JACKSON, MI August 1987 - December 1987

Worked On Special Projects As Directed By The City Manager; Financial Evaluation Of The City, Comparison Of Human Relation Commissions From Around The State And Creation Of A New Historical District.

VOLUNTEER, ALL-AMERICA CITY COMMITTEE, JACKSON, MI Summer 1986

Worked On The Committee To Help Plan And Develop Activities For Community In Conjunction With Jackson Being Named All America City.

Section 4

INTERN TO CITY MANAGER, JACKSON, MI May 1985 - August 1985

Worked For City Manager In Absence Of An Assistant. In Charge Of Drawing Up Transition Plan For City To Comply With Section 504, Federal Handicapped Requirements, Planned And Supervised City Wide Cleanup Day, Established Task Force To Write Up All-America City Award.

INTERN TO CITY MANAGER, JACKSON, MI May 1984 - August 1984

Worked On Special Projects For The City Manager, Conducted Surveys And Worked Throughout City With Various Departments To Learn Scope Of City Services.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION April 1992
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION April 1986
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Major: Public Administration
Minors: Political Science
General Business

MEMBERSHIPS

International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
Georgia City/County Management Association (GCCMA)
Leadership Cobb Alumni Association
Honorary Commanders Alumni Association
Acworth Business Association

OTHER

Cobb Chamber Community Impact Award - 2013
Volunteer Coach Acworth Youth Football Association 20 Years
President Acworth Youth Football Association 4 Years
Volunteer Acworth Special Needs Program Coaching Baseball & Kickball 15 Years
Volunteer Coach Kennesaw Girls Softball – 4 Years
Interests - Golf

Candidate Introduction

Brian M. Bulthuis

EDUCATION

Master Public Administration, Western Michigan University
Bachelor of Business Administration, Western Michigan University

EXPERIENCE

City Manager, City of Acworth GA	Oct. 1996-July 2021
City Manager, City of Mt. Morris MI	Nov. 1990-Oct. 1996
Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, City of Whitehall MI	Dec. 1987-Nov. 1990
Intern, City Manager's Office City of Jackson MI	Summer, 84, 85, 87

BACKGROUND

Acworth GA is located on I-75 just 30 miles north of Atlanta Georgia. It is in the Atlanta Metro Region. Acworth has been a rapidly growing community, in 1996 when I arrived it had a population of about 6,000, today the city's population is about 24,000. City services have had to expand over the past 25 years and today the city has about 165 full time employees and 30 part time employees. I as City Manager directly supervised the 9 department heads which were Police, Power/Public Works, Park/Recreation/Community Services, City Clerk, Human Resources, Information Systems, Economic Development, Building Department, Finance, and the Assistant to the City Manager.

The City's budget has been balanced every year I have been City Manager; we have received the Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past 21 years. The city has been careful with expenditures and we exceed the GFOA recommended reserves in the General Fund. The adopted general fund budget for 2021/22 is just over \$18,000,000. The city has many funds such as Power, Sanitation and Special Local Option Sales Tax which brings the entire budget around \$40,000,000.

Over the past several years Acworth has seen growth through annexation and new development. However, that is slowing down and one main issue facing the community today is the redevelopment of older/undeveloped areas of town. Especially some of the old, abandoned retail centers that have closed. Another issue facing the community is stormwater. For years, the city has discussed the idea of a stormwater impact fee, but the mayor and board of aldermen have been reluctant to implement such a fee. A third issues that Acworth is facing is the ever-increasing costs of employee's benefits. The city has a history of exceptionally good health insurance with the city paying almost 90% of the cost. With health insurance cost increasing every year the city is going to have to wrestle with the decision as to how much should the city vs the employees contribute.

GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

This past year with the pandemic has been difficult for everyone and I believe made people reevaluate what they are doing and how they do it. I have been blessed to be in Acworth for 25 years. I have been able to see it grow and become the wonderful community that it is. I believe that my department heads would tell you that I am someone that helps the city, and their departments figure out a path that will lead to success and then let those departments move in that direction. I really enjoy collaboration and letting everyone at the table, so everyone feels part of a decision. We may not all agree, but if someone feels they had input, they are more likely to go with a final decision. As a manager I care that an organization has a clear direction and is moving forward. We have been able to accomplish a lot in Acworth and personally I was able to take an early retirement. Not because I am finished in city management, but the time was right for me to turn the reins over to someone that I had mentored and prepared for the position. I would love to find that next community that is looking for a fresh start and is the right “fit” for me where I can help it create a great quality of life for its citizens.

I have been able to make a great relationship with all the elected officials I have worked with over the years. I believe they would tell anyone that I am one of the most dedicated, honest, committed people they have worked with. They know they can trust me, and I will always be a straight shooter when I tell them something.

I believe that you always tell the truth in everything you do. I have high moral standards and believe that you need to hold people accountable for what they do. I am good at seeing the big picture and being able to figure out how an organization needs to get things done in order to accomplish its goals. I also enjoy working with people. I am a very trusting person and sometimes that gets me in trouble because I really believe in people and get frustrated when people do not come through with what they say and their commitments.

I believe in meeting regularly with department heads, weekly staff meetings, and no less than once a month individually with department heads to discuss issues they and their departments are facing. I have an open-door policy. The city manager’s job is to make sure that departments have a clear understanding of what the priorities are of the Mayor and Council. By doing so department heads can be held accountable for the progress and accomplishments of their departments. One of the results of holding people accountable is that sometimes you must let people go when they do not meet up to the standards you have laid out. Firing someone is not a pleasant experience. However, I have found that if you are working with people and clearly lay out expectations, meeting with them and letting them know issues where they are not meeting expectations, by the time it comes to let someone go, they know and understand that the time has come to part ways.

I am proud what we have been able to accomplish in Acworth. The city has experienced unprecedented growth and development. When I arrived, the beaches were closed, and the downtown was empty. It did not have a good reputation and was not thought of a great place to

live or visit. Today Acworth has become a tourist/recreation destination with a thriving downtown filled with unique chef driven restaurants and small businesses. A hard lesson we did learn along the way was what that government needs to stay in its lane and let private business do what it does best. Around 2000 the city felt it needed to get in the cable tv business because we had a power department. We soon learned that trying to compete with a private business in a competitive industry was not a good idea for a small government.

Knowing that there has been some change in leadership with both the elected and administrative leadership positions in Lake Worth Beach makes for some challenging but exciting possibilities. A new city manager must get to know the community and staff and help the council set reasonable priorities for the community. People want to see results and see government working positively for them. An issue that will immediately face the new manager and city council is appropriate use of the \$16 million that Lake Worth Beach is receiving in American Rescue Plan Funds. Other issues will be how to revitalize the downtown and how to manage the redevelopment and new development in the community. Lake Worth Beach is in a very advantageous location and the possibilities are endless with the correct strategy.

It will be important for the new manager to get to know as many people and community groups as possible as soon as he or she arrives. Sitting down first with elected leaders to get their impression of what is going on and what needs to be accomplished will be a priority. Getting around to meet the employees and hear what they have to say is important. Employees are really the ones delivering the services and they usually have a great feel for what is really going on. I also believe just having some listening sessions with community groups and business leaders will be important. As I am hearing things and making my own impressions it will be important to communicate that back to the Mayor and Council to see how my impressions match theirs.

Working with local media and with social media has become a must for government. It can be the most effective way for leaders to let busy residents know what is going on in the community. Over the years, I have learned to get to know local media people and let them know are jobs are dependent on each other. Government wants the correct information out, they want “the story”. By building a relationship based on trust we can both win. It is important to respond to their requests as a story will always run, it is important for government to get the truth out, so people know what is going on.

The use of social media has become a valuable tool to get the word out. That does not just mean having an effective web site, but sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. can be ways to quickly let people get updates on events or issues that are going on. We have used these methods in Acworth to keep people informed especially when we are trying to get people to events or if something happens and we want to get the word out.

Working in the public eye, I have always made it a practice to be careful of what I post on social media and what I do when I go out. I understand the city manager position is a public trust so no one will ever find anything in my background, there is nothing there. I have loved being a

Brian M. Bulthuis

football coach for 20 years for kids aged 6-10, coaching kids with special needs in kickball and baseball for 15 years and going out golfing or just taking a walk. The most exciting thing I have ever done that surprised people is when I bought a Slingshot Auto Cycle last year.

SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF

Hard Worker
Trustworthy
Accessible
Dedicated
Someone with Perseverance
Fun

REASON FOR WANTING TO LEAVE CURRENT JOB

I have been in the position of City Manager of Acworth for 25 years. In 2020 I became eligible for retirement through the city's retirement system. After careful consideration I decided we had accomplished many great projects and successfully made it through the pandemic. It was just a good time to take a break as I had mentored my replacement and the city was in great shape. I am looking for a new opportunity to work with a dedicated group of elected officials in a growing community. I am in a position to find the "right fit". Lake Worth Beach seems to meet all the opportunities I am looking for.

CURRENT/MOST RECENT OR RELEVANT SALARY

As City Manager in Acworth my salary was \$175,000 + \$500/month car allowance. Having retired I am beginning to draw a pension from Acworth.

Section 4

CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
BRIAN M. BULTHUIS**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County Cobb County, GA	No Records Found
State Georgia	No Records Found

Civil Records Checks:

County Cobb County, GA	No Records Found
Federal Georgia	No Records Found

Motor Vehicle

Georgia	No Records Found
---------	------------------

Credit

Excellent

Personal Bankruptcy

No Records Found

Sex Offender Registry

Not Listed

Education

Confirmed

Employment

Confirmed

Social Media

Nothing of Concern Found

**Background Check Summary for
BRIAN M. BULTHUIS**

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.

**Background Check Summary for
BRIAN M. BULTHUIS
Personal Disclosure**

Personal Disclosure Questionnaire

Name of Applicant: Brian M. Bulthuis

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 all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one. Facebook Brian Bulthuis, Instagram bmbge, Twitter Brian Bulthuis @bmbulthuis
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.

Attested to:

B. M. B.
Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Lynelle@cb-asso.com or via fax to (561) 621-5965 no later than 5:00 PM PST 06/28/2021.

(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)

CB&A Reference Notes

**Reference Notes
Brian Bulhuis**

Tim Richardson - Alderman, City of Acworth, GA 770-318-8987

Mr. Richardson has known Mr. Bulhuis since 1996 when Mr. Bulhuis moved to Acworth to become the city manager. In Mr. Bulhuis' 25 year tenure as city manager, the city of Acworth grew from an estimated population of 4,000 to a population of 24,000. This was largely due to Mr. Bulhuis' innovative nature and ability to adapt.

Mr. Bulhuis knows government inside and out, and is well versed in the intricacies of how municipal government interacts with both the state and federal government. Mr. Bulhuis has a knack for building contracts that will serve the community. He is highly skilled at hiring people that work well together and have also had long tenures in their positions. Some people he hired have worked for the city of Acworth the entire 25 years Mr. Bulhuis has been the city manager. Mr. Bulhuis and his team adjusted as needed while the city grew.

The mayor and city council were responsible for the hiring of department heads but this was a task they entrusted to Mr. Bulhuis. He interviewed the candidates and made his recommendations to the mayor and city council, to which they almost always went with his recommendations because he knew people and could see how they would work together and lead those already in the department; he takes his time in making decisions to weigh all outcomes. He and the city council were in agreement over 90% of the time and he is always open to advice and feedback.

One of Mr. Bulhuis' biggest strengths is growth. He is proficient in finding new, innovative ways to improve the city. As the city grew, some processes had to be done differently and new procedures were necessary; they could not have done so without Mr. Bulhuis and his ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Mr. Bulhuis is someone who leads from the front and gets involved with being proactive in the community. He makes sure all department heads are also at community meetings so that they can have all the information needed. He also coached youth football and was involved in their special needs sports program.

Mr. Bulhuis is an effective communicator and has experience with the public both in group settings and one on one. If there was a difficult situation he would be sure to set up a meeting with the citizens so they could find a resolution.

When it comes to communication between Mr. Bulhuis and the members of the city council it was done in three ways. They had briefings every two weeks where they could bring up projects they were working on or if something was needed. If an important problem came up they communicated through text message or emails if they could not meet in person.

A situation in which Mr. Bulhuis solved the problem was when there was a zoning issue with a developer wanting to develop on a piece of land that was in Acworth but would affect those in the county and they were concerned about the effect it would have on the county as a whole. Mr.

Reference Notes Brian Bulthuis

Bulthuis put together a meeting between the developer and the county citizens that were concerned, and led them to a compromise.

Another strength of Mr. Bulthuis is that he is particularly skilled with financial forecasting. Mr. Bulthuis and the treasurer were responsible for the yearly budget and they were always very thorough in allocating the funds where they would be most needed throughout the upcoming year. Mr. Bulthuis could forecast both the expenditures and oncoming funds through the year.

When difficult personnel situations or irate citizens come forward, Mr. Bulthuis was skilled in taking a moment to assess the situation and develop a plan, or delegate to the appropriate department head.

The only misstep Mr. Richardson remembers Mr. Bulthuis making in his 25 year tenure as city manager was a situation where the county wanted to provide services to the areas adjacent to Acworth, and Mr. Bulthuis thought this was a worthwhile project so they began moving forward. Soon after the process began, the citizens of those adjacent areas came forward stating they did not want the services provided because it was going to change their taxes. The project only went on a couple of weeks before this happened and as soon as the citizens came forward with this information, Mr. Bulthuis listened to what they wanted and ended the project.

Mr. Bulthuis is an upfront, conscientious public figure with a good image, he is a well known name in their community. During his time as city manager, Mr. Bulthuis worked with the family county services, which led to him fostering a child and then adopting his son through their program.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Studious,
- Diplomatic,
- Assertive,
- Laid-back,
- Knowledgeable, and
- Trustworthy.

Strengths: Knowledge, forecasting, budgeting.

Weaknesses: Can be slow to communicate.

Thomas Allegood - Mayor, City of Acworth, GA 770-402-6294

Mr. Allegood has known Mr. Bulthuis since 1999 when he ran for Mayor, and Mr. Bulthuis has been the city manager for a few years prior. Mr. Allegood was very impressed with Mr. Bulthuis' work ethic and strength in finance. The confidence the city council had in Mr. Bulthuis

Reference Notes

Brian Bulthuis

to be responsible for the budget never waived. The city is in an excellent position for the future due to the diligence of Mr. Bulthuis the past 25 years.

Along with ensuring the finances were always a top priority, Mr. Bulthuis is an idea man. Mr. Bulthuis thinks of creative ideas to maximize the worth of a dollar. Cobb County has what is called a Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), which is a consumption tax, in which 1 penny goes to each city in the county. Mr. Bulthuis has been instrumental in allocating these funds to new infrastructure such as the library, police department, and community center. Mr. Bulthuis' strong suit in allocating these funds is to ensure each SPLOST cycle connected to the one before, and led into the project the next year. One year they would build a park, and then the next year a walking trail, and then the final year a new community center that was connected to the park through the walking trail. Mr. Bulthuis always has an overarching plan and sees the big picture.

Mr. Bulthuis and Mr. Allegood often worked side by side when making hiring decisions, and his intuition during interviews is unparalleled. Mr. Bulthuis has been mentoring the new city manager of Acworth since early on in his tenure, and was the first one to see the potential within him as a new hire. Mr. Bulthuis has built a city hall where department heads are free to create the culture of the workplace, and make it somewhere people want to work.

Mr. Bulthuis is the type of manager that comes up with the ideas and will rally people behind them, but often Mr. Allegood was the face of these projects, with Mr. Bulthuis always knowing when to step up front. Mr. Allegood was incredibly impressed with Mr. Bulthuis' ability to think outside of the box. Mr. Bulthuis comes up with solutions where others would struggle. He is skilled at utilizing all department heads and getting their input on projects that are within their scope.

Mr. Allegood has been the mayor for 20 years, or five election cycles. In his time as the mayor, he has never been opposed, and this is a testament to Mr. Bulthuis' capability as the city manager. If the citizens of Acworth had any major complaints or a want for someone different in Mr. Bulthuis' position, someone would have opposed Mr. Allegood as Mayor so they could make any changes they deemed necessary. As it is, there has never been opposition to Mr. Allegood, and by extension, to Mr. Bulthuis.

Mr. Bulthuis has also always had a strong connection to the community. Mr. Bulthuis coached youth football and was involved in their horizon league for special needs children which speaks highly of his character. The biggest testament to Mr. Bulthuis' character is that he fostered a child who needed special attention until he could adopt him, and gave his son a chance at life that he would not have had otherwise.

Reference Notes Brian Bulhuis

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulhuis:

- Trustworthy,
- Affable,
- Creative,
- Friendly,
- Honest, and
- Adaptable.

Strengths: Creativity, finances, ability to connect financial cycles with city projects.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Regina Russell - City Clerk, City of Acworth, GA 404-388-1913

Ms. Russell has known Mr. Bulhuis since he hired her as city clerk in 2004. Mr. Bulhuis combines his extraordinary leadership abilities and progressive ideas to create an ideal workplace, he is the best boss she has ever worked for. Mr. Bulhuis is particularly determined to ensure the workplace is family oriented and the employees feel they are supported in work and through their lives. During the 2009 recession, Mr. Bulhuis prioritized keeping city hall open with the maximum number of employees they could keep on board.

Mr. Bulhuis is more than capable of budgeting appropriately and ensuring the employees are well taken care of. Mr. Bulhuis reminds the staff to be mindful of the budget and forecasted expenses for upcoming projects. When creating the budget, Mr. Bulhuis collects input from department heads and communicate clearly between the county and the city.

Mr. Bulhuis is always willing to listen and is a great resource to share ideas with and get direction from. Mr. Bulhuis makes it a priority to listen not only to his employees but to the community so that he can bring about the necessary changes, and he sees these projects through to the end. Mr. Bulhuis is proactive in creating a plan and involving the necessary parties, who he kept well informed and involved with the decision making process.

Mr. Bulhuis is active in the community, being present at ribbon cuttings as well as other events. A great deal of his personal time is spent out engaging the community and he brought anything he found to the employees and elected officials so they could get started right away on solving any problems that arose. Mr. Bulhuis ensures that the community needs are met, both by holding meetings with large groups as well as meeting individuals one on one. There was no public issue that Mr. Bulhuis deemed too big or too small. He took any matter brought to him seriously and if it was an issue outside of his scope, he arranged for the individual to be connected with the right people, so their needs were properly addressed.

Reference Notes Brian Bulhuis

When Mr. Bulhuis begins a project, he rallies those in city hall behind it, gathering the appropriate department heads and employees to develop a solid plan with research and clear reasoning before taking it to the city council for approval. Mr. Bulhuis acted as a mediator between the staff in city hall and the city council. He will be a great benefit to any local government he works in.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulhuis:

- Leadership,
- Management,
- Great rapport,
- Knowledgeable,
- Friendly,
- Hands-on, and
- Available 24/7.

Strengths: Proactivity, leadership, resourcefulness, knowledge.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Jason Ellsworth - Community Activist, City of Acworth, GA 770-329-9560

Mr. Ellsworth has known Mr. Bulhuis since 2000 when they started coaching youth football together. Mr. Ellsworth was afterwards employed in the department of Parks and Recreation for the city of Acworth. At the time the city had lost the Parks and Recreation director, and Mr. Bulhuis stepped in to act as a leader and mentor to Mr. Ellsworth. Mr. Bulhuis is an exceptional leader, combining his aptitude for looking into the future with adapting to changes as they come.

As a coach of the high school football team, Mr. Bulhuis was instrumental in player development as well as communicating needs and working with the booster club 365 days a year. When coaching, there are some calls that will not be agreed with, and parents will sometimes take issue with coaching methods. Mr. Bulhuis implemented a 24 hour window after every game in which the parents had to wait to talk to the coaches. This ensured that when discussions did take place, all parties involved had time to rationalize and be in a better state of mind.

Mr. Bulhuis has been a mentor to Mr. Ellsworth both personally and professionally. They rarely had a disagreement but if one ever arose, Mr. Ellsworth knows he can still call Mr. Bulhuis with any issue and Mr. Bulhuis will meet him with understanding and advice, but Mr. Bulhuis also knows when not to impose on people.

Within the Parks and Recreation department, Mr. Bulhuis had a 5 to 10 year plan, and when it was first introduced, Mr. Ellsworth believed some of the ideas to be too grand for their small

Reference Notes Brian Bulthuis

town, but as the years went on the growth outlined for the Parks and Recreation department lined up with the growth that took place throughout the city.

Mr. Bulthuis can take an idea and see how it would grow and affect the city as a whole, as well as how to support that growth. Mr. Bulthuis does not simply make changes for the sake of change itself, but instead because he can see how changes will benefit the community in the long run.

In both coaching football and as city manager, Mr. Bulthuis handled finances extremely well, he was the steward of the people's money. He always made savvy financial decisions, and adjusts immediately if needed. There was a situation in which funds for the youth football team had been put into a mentorship program through a third party. Unfortunately the head of this third party was not showing up for their meetings, so Mr. Bulthuis adjusted the allocation of funds to go directly to the high school itself to support the mentorship of the football team.

Mr. Bulthuis is a born problem solver, just as he resolved the funding issue for the mentorship program, he has been fundamental in community gatherings such as the 4th of July fireworks show. There was a year where a storm came in and flooded what would have been the 4th of July celebration, and Mr. Bulthuis had his boots on the ground, managing cleanup and then afterwards putting together a team to brainstorm ways they could be better prepared in the future.

Mr. Bulthuis is an ethical, overall good man that any city would benefit from having as their city manager.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Calculated,
- Very aware,
- Connected,
- Fair, and
- Exceptional.

Strengths: Finance, leadership, problem solving, growth.

Weaknesses: None identified

Tammy Galvis - Audit partner; Nichols, Cauley & Associates 770-422-0598

Ms. Galvis has known Mr. Bulthuis since he became city manager in 1996. From her perspective as the auditor, Mr. Bulthuis is a very conscious and involved city manager. Mr. Bulthuis is well respected by staff, and stays involved in any and all necessary ventures.

**Reference Notes
Brian Bulthuis**

Mr. Bulthuis asks the audit partner if they discovered any problems, and if they had he took it under his umbrella to find a solution. Mr. Bulthuis was involved in inventory checks, applying for grants, and hiring personnel.

A situation in which Mr. Bulthuis was asked to collaborate was when an employee of an inventory warehouse passed away, and they decided to restructure the department. Mr. Bulthuis implemented changes to the staffing and procedures.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city received CARES act funding, and Mr. Bulthuis assembled the audit firm, and department heads to examine the uses for the funds. He then gave everyone involved some time to analyze the options and then held a follow-up meeting to finalize their plans.

During their audits, Ms. Galvis and her team never encountered any complaints from personnel in regard to Mr. Bulthuis. He is capable of being professional while also introducing humor and fun into the workplace. Mr. Bulthuis is not afraid to be upfront and start necessary discussions. When acting as liaison between the county and city, Mr. Bulthuis is a strong advocate for the interests of the city.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Leader,
- Supportive,
- Involves others,
- Professional,
- Assertive, and
- Friendly.

Strengths: Allocation of funds, keeping morale high.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Bob Weatherford - County Commissioner, Cobb County, GA 770-335-2993

Mr. Weatherford has known Mr. Bulthuis since 1996 when Mr. Bulthuis became the city manager. Mr. Weatherford has worked with Mr. Bulthuis as both the Mayor Pro-Tem and then as the County Commissioner. Mr. Bulthuis is an outstanding city manager, combining his vast knowledge of municipal government and excitement for commercial growth. When Mr. Bulthuis began his time as city manager, Acworth was a small town with not much in the way of activities or businesses. Acworth now boasts of being the restaurant mecca in Cobb County.

Mr. Bulthuis planned and executed many community activities throughout the years, one being a 4th of July concert that now draws 10,000 to 12,000 people every year. Mr. Bulthuis is known as

Reference Notes

Brian Bulthuis

the person to go to when you want something done, he will not relax until a task is seen through. He has mellowed throughout the years but still has a hard-nosed work ethic second to none and will be involved in all projects he oversees. When it comes to the budget and financing, Mr. Bulthuis presents this information with spreadsheets and reports that are easy to understand. In municipal government, there are projects that can take upwards of 10 years or more to complete, and Mr. Bulthuis was well prepared for these projects every year.

Mr. Bulthuis has hired and groomed many department heads and other government employees throughout the years, and many of them have stayed with him the past 20 to 25 years since their hiring. Mr. Bulthuis and Mr. Weatherford were responsible for the hiring of a new Police Chief, and there was some controversy over their choice because he had a background more so in business and became an Officer later in life. Mr. Bulthuis could see that the needs of the city would be in line with having a Police Chief with a business background, and this has proved to be the correct decision.

The city of Acworth has their own electric utility and at one point tried to implement their own cable company as well. This is the only misstep Mr. Weatherford can recall of Mr. Bulthuis for the entirety of his 25 years as city manager. Unfortunately, this idea did not pan out, as they could not keep up with the mega cable companies that have significantly more funding.

When it comes to community relations, Mr. Bulthuis is energetic, always being involved in activities and ensuring others participate as well. Mr. Bulthuis will do the leg work behind the scenes as well as step out front to bring the vision to fruition. It is his forte to meet with the public both in group setting and in one on one meetings, and to be involved in community events.

The city of Acworth was a mess before Mr. Bulthuis took the position of city manager, and in his 25 years there, he has led the city into a position where the future is bright. He will be missed.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Driven,
- Knowledgeable,
- Experienced,
- Visionary,
- Ethical, and
- Hard-nosed.

Strengths: Budgeting, community engagement, work ethic, knowledge of matrix management.

Weaknesses: Will not rest until a job is done.

Reference Notes Brian Bulhuis

Rachelle Ballard - Human Resources Director, City of Acworth, GA 404-423-0053

Ms. Ballard has known Mr. Bulhuis since he hired her in 2017. Mr. Bulhuis has always been available to offer advice and help when it is asked of him. Ms. Ballard was hired on as the first Human Resources Director for the city, before that it was a task under Mr. Bulhuis' umbrella within the city government.

Before her move to the city of Acworth, Ms. Ballard worked in human resources for another county and then in a different city. Although it was difficult for Mr. Bulhuis to hand over the responsibility for the human resources department, Mr. Ballard credits him with being the best city manager she has ever had the pleasure of working with, largely due to him being the most supportive city manager she has encountered.

When Ms. Ballard was considering taking a position in the city of Acworth, the city manager she worked with at the time encouraged her to take any position in which she would get to work with Mr. Bulhuis. He makes municipal work easier than most and creates a positive workplace environment that is almost too good to be true. Mr. Bulhuis ensures there is a family oriented work environment, and employees know they can put family first before anything else.

Mr. Bulhuis is a leader who does not project his own stress upon his employees, they most often do not even realize there may be a reason for stress. He will seek the support of any department heads or city counselors needed to guide him or confirm the path he is on.

Mr. Bulhuis is dedicated to making changes proactively, and is supportive when others have ideas they believe in. Mr. Bulhuis always kept current with legal matters, technology, and the needs of their growing city. He made all of the necessary information easily accessible to each department, and their individual responsibilities are always very clear. They have a department head meeting every Friday where they could ask any questions and get guidance from Mr. Bulhuis directly.

During Mr. Bulhuis time as city manager, there was a project to build a pedestrian bridge, and they ran into a delay when the elevator had ventilation issues. Mr. Bulhuis cooperated with the contractor, Fire Marshall, and police department to get the ventilation running and the project finished in a timely manner.

Mr. Bulhuis is very supportive not only of those he employs, but of community events. Mr. Bulhuis participates in the city wide wellness program, where he is part of the 5k and gets many in the community excited for the race. This is in addition to coaching both in the horizons league for special needs children, and high school football. Everybody in the community knows Mr. Bulhuis because of his position as city manager, as well as his zeal to participate in community events.

Reference Notes Brian Bulthuis

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Dedicated,
- Dependable,
- Loyal,
- Hard working,
- Caring,
- Positive, and
- Supportive.

Strengths: Decision making, budgeting, knowledge.

Weaknesses: Not being able to let go of control, and does not like to delegate.

Albert Price - Alderman, City of Acworth, GA 678-525-9617

Mr. Price has known Mr. Bulthuis since 1995 and was part of hiring Mr. Bulthuis for the position as city manager of Acworth. Mr. Price has been a city councilman for six terms and only one of those terms did they have a city manager other than Mr. Bulthuis. For a city manager to stay in that position for such a long time says a great deal about Mr. Bulthuis' character, as many city managers last only a few years in one place. Mr. Bulthuis has a desire to see things through and is an excellent city manager.

Mr. Price credits Mr. Bulthuis as being the agent of change that brought their small town from roughly 4,000 people to a population of an estimated 25,000 people. In the 25 years Mr. Bulthuis was the city manager he went from being the newest city manager in the county to being the one that the mayors and city managers of other cities reached out to for guidance and advice. He has been this source of knowledge and guidance for the past 10 to 15 years within Cobb County.

Mr. Bulthuis became the go to in Cobb County due to his excellence in change and forecasting what will be needed as progression comes. Mr. Bulthuis is extremely knowledgeable about municipal laws and constantly studied to ensure he is staying current on city, state and federal laws. Throughout his tenure as city manager, the city council has gained and lost members, which has created a change in vision throughout the years. Mr. Bulthuis has adapted well to any elected official that has come and gone.

Mr. Bulthuis is wonderful at managing finances as well as he manages his team. When Mr. Bulthuis presents a budget, he knows where every penny is going. If the council sees a need that is not already addressed, Mr. Bulthuis is skilled at finding a way to make sure it can be handled. Mr. Bulthuis also made the hiring decision for their new finance department head and she has been a very solid hire, who is trusted to take them into the future.

Reference Notes Brian Bulthuis

Mr. Bulthuis is strong in community outreach, and one thing he would do is go to the schools in Acworth to offer help to their administration. He offered to help offset costs of projects needed, such as a new scoreboard for their football team. Mr. Bulthuis also coached youth sports in Acworth and is well known among the population not only as the city manager but as a friend. Mr. Bulthuis does not push his agenda on the community but listens to them and does what is best for the city he is serving. If there was an issue, Mr. Bulthuis was the first on the scene, giving directions and finding solutions.

Once a project was assigned to Mr. Bulthuis, the city council never had to remind him or tell him twice. Once Mr. Bulthuis was on the case, they knew it would be done in a timely manner, and done above and beyond what they had originally planned.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Youth-oriented,
- Engaging,
- Competent,
- Knowledgeable,
- Solid, and
- Effective.

Strengths: First impressions.

Weaknesses: Not wanting to delegate, micromanaging at times.

Brett North - Alderman, City of Acworth, GA 678-793-8836

Mr. North has known Mr. Bulthuis since 2000, as Mr. North was a citizen of Acworth. Mr. North was then elected as an Alderman in 2014 and began working with Mr. Bulthuis professionally. Mr. Bulthuis is incredibly knowledgeable, has great attention to detail, is cost conscientious, protective of the city council members, and will ensure everyone is content in their roles. When a question is posed to Mr. Bulthuis concerning municipal government, he will 90% of the time know the answer right off the top of his head, very rarely will he need to take time to research and get back to you.

Mr. Bulthuis offers his time to meet with any and all who have questions or would like guidance. Mr. North is the newest Alderman on city council and he met with Mr. Bulthuis once a month for lunch to have a more casual conversation in which Mr. North could ask questions and get advice from him on the best direction for the city.

Mr. Bulthuis is innovative and open to change. If the city council brought something to his attention, he would be sure to accomplish the task in a timely manner. He not only supports the city council himself but he takes their ideas to the department heads and expands upon the original vision. He spends a decent amount of his time networking, more so in group settings but

Reference Notes Brian Bulthuis

is always open to one on one meetings. Throughout the pandemic, Mr. Bulthuis had to change his work model to spend half of his time at city hall and half at home, where he kept the Alderman and city council informed through email and follow-up phone calls.

During the pandemic, Mr. Bulthuis was instrumental in prioritizing that the city services were never discontinued. He took tasks on personally, as well as reached out and involve department heads and other employees to collaborate and accomplish projects to the highest achievable standard. Mr. Bulthuis led the overhaul of Acworth's downtown redevelopment.

Mr. Bulthuis is a wonderful judge of character and is gifted in selecting department heads that stay in their positions long term, and Mr. Bulthuis has uncompromising ethics. He steers others in the right direction if he sees there may be a possible controversy or poor decision. Any city that has the chance to work with Mr. Bulthuis should not let the opportunity pass them up.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Considerate,
- Careful,
- Conscientious,
- Compassionate,
- Outgoing, and
- Assertive.

Strengths: Knowledge, hiring personnel, innovation, networking.

Weaknesses: Communication.

Doug Haynie - City Attorney, City of Acworth, GA 770-527-0623

Mr. Haynie has known Mr. Bulthuis since 1996, they interacted when a legal matter took place within the city. Their work together included contracts, selling and buying real estate, and when the city was sued for any reason. Mr. Bulthuis is a very capable city manager, whom Mr. Haynie would hire due to his uncompromised work ethic.

Handling intricate legal contracts can be a daunting task, but Mr. Bulthuis takes this in stride and is always open to applying advice when needed. Mr. Bulthuis' work was always done in as timely a manner as possible when working with complex legal documents and proceedings within government.

Mr. Bulthuis is a good decision maker, and due to this he retired in good graces with an exceptional public standing. Mr. Bulthuis was not entangled in any controversy and handled the legal situations with intellect and understanding.

Reference Notes Brian Bulthuis

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Conscientious,
- Intelligent,
- Hard-working,
- Capable,
- Informed, and
- Knowledgeable.

Strengths: Decision making, stress management

Weaknesses: None identified.

Wayne Dennard - Police Chief, City of Acworth, GA 770-851-8904

Mr. Dennard has known Mr. Bulthuis since 2003. Mr. Bulthuis had a hand in hiring Mr. Dennard as the Police Chief of the city of Acworth. In his time as city manager, Mr. Bulthuis built a good rapport with the citizens, elected officials, and government employees alike. Mr. Bulthuis is a progressive leader who is not afraid of change, in fact he often led the way.

As city manager Mr. Bulthuis faced different problems on a daily basis, but he was always a good problem solver and could come up with creative solutions to the different difficulties that would arise. He made good decisions that brought about compromise and gained him favor from those involved.

Mr. Bulthuis is a team player and he knows when and where he is best needed within any team he puts together. He knows when to let others on the team lead, but always has an open door policy so anyone can ask him questions, and he knows when to step out front and rally the people behind a project.

Words or phrases used to describe Brian Bulthuis:

- Hard-working,
- Devoted,
- Committed,
- Innovative,
- Knowledgeable, and
- Team player.

Strengths: Growth, creative ideas, knowledge, finance.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Prepared by: Rebecca Whitman
Colin Baenziger & Associates

CB&A Internet Research

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
July 4, 2021

City manager retires; parks director will be promoted to fill post – ACWORTH

Author: Matt Bruce

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** has retired after nearly 25 years as the city's top administrator. He stepped down June 18 and city leaders plan to promote from within to fill his vacancy. "Acworth was a small bedroom community of about 6,000 and today we are a thriving community of 24,000 with exciting housing opportunities with a wonderful downtown and a great quality of life for everyone," **Bulthuis** wrote in a statement.

During a special meeting Friday, the Board of Aldermen unanimously approved a motion to install James Albright, who's been Acworth's director of parks, recreation and community resources for 16 years. He joined the city's ranks as a summer camp counselor in 2000. "It's a big honor for me," Albright told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Monday. "To be able to serve in this capacity in a community I was born and raised in, it does so much for me and my personal growth."

Albright, 39, took the helm as the interim city manager Monday. Council members are expected to approve his finalized contract and appoint him in a permanent capacity July 15. He will earn \$150,000 as the new chief of staff, leading a team of about 170 employees across nine city departments. **Bulthuis** came to Acworth from Michigan in October 1996. He guided the city through a period of growth and helped attract national retail chains like Target, Walmart and Best Buy to town.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Cherokee Tribune (Canton, GA)
June 9, 2021

Mayors and commissioners huddle over cityhood movements

Author: Chart Riggall

MARIETTA — A summit between Cobb's commissioners and mayors quickly turned to a discussion of which mayors — and cities — might soon be joining their ranks. "I'm going to open a can of worms," Commissioner JoAnn Birrell announced to chuckles. "What's going to happen with the four cityhoods? ... I'd like to hear from the other cities what their take is."

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** proffered that it was far too early to say how the four proposals circulating around the county — East Cobb, Mableton, Lost Mountain/West Cobb, and Vinings — might impact the other governments. "If there are four new cities, we're going to have to look at what—the first thing is, what services they're providing. So until those things are decided, you know, you can't even talk about it," **Bulthuis** said. "Because, again, the whole thing is service delivery. And if they are, what's the word, 'city-lite?' ... I think right now, we all have to wait and see."

New cities are required to provide at least three services to their residents, ranging from code enforcement, to parks and recreation, to sanitation. All four cityhood movements have named planning and zoning as a service they will take under their control. Chairwoman Lisa Cupid has, until recently, been hesitant to openly comment on any of the four proposals. At a Cobb Association of Realtors panel last week, she said she found the movements "a little frustrating" as Cobb Countians have historically resisted expanding government but now seem dissatisfied with county government's level of service.

On Thursday, Cupid, County Manager Jackie McMorris, and Deputy County Manager Jimmy Gisi said they were working toward talks with the state representatives backing Mableton and East Cobb later this summer to try and tackle their concerns. "If it's truly about service delivery, then let's sit around the table and talk about, where are the gaps," McMorris said, characterizing the talks as "an olive branch." "We are working on that now. We're reaching out to them to say, hey, if there's anything that you want us to sit down and talk about ... we will reach out and coordinate that. That's about all we can do, is listen," she added.

McMorris's invitation, however, stood in contrast to comments from lawmakers who have said service delivery concerns are very much secondary. State Reps. Ed Setzler, R-Acworth, and Ginny Ehrhart, R-west Cobb, the vanguards of the Lost Mountain proposal, have explicitly said local control of zoning is their prime motivation, and interest spiked after Democrats won control of the Board of Commissioners last November.

Cupid went on to acknowledge some of the pushes may be coming from more than a mere desire for improved trash pickup. "It's something that I think resonates with a lot of you who are here. There's a certain level of nostalgia and sense of place that comes from a city," Cupid said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Most of the mayors in attendance Tuesday did not speak either for or against any of the movements on the table, though Powder Springs Mayor Al Thurman asked whether the new boundaries could create "islands" of unincorporated Cobb between the cities. "A lot of our constituents in some cases don't know whether they're in the city or the county," Thurman said. "So I'm just concerned regarding that on these boundary lines."

Cobb Planning and Economic Development Division Manager Jason Gaines said county staff had already identified some areas of concern where such "islands" were possible, and mitigating those would be a focus of talks between the county and lawmakers. The meeting was originally called as an annual, legislatively-mandated discussion to address issues of service delivery between jurisdictions. In 2024, the county and its cities will be required to sign off on an updated service delivery agreement.

On another front, Cupid and McMorris extended that same olive branch to the various mayors as the county works through discussions on its Comprehensive Transit Plan and a proposed 1% mobility SPLOST, to be voted on in 2022. The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to hold a work session on June 22 regarding initial public input for the transit plan, and McMorris encouraged mayors to join that process.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
December 6, 2020

'Minor miracle' in Acworth

Author: Staff Writer

DEAR EDITOR:

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, I sent an email to Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** complaining that the DOT-closed Main Street sidewalk beneath the Route 92 bridge presented a danger to pedestrians. On Monday I received a pleasant reply, and yesterday, exactly one week after I wrote, the sidewalk was restored and the dangers allayed. To me this is a minor miracle, and Manager **Bulthuis** should be recognized for his outstanding civic record.

Bob Foreman

Acworth

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to Acworth is listed below.]

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
October 26, 2020

Cobb cities spend pandemic money on businesses, technology, safety equipment

Author: Ryan Kolakowski

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said Cobb gave the city about \$1.1 million from the CARES Act, and all of that money has been spent or assigned to be spent. "We want to thank the board for their consideration for these funds," **Bulthuis** said. "They've gone a long way in our community."

The city spent \$588,000 on business grants, writing checks in amounts of about \$5,000 to \$6,000 for local businesses.

Acworth budgeted about \$105,000 for computers and other technology to facilitate remote work, and it has spent about \$101,000 of that budget so far. It budgeted another \$230,000 for technology upgrades in city facilities like city hall, the police department and other locations. This money will be spent on audio and video technology to allow for more virtual meetings. The city also budgeted \$80,000 for building modifications to better allow for social distancing.

Another \$143,000 was assigned to cleaning equipment and personal protective equipment, and other funds were allocated for legal costs and public communication notification.

"We are pleased that we have been able to allocate 100% of our funds," **Bulthuis** said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
July 24, 2020

Acworth Board of Alderman approves tax increase

Author: Shannon Ballew

Higher taxes are on the way in Acworth. The Acworth Board of Aldermen unanimously approved raising the city's millage rate from 7.6 to 8.95 mills, at a special-called meeting Thursday evening.

Were the city to have kept its millage rate at 7.6 mills, city revenue would have increased by \$300,000 to \$400,000 due to rising property values. Cities are required every year to calculate a "rollback rate" that will produce the same revenue as last year, and this year's rollback would have been 7.138 mills. Raising the millage rate adds to projected revenues by another \$1 million, City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** told the MDJ.

A resident with a home valued at \$300,000 who originally bought it for \$250,000 and has the city's homestead exemption will see an increase of \$135 more this year than last year, **Bulthuis** said. The millage increase follows an April vote in which the Board of Alderman voted to give the board and mayor raises of about \$5,000 and \$7,000, respectively, which will go into effect in 2022.

Mayor Tommy Allegood said the city was facing revenue shortfalls and increasing expenses, and had to raise taxes to maintain city services. "Obviously, with the whole pandemic, COVID, our revenues were impacted, and we've had a general increase of expenses in the last couple of years," Allegood said. "We just could not maintain our budget without increasing the property millage rate. It's simple. We've got this really great quality of life and to continue to deliver our quality of life services we had to adjust our millage rate."

Bulthuis said personnel costs were among the main expenses for the city. "We've had some expenses due to COVID, we've seen some of our revenues have dropped. Some of our revenues we've seen from the state has decreased over time. The (title ad valorem) tax people pay that we get from the state, has decreased over time, several hundred thousand dollars," the city manager said. "And then we've seen our healthcare costs go up. We've seen just the cost of employees, personnel costs have increased."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
July 21, 2017

Acworth keeps millage rate at 7.6

Author: Staff reports

Acworth's property tax rate will stay the same for 2017 after the city's Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to set the city's tax rate at 7.6 mills on Thursday. The rate has been steady at 7.6 mills for the last 11 years, according to City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**.

While the city's tax rate will stay the same, some residents may still see an increase on their tax bills due to a rise in the tax digest, which is the total value of property within Acworth city limits. According to the county's tax assessor, the gross digest for Acworth rose from \$671.3 million in 2016 to \$739.8 million in 2017.

To generate the same property tax revenue as last year, the city could have rolled back the tax rate to 7.04 mills, according to the county tax assessor.

Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood told the MDJ previously that the extra revenue from higher property values will allow the city to cover expenses as Acworth grows. "We're one of the fastest-growing cities in Cobb County so we're having to hire more people, expand police services and our park services," Allegood said earlier this month.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
October 7, 2016

Acworth's budgeted pay raises to take effect this month

Author: Jon Gargis

Employees of the city of Acworth could see a little bit extra in their paycheck this month as merit-based increases take effect.

Acworth's Board of Aldermen this summer passed its fiscal 2017 budget, which included employee merit pay raises of up to 3 percent. On Thursday, the board approved new, increased employee pay scales due to the pay increases. "What we do is we take whatever the pay raise the council authorized and up the scale half of that, so what we did is bump the bottom of the scales and the top of the scales 1.5 percent," City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said. "People move within the scale, but what we also do so the scale doesn't get stagnant, we don't get behind, is we bump the scale a bit every year. We've just always done that so our scale stays relevant."

Bulthuis said the pay scales were the final implementation of the approved pay increases, a process that sees the city's estimated 150 employees reviewed and their department heads determine how much of a merit increase, up to 3 percent, they receive.

Acworth's fiscal 2017 budget, which took effect July 1, projects general fund revenues of about \$14.1 million compared to last year's amended general fund budget of \$13 million, an increase of 8 percent — the largest percentage of general fund growth among the adopted fiscal 2017 budgets of Cobb's six cities.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
August 5, 2014

Two Cobb cities top list of Georgia's safest

Section: Local News

Residents of Acworth and Kennesaw can sleep a little easier knowing their cities have been listed among the 10 safest in the state. Movoto Real Estate, a real estate website known for its creative top 10 lists, compiled crime statistics in cities across Georgia, such as murder, rape and property crime rates, and ranked the cities according to which had the lowest rates.

According to Movoto, the site looked at the 84 cities in the state of Georgia with a population of more than 10,000 people and compared crime data from the 2012 FBI Uniform Crime Report. If a city did not have crime data in the report, it was omitted, the website says, leaving 73 cities. After looking at the crime data, Movoto published a list of the top 50 safest cities in the state. While Marietta came in near the bottom of the top 50 list at 47th, Acworth and Kennesaw earned high praise from the site: Acworth claimed the second spot, and Kennesaw placed fourth.

Captain Mark Cheatham of the Acworth Police Department, which consists of 43 officers, said his city had no murders in 2013 and saw nine violent crimes, which includes forcible rape and aggravated assault. Acworth saw a total of 404 property crimes in 2013, Cheatham said, including larcenies and thefts. Movoto lists Acworth's population as 20,425.

Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood cited the city's leadership as one of the key reasons his city ranks so highly on the list. "It's leadership — from the police chief down through the ranks of our command staff — and our City Council, our commitment (to) making sure we ... made the kind of investment, financial as well as philosophical investment, to ... create the second safest community in the state of Georgia," Allegood said. Allegood added the city's police department stays well-connected with its citizens. "When you have a ... policing philosophy that is community-minded, then you're out there making sure you're connected with all the neighborhoods through community watches, though homeowners association," he said.

According to **Brian Bulthuis**, Acworth's city manager, the city spent about \$3.5 million on its police force last year, representing about 30 percent of its total budget in fiscal 2014. The Kennesaw Police Department also listed zero murders on its annual report from last year. In addition, the report shows Kennesaw experienced 27 aggravated assaults and 415 larcenies and thefts in 2013.

Pam Davis, spokeswoman for the city, said public safety, consisting of the city's police and corrections departments, received more than \$5.3 million from the budget for fiscal 2014, which she said was just under 30 percent of what the city spent overall. The city has 65 sworn police officers, Davis added.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
December 10, 2013

Cobb

Author: Carolyn Cunningham, Tucker McQueen

The Northwest Cobb Area Council of the Cobb Chamber has named Phillip Page, principal at North Cobb High School in Kennesaw, citizen of the year. Page was recognized for his work and service in the Acworth community.

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** also received the council's community impact award. **Bulthuis** has been city manager for 17 years.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
June 22, 2013

Acworth officials refinance to save \$2.3M on bonds

Author: Megan Thornton

Acworth's Board of Aldermen approved the refinancing of its bond debt Thursday in a move that will save taxpayers more than \$2.3 million in the long run. One of the bonds is used to finance the Lakeside Marketplace retail complex within the Tax Allocation District, and by refinancing at a reduced term and lower interest rate the city will realize savings of about \$2 million. The second bond was issued 10 years ago by the city's Downtown Development Authority to fund the construction of City Hall and Acworth Sports Complex, and refinancing now at a lower interest rate will provide savings over the bond's life of about \$291,000.

The aldermen had much praise for city staff working with Gordon Mortin, managing director of independent financial adviser Raymond James, who helped secure the lower rates and reduce long-term costs.

The TAD bond was originally to go until 2029, but the debt has been refinanced to be paid off in 2025 at a reduced interest rate of 2.53 percent, down from 6.75 percent, Mortin said. "It's hard to remember (Lakeside Marketplace shopping center) was a construction debris landfill and there was no significant development north of that," Mortin said. "And you look at what's happened there: It's been a great revenue generator. This is the classic example of how a TAD is supposed to work."

Georgia's TAD designation was created as an economic development tool for cities to finance projects to remove urban blight - such as the landfill that was previously at the Lakeside Marketplace site - by attracting development to these designated areas. Acworth secured bonds to finance these improvements through the "tax allocation increment," or the increase in property tax revenues resulting from the 350,000-square-foot shopping center development that now boasts a Super Target.

"Our TAD is operating exactly as it should," City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said. "We're having excess revenues every year." **Bulthuis** said the increment over the base property tax revenues peaked a few years ago at \$27 million and revenues are now at about \$23 million over the base. The incremental funds are paid back to the city, which then uses the money to pay off the bonds with the excess split between Acworth, the Cobb County School District and the Cobb County Commission, per the original TAD agreement.

The bond covering City Hall and the sports complex was issued 10 years ago and will be paid off in 2023. The refinanced interest rate has been adjusted to 1.74 percent, resulting in a savings on average of about \$30,000 per year. "In my 43 years, this is bottom of the market," Mortin said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The total cost to refinance the City Hall and sports complex bond is about \$3.4 million. City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the DDA met Tuesday night and approved all of the documents. **Bulthuis** clarified that the savings from the TAD will not all go to Acworth, as it has about a 20 percent share of the TAD, with Cobb County School District receiving about 57 percent and the remainder going toward Cobb County per the intergovernmental agreement. "This is not only a benefit to us, this is a benefit to our schools and the county, but we'll see it (paid off) in 2025 instead of 2029," **Bulthuis** said.

The cost to refinance the TAD bond is almost \$6 million. Mortin said the higher cost is because the refinance has taken a year and is almost twice the size. "It's been extremely hard to get done but you can obviously see the benefits in the level of savings," Mortin said.

Bulthuis said he was proud of the work done both by city staff, City Attorney Doug Haynie and Mortin. "This was a huge undertaking to get these refinanced and our timing in the market I don't think could have been better because in my 25 years of doing this I've never seen (interest rate) numbers like this," **Bulthuis** said.

Mayor Tommy Allegood was not present at Thursday's meeting, which was conducted by Mayor Pro-Tem Tim Richardson. The board also approved the fiscal 2014 budget of \$11.4 million with no one speaking out during the public hearing.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
June 6, 2013

Acworth budget has 3% garbage collection bump

Author: Megan Thornton

Though taxes won't be increasing next year, Acworth residents will see a 3 percent increase in garbage collection fees under the city's proposed fiscal 2014 budget. Acworth officials are proposing an \$11.4 million budget, a 1.6 percent increase from the current budget of \$11.2 million.

The first public hearing for the budget, which runs from July 1 through June 30, 2014, will be tonight at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. It will be followed by a regular meeting of the mayor and Board of Aldermen at 7 p.m.

City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the budget, which includes only the general fund, is projected to be slightly higher than the previous year because the city eliminated some of its debt and anticipates receiving extra money from the recent change in the ad valorem car tax that went into effect March 1. "We're anticipating this first year, because of the change over, there will be a little extra," **Bulthuis** said.

Under the new tax, people who purchased and titled a vehicle between Jan. 1, 2012, and March 1, 2013, may be eligible to opt into the new tax system. City Treasurer Sharron Burtz said she anticipates more residents will be opting in initially, but that the revenue will level out in coming years.

The only city fee to increase this year is for garbage collection, which will rise 60 cents per month, from \$19 per household to \$19.60. **Bulthuis** said the increase is because gas prices have gone up, along with the cost of dumping waste.

The anticipated budget expenses are approximately \$11.4 million in fiscal 2014. The final amended budget for the current year shows revenues of \$11.2 million and expenditures of \$11.2 million. The city's reserve fund will stay virtually the same at \$2.9 million by the end of the upcoming fiscal year. "We're projecting a small surplus," **Bulthuis** said.

With the projected increase, the city expects to maintain its 161 full-time employees and has no plans to make cuts to any services or programs. The millage rate of 7.6 also will go unchanged pending board approval next month. Tonight's public hearing is the first of two, with the second hearing just before the Board of Aldermen will vote on the budget on June 20.

Employee raises still in question

Bulthuis said the city plans to wait until the end of the calendar year to evaluate health insurance costs and the local tax digest to determine whether city employees will get a raise. The tax digest is the total amount of revenue that comes into the city from property taxes. "If we can keep

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

health insurance numbers down, then we'll be looking to use any savings to possibly give raises," **Bulthuis** said.

Mayor Tommy Allegood said the potential increase hinges on where the city ends up with health care costs so he could not say what the raises could amount to. Allegood said he's in favor of the proposed budget because it's balanced. "Most importantly, we don't have to raise anybody's property taxes to augment any shortages," Allegood said. Over the last 15 years, the city has lowered its millage rate from 7.9 percent to 7.6 percent and is still able to maintain a high level of services, Allegood said.

Bulthuis said the city's major focus for the coming year is allocating SPLOST funds for capital improvement projects, including a proposed \$3.8 million police station.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
May 3, 2013

Acworth votes to annex Cobb property

Author: Rachel Miller

Mayor Tommy Allegood and the Board of Alderman approved annexing portions of unincorporated Cobb County into the Acworth city limits Thursday night. Several county residents spoke in opposition to the move, but the board approved the annexation that will bring "islands of land" into the city that confuse emergency responders and road maintenance crews over jurisdiction. The lone vote against the annexation came from Alderman Butch Price, who said, "It is hard to justify."

Before approval, City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** added stipulations that owners or renters who are currently living on the designated properties will receive free trash removal for 10 years, which is a savings of \$235 a year. **Bulthuis** also recommended to the board that they honor current county business licenses paid through 2013 for the six-month gap before Acworth's next business licensing in June 2014. He said businesses that are part of the annexation will be licensed at half price for the next five years.

Alderman Tim Richardson asked that mailings with this updated information be sent to the property owners this month, which was the only comment from a board member before the vote.

A representative from Cobb County attended to show support from the county, which is the only other party that needed to consent to the city takeover of the land. The county has an agreement to cooperate with Acworth on any actions deemed necessary to end duplication of services. The annexation will take effect June 1.

From an audience of more than 50 people, seven individuals spoke during a 25-minute public comment period. Each landowner spoke against another level of government being placed on them. Commercial property owner Steve McNeel began the quiet rally, saying he admitted the city had the power and was not asking for his vote.

Al Fortney, CEO of Fortney Sales Company Inc., purchased 5.5 acres in December to move his business from Kennesaw, but said that he never received notification from the city about its intention to annex his parcel. **Bulthuis** said the certified letters were addressed based on tax filings. "You might have well thrown it out the window," Fortney said to the board. Fortney accused the board of having a vested interest in the land grab because of the increase in tax revenue. "I can tell you roads aren't cheap," **Bulthuis** responded about using part of city property taxes on road maintenance.

Most people who addressed the board said they felt victimized by the mandate, which made them fearful of future property demands by the city, such as adding power lines or fines for nonworking vehicles parked on the properties now part of the city. Landowner Ben Turner

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

pointed to previously annexed land, which now houses the Lake Park subdivision and which he said caused erosion and flooding to his family's adjacent property.

A couple of speakers pointed out that the regular scheduled meeting began in the typical fashion, with everyone in the room standing to recite The Pledge of Allegiance, but that there was no "liberty and justice for all" regarding the annexation. Although Allegood advised the public comment period was not a time for questions, Turner, who has owned 7 acres on Lot 50 since 1955, asked, "Will I be a good citizen if I am forced to be one?"

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
March 3, 2013

Cobb divided on use of outside lobbyists

Author: Jon Gillooly

When it comes to ensuring state and federal lawmakers hear local concerns, no two communities are alike. And in Cobb County, local government agencies are similarly divided on the usefulness of outside lobbyists in putting their interests front and center in the halls of the Capitol.

The cities of Acworth, Austell, Powder Springs and Smyrna do not hire lobbyists. "We've never had a lobbyist," Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood said. "Being a member of the Georgia Municipal Association, we kind of rely on them for information. We don't have any direct contract with the lobbyist through GMA, but we get regular updates from the GMA."

Allegood and Mayors Pat Vaughn and Joe Jerkins say if they need something for their city, they pick up the phone and call the lawmakers who represent them. "Really and truly our elected leaders are our lobbyists, the way we look at it is certainly state Rep. Ed Setzler and Sen. Lindsey Tippins, they do a fine job for us," Allegood said.

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said Acworth pays GMA a \$6,488.51 membership fee.

"Its main purpose is training elected and staff and being a resource for elected officials and staff on common issues which we all face," **Bulthuis** said. "It's a resource for jobs. It has group health insurance, workers compensation insurance, liability insurance, retirement programs. It is much more than a lobby company."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
February 19, 2013

Acworth studies IMAGE program

Author: Noreen Cochran

The city of Acworth is no closer today to joining a federal immigration enforcement program, but now it has more information to ponder. During a work session Monday, City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** brought Mayor Tommy Allegood and the Board of Aldermen up to speed on his research into the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers, or IMAGE. The program, developed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is designed to determine whether all employees are legally able to work.

Bulthuis told the board the program includes E-Verify, in which the city and its contractors already participate per a new state law. E-Verify compares information on a new hire's I-9, which is an employment eligibility verification form, and data from the Social Security Administration.

There is no checking of workers who signed on before the system was in place. "You can't go back and look at old employees," **Bulthuis** said. "You can only look at new employees." **Bulthuis** said if someone blew the whistle on a worker, the Acworth Police Department would have to contact the federal enforcement agency. As the city, we don't have any enforcement ability whatsoever," he said. He said the system has not unearthed any illegal workers among Acworth's 150 employees, only a newlywed with a name change not yet registered with Social Security.

Best practices

IMAGE includes E-Verify and 11 other "best practices," **Bulthuis** said. One is a retroactive function, examining all employee records regardless of hire date and verifying Social Security numbers. Another addition is to "ensure that contractors and/or subcontractors establish procedures to comply with employment eligibility verification requirements," according to www.ice.gov/IMAGE. Yet another is "encourage contractors and/or subcontractors to incorporate IMAGE best practices and, when practicable, incorporate the use of E-Verify in subcontractor agreements."

Stumbling blocks

Contractors and the firms they hire to perform parts of a large job, such as constructing a police station, may constitute a stumbling block. "The city would be required to start monitoring all subcontractors and sub-subcontractors. That would be an additional step that we're not required to do now," **Bulthuis** said. Right now there are no requirements for the city's contractors to be in the IMAGE program.

Marietta resident D.A. King spoke during the work session. "Please believe me, you don't have an accurate picture of what IMAGE is," he said. "To become IMAGE certified or applying for it

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

in no way requires that you require a sub-sub-subcontractor to use E-Verify." King recommended tapping ICE Special Agent Rick Beamish to address a future work session. "You don't have all the information to become IMAGE certified," King said.

Allegood said he would consider the suggestion. "Let's digest this," he said.

Costs not calculated

Although the IMAGE website does not list a charge to be certified, neither does it offer compensation for completing its 12 steps. Some of the requirements include added paperwork for human resources departments and specialized training, which would come out of the city's budget.

Bulthuis did not present cost estimates at the work session, and Allegood said after the meeting they had not worked up those costs. **Bulthuis** said seven of the 12 requirements would have to be started from scratch. "We don't have those in place yet," he said about items such as establishing an anonymous tip line.

The Acworth board made no commitment to place the agreement on a future agenda. Why now? Last year the Cobb Board of Commissioners agreed to become certified with the program. Now that board is considering a measure to require contractors doing business with the county to apply for IMAGE certification. Since the county joined, the city became more interested in the program's effects on local government.

Alderman Tim Richardson brought up the topic, and the board scheduled the work session. "We've been asked the question, are we going to become IMAGE certified and are we going to make our contractors be certified?" Allegood said. "We don't know. Everyone is going to have this conversation at some time. We're getting to it early."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
January 10, 2013

Allegood: New positions save taxpayers money

Author: Noreen Cochran

The Acworth Board of Aldermen has created new positions, but they will actually reduce expenses in its \$26 million general fund, according to Mayor Tommy Allegood. "We consolidated our power and public works departments together," he said Tuesday. "In doing that, we created some real management efficiencies, with overall savings of about \$50,000, so that's saving taxpayers money."

Public Works Director Mark Hipp will lead the combined departments, Allegood said. "In creating a new position for the two departments, we outsourced some of those responsibilities over to our city treasurer," Allegood said. "So we took our treasury department and moved some things over."

City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the reorganization includes redefined roles for existing staff members. "We had a variety of job descriptions approved," he said about a city treasurer, deputy city treasurer, accountant, human resources manager, accounts payable technician, utility billing clerk and several customer service staff members. "We had some people retire in our finance department, so we just reorganized positions."

The new position of tax administrator, also created at the meeting on Jan. 3, is advertised on the city's website, www.acworth.org.

According to the website, the salary is \$34,500 and "includes all functions required for the billing of property taxes, as well as occupational tax certificate bills."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

https://transformgov.org/sites/transformgov.org/files/303952_Final%202012%20Service%20Awards%20List.docx

CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Congratulations to the 2012 Service Award Recipients!

ICMA Service Awards recognize and celebrate members' dedication to public service and professional management at the local level. Awards are granted at 10 years and 20 years of local government service. After 20 years, awards are given in five-year increments. Members receiving awards for 30 years or more of local government service will be recognized individually during the Celebration of Service to the Profession, which takes place at the ICMA Annual Conference.

25 Years

Brian M. Bulthuis

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
June 1, 2012

Acworth officials propose new fiscal budget City manager says falling property values leading to lower projected budget for 2013

Author: Marcus E. Howard

Acworth officials are proposing a Fiscal Year 2013 budget balanced at \$10,945,150, down 3.4 percent from the current budget. City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the projected budget, which currently includes only the general fund, is down because of falling property values. "Our preliminary estimate of our assessment roll was down about 6 percent, which means our property taxes will be lower," **Bulthuis** said. "The assessments went down; my house went down. So it's just based on what the assessor has done." Nevertheless, the city does not plan to make any cuts in services or programs and have no plans for layoffs, furloughs or use of reserve funds. The current property tax rate of 7.6 mills will also remain unchanged under the proposal.

The Acworth City Council will conduct two public hearings on the proposed budget beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday at City Hall. The final hearing will occur at the same time on June 21, just before the council votes on the budget. The vote on the millage rate will take place in July.

About 50 percent of Acworth's revenue comes from property taxes, according to the city. To cope with the loss of revenue, the city will defer from making major capital purchases, such as police cars, and rely on maintenance, **Bulthuis** said. The city will do some reshuffling of job duties in its parks and recreation department as well. And after Wayne Dennard was recently promoted to police chief, the city's police department will not fill his former position of major and will instead use captains to handle those job duties, **Bulthuis** said. "We look at what it takes to get the job done in terms of each department," he said. "Some were able to cut more than others."

However, the city does plan to raise its sanitation rate by 25 cents to \$19 per month, as a result of increased fuel costs, **Bulthuis** said. "Which is still a lot cheaper than a lot of places around us," he said. The city's health care cost for its more than 150 employees has also gone up by 3 percent, the city reported. Each December, city officials renegotiate its health care to keep costs in check and have switched providers twice in the past two years. Aetna is currently its provider. "By going out on the market when we do, we've been able to keep our health cost increases to a minimum," **Bulthuis** said. "They've only been about 3 or 4 percent the last couple of years."

Bulthuis said SPLOST money will pay for the city's capital improvement projects. "It was a little bit more difficult this year," he said of putting together the new budget. "The assessment roll went down a little bit more than I expected. I was thinking it was going to be about a 3 percent decrease. When it went down 6 percent - that surprised us a little bit. That's still an estimate." Acworth's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Cherokee Tribune (Canton, GA)
June 16, 2011

Acworth set to approve \$10.86 million budget for 2012

Author: Jon Gillooly

Acworth's Board of Aldermen is expected to approve a fiscal year 2012 budget of \$10.86 million tonight. No tax increases or cuts to public services are expected. "There are no raises budgeted and do not anticipate the need for any furlough days," City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said.

Acworth's general fund budget balances revenues and expenses at \$10.86 million, which is \$666,366 or 5.8 percent, lower than FY11's budget of \$11.526 million.

Mayor Tommy Allegood said it's a budget he's proud of. "We just cut expenses out of the department," Allegood said. "We haven't given any raises. We've just cut some of the capital expenditures and cut it out of the departments without cutting any services or any people. I'm proud of it because we're not putting the burden on the taxpayer."

Acworth's fiscal year begins July 1. The budget funds 150 full time employees, the same number as in the current fiscal year. Acworth's maintenance and operations tax rate, which is 7.6 mills, is expected to remain the same, **Bulthuis** said.

The city will dip into its rainy-day reserves by \$34,398, leaving \$2.5 million in reserves for 2012.

Acworth is part of the Cobb Fire System, but its police department is budgeted at \$3.29 million, compared to FY11's \$3.30 million, a difference of \$15,222. The police department has 40 sworn officers and three support employees.

The city of Acworth has a population of 20,425 people.

Tonight's meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 4415 Senator Russell Ave. in Acworth.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
April 10, 2010

Acworth chosen as All-America City contender

Author: Katy Ruth Camp

Although Mayor Tommy Allegood said he already feels Acworth is one of the best cities in America, the National Civic League may officially give his city that title in June. Acworth is the only city in Georgia to be selected an All-America City finalist. City officials learned Tuesday that the northern Cobb County city was in the running for the high honor.

"If you think about the scope of this and that of all the cities in the nation, 27 are picked and we're one of them, that's huge," Allegood said. "No other city has the type of programs we have, and we've definitely made our mark as a city and community that gives."

Allegood will travel with a group of about 25 city delegates to Kansas City, Mo., on June 16, where they will "pitch" the city to a selection committee of 10 people. On June 18, the committee will select 10 of the 27 finalists as All-America cities.

City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the three-day trip to Missouri will be funded solely through donations. More than \$5,000 has already been raised from the community in just two days, **Bulthuis** said.

Only five cities in Georgia have ever earned the title of All-American City. Marietta was named in 2006. Atlanta, Savannah, Toccoa and all of DeKalb County are the other Georgia titleholders.

Bulthuis said when Acworth officials applied in March for the title, they were asked to submit three city programs that bring the community together. City staff chose Horizon Field, which is the baseball and softball field specially designed to serve children with special needs; the Expanding Horizons program, which funds trips for students, many who have never traveled outside of the city limits, on educational trips through donations by local businesses and residents; and the Acworth Achievers program, which offers after-school opportunities for students.

"It's not just the government that makes Acworth so special – it's the churches, the schools, the businesses, everyone coming together," Allegood said. "This award really stresses the importance of an entire community coming together to make it better, and we certainly do that. I'm not surprised at all we're chosen, and I fully expect us to come back with the award."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
March 4, 2010

Acworth businesses approved for tax credits

Author: Jon Gillooly

The state has approved the city of Acworth to use a program that encourages new businesses to relocate to the city or existing businesses to expand in the area through the use of tax credits. Qualifying businesses will receive \$3,500 per year per employee for every two or more positions created, Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said.

The boundaries for the incentive encompass downtown Acworth, where the old Chevrolet building is on Main Street, extending along Main Street almost to the northern edge of the city, and also from Main Street along the Cherokee Street Corridor out to where the former K-Mart building stands near I-75, **Bulthuis** said.

Mayor Tommy Allegood called it a huge accomplishment. "Our efforts over the years in recognizing areas that needed special attention is now supported by the state. We are excited and proud of what this will mean to the citizens of Acworth," he said.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs designates governments as having "Opportunity Zones," where an undertaking of redevelopment and revitalization in older commercial areas has occurred. Acworth has initiated a redevelopment plan for its northern downtown area, which incorporates several large parcels where buildings were left vacant and dilapidated after businesses either moved or went under. The tax credit program, which was approved Tuesday, is effective immediately.

Acworth is the 20th out of Georgia's 534 cities to be approved for the program, **Bulthuis** said. Marietta became the first Cobb city to qualify in November.

Marietta's opportunity zones encompass parts of Roswell Street, the South Loop, Fairground Street, Franklin Road, Powder Springs Street, such as the dilapidated area around Sandtown Road, and some of the older industrial park areas along Interstate 75 and Canton Road, City Manager Bill Bruton said. Shortly after getting approval from the state, Bruton said, "This is the biggest economic development tool that we have ever had to encourage the expansion of local business and the relocation of other businesses to Marietta."

Other counties that use the tax credit incentive include Augusta-Richmond, Norcross, Cherokee, Cornelia and Darien, said Beth Sessoms, Marietta's economic development manager. For more information, contact Brandon Douglas, Acworth's economic development director, at (770) 974-3112.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
February 4, 2010

School board appoints panel members

Cobb School Board Member David Banks has been appointed as the board's liaison to the Facilities and Technology Committee. The committee is a 16-member citizen's oversight panel that reviews spending of the special purpose local option sales tax programs. Each school board member, plus the superintendent, appoints two members to the committee.

At Thursday's school board meeting, board members announced their appointees for the year, although many current members will continue to serve. New committee members, and the board member who appointed them, are: Kimberley Euston (Dr. John Crooks); Joel Stone Jr. (David Banks); and Bill Thrash (Lynnda Crowder-Eagle).

Returning members are: Wallace Coopwood and Ralph Williams (Superintendent Fred Sanderson); Allison Krache Giddens (Crowder-Eagle); Ann Kirk and Susan Pearson (Holli Cash); Virginia Gregory and David Wilkerson (David Morgan); David Chastain (Dr. John Abraham); Donald Hill (Banks); Angie Delvin-Brown (Crooks); and Angie May and John Williams (Alison Bartlett).

Abraham said Wednesday that he is still working to fill his other vacancy on the panel, created by the resignation of **Brian Bulthuis**.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
June 23, 2009

Committee talks schools expansion, technology program

Author: Jon Gillooly

Program management

Brian Bulthuis, appointed by board Chairman Dr. John Abraham, brought up what a deal the school district was getting by hiring Atlanta-based Brookwood and Tampa-based PBS&J as the program manager for building the ninth-grade centers for North Cobb and South Cobb high schools and a replacement school for East Side Elementary at a cost of only 1.3 percent or \$998,800 of the total \$77.4 million projected cost of the projects.

Bulthuis suggested bundling other SPLOST III projects and releasing an RFP to see what else the market provided. Yet Angie May, appointed by board member Alison Bartlett, raised a flag of caution. Brookwood/PBS&J's bid was about 25 percent lower than its closest competitor, she said. "I think there are some other issues going on that bid," May said, suggesting the firm bid low to get future business with the school system.

Committee Chairman Chuck Casto said the issue was not determining what the firm's motive was, but taking advantage of what the market has to offer. The committee ultimately decided to leave it up to the school board whether to outsource more SPLOST III projects.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
June 19, 2009

Acworth budget receives unanimous approval

Author: Ashley Hungerford

The Acworth Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the city's 2010 fiscal year budget Thursday night. The revenue for the general fund budget is \$10,816,974 and the expenses are \$10,876,269. City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the \$55,000 difference will come from the city's fund balance.

The budget does not require a millage increase. The city's millage rate will remain at 7.6 mills, meaning property owners will continue to pay \$7.60 per \$1,000 of assessed property values.

Similar to surrounding jurisdictions, **Bulthuis** said Acworth's budget is very bare bones with revenues dipping this year because of the economy. "There is nothing extra in this budget," **Bulthuis** said. "There are no new initiatives this year."

Mayor Tommy Allegood said the city did a "serious belt tightening," when preparing the budget. "We worked very hard to reduce certain expenditures, but not reduce services," he said. "We believe we have estimated correctly on revenues. We have a budget that we're proud of, and we have a budget that does not require us to increase our millage rate."

Employee raises have been cut from the budget, but the city does not have to cut any of its employees. "Right now, if revenues are the way I've projected, I don't anticipate any layoffs or millage increase," **Bulthuis** said. "This is the first time in my 12 years that we've not given raises."

Several of the Aldermen said they're sad that the city couldn't afford raises for the city employees, whom they commended for the work they do for the city. "It hurts not to give them a raise, but it would hurt more to have to lay people off," Alderman Bob Weatherford said.

The only new positions in the budget are four new police officers, but those aren't a sure thing yet, **Bulthuis** said. The city has applied for grants funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. If the city doesn't get the stimulus money, **Bulthuis** said they will not have any new positions.

This is the first time the city has approved the budget in June. The city changed its fiscal year to run July 1 through June 31 to be better in line with when tax revenue is collected, **Bulthuis** said. Acworth property taxes are collected through the Cobb Tax Commissioner's office on October. Previously, the city's fiscal year ran Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
April 22, 2009

Show results Schools group wants data from '21st century classroom' pilot study

Author: Jon Gillooly

An oversight committee wants to know the results of a pilot study of seven Cobb schools that have been using "21st century classroom" technology. The Cobb school board's Facilities and Technology Review Committee voted unanimously Monday to have Dr. Judi Jones, the district's chief accountability officer, give her findings of the pilot at the committee's meeting next month.

The vote was made at the recommendation of F&T member Wallace Coopwood, who is appointed by Superintendent Fred Sanderson. The findings may help the committee recommend to the school board how high tech devices should be purchased and distributed in all classrooms in the district.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Gordon Pritz said the pilot has been ongoing since January 2008. F&T Vice Chairman Mike Russell said the 21st century classroom program has been "held in limbo." The program was met with stumbling blocks since its inception.

In May 2007, Chris Ragsdale, the district's technology chief, and other administrators released a Request for Proposal to outfit 400 to 500 classrooms at seven Cobb schools with all the gadgets needed to become "21st century classrooms." Those included electronic whiteboards, projection screens, electromagnetic digital pads, projectors, speakers, amplifiers, wall-mounted controllers, DVD players, student response systems, wireless microphones, and document cameras. Schools chosen to participate included five elementary schools, Durham Middle School and Sprayberry High School.

Sanderson at that time recommended the board vote to accept three vendors - Canton-based Computrac, Logical Choice and Multi Media Services - to carry out the pilot at a total cost of \$4.4 million. But in June 2007, three Cobb school board members ordered Sanderson back to the drawing board. Then-board Chairman Lindsey Tippins, then-board member Dr. Teresa Plenge and current Chairman Dr. John Abraham told Sanderson his proposal was inadequate. Plenge said she was amazed Sanderson would propose such a project without public buy-in. She said the proposal was so vastly incomplete that if a graduate student brought it to her to approve for a doctoral dissertation she would fail the student.

So the next month, after Sanderson built in an evaluation process to determine if the pilot program would be successful, the school board approved Sanderson's reduced \$2.2 million test program to equip the seven schools.

In January, Abraham said he had asked Sanderson to give the board a presentation on the pilot program. But that has yet to occur at least publicly. Pritz said the SPLOST III program earmarks \$14 million in special tax dollars for "interactive classroom devices" that would turn Cobb's

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

classrooms into 21st century classrooms. Pritz, on Monday, told the F&T Committee that the SPLOST language does not specify that every classroom would receive the same interactive classroom devices, such as whiteboards, student response systems and electronic pads, because the results of the pilot will determine how they are distributed. "It did not specifically spell out that every classroom in the district will have every one of those things...That's because the pilot would bring us some data," he said.

Among the data being collected, Pritz said, is how often students use the various devices in the seven pilot schools. "Were the boards used more so than the pads? Did it get used more extensively in the upper elementary grades versus the lower elementary grades? (The pilot should) tell us what it should look like based on good sound data," he said. The committee will wait to hear Jones' report on the pilot results before making a recommendation to the school board on how to spend the \$14 million.

Pritz said a second line item in the SPLOST III program calls for \$18 million to be spend on audio visual equipment for each classroom in the district. Pritz told the committee his office is in the process of installing some of that equipment. The SPLOST timeline calls for \$6 million to be spent each year on the audio visual equipment for a three year span, although that is subject to change due to cash flow, he said. Ragsdale asked the committee to approve installing all \$18 million worth of audio visual equipment in a 12 month span rather than a three year span. The committee voted unanimously to do that at the recommendation of member **Brian Bulthuis**, who is appointed by Abraham.

Board member Dr. John Crooks, who was at the meeting, told the Journal after the vote, "I'm going, whoa! I think we need to very careful. They don't make motions, they make recommendations and they make requests. And the proper request would be 'if there is monies available then we would like to see those things done.'" Crooks serves as the board liaison on the F&T Committee. He said with SPLOST revenues coming in lower than projected, he wasn't sure the money was there to do it all at once. "I was very interested in the dialogue going on there last night," Crooks said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
December 20, 2008

Acworth approves 6-month budget

The Acworth Board of Alderman approved a six-month, \$5.96 million city budget on Thursday. The budget is for Jan. 1 through June 30, 2009. City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the city is changing their fiscal year to run July 1 to June 30 and that the city will approve a 12-month budget in June. The city's current fiscal year runs Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Revenue for the six-month budget totaled \$2.8 million. **Bulthuis** said the balance would come from funds rolled over from the previous year's budget.

The six-month budget includes two new positions: a new police officer whose starting salary is in the mid-\$30,000, and a new position in parks and recreation with a salary around \$40,000.

The parks and recreation position will be for programming for special-needs and senior citizen residents in the city, **Bulthuis** said.

Besides the two positions, the rest of the budget is maintaining the status quo, **Bulthuis** said. He said all departments have cut expenses such as travel and training.

The change in fiscal year will allow the city to get a better picture of tax revenues when planning the budget, **Bulthuis** said. "The change is a cash-flow issue, not an economy issue," he said. "We're trying to get a truer picture of the cash flow."

The County Tax Assessor's office releases the tax digest in the summer. The digest is the value of all real and personal property and registered vehicles in the county. **Bulthuis** said he has to almost "guess" what tax revenue will be months before he has any idea what tax collections will look like.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
July 17, 2007

\$1.2M grant will help downtown redevelopment

Author: Ashley Hungerford

The Atlanta Regional Commission has awarded the city a \$1.2 million grant to continue downtown redevelopment along Senator Russell Avenue. Fast becoming a second main street, Senator Richard B. Russell Avenue parallels Main Street and is home to Acworth City Hall, Cotton's Restaurant, Bella Dia European Day Spa and Teacup Cottage.

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the ARC's Livable Communities Initiative grant would help pay for sidewalk and streetscape improvements along Senator Russell Avenue from Dallas Street to Morningside Drive. "Our vision is to make Senator Russell (Avenue) our second main street, and we're trying to make it a more walkable downtown," **Bulthuis** said.

Officials plan to use the money to finance street improvements along the avenue that began nearly four years ago. The project's first phase, funded through a 2003 ARC grant, paid for traffic improvements, parking, lighting, street infrastructure, and sidewalks from Lemon to Dallas streets. The latest grant will continue similar improvements to Morningside Drive.

Bulthuis cautioned residents and downtown businesses not to look for immediate improvements, as second phase construction is a couple of years away and pending final design approval. "But the Downtown Development Authority is excited about it," **Bulthuis** said. The city initially planned to finance improvements to Senator Russell Avenue with its share of revenue from Cobb's 1-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax designated for street resurfacing. "This will help make the SPLOST dollars go that much further," he said.

Mayor Tommy Allegood said the grant money would help the city continue its momentum to redevelop downtown. "As grant funding permits, we'll continue redevelopment of our downtown," he said.

Downtown Development Authority Director Jan Harris said businesses are more likely to invest money downtown when city officials show the area is important. "It has been my experience that where public money goes, private money will follow," she said. "If you improve the curb appeal, businesses have a tendency to be more successful."

Allegood said there isn't any business vacancies in the city's downtown district and what few openings exist along Main Street south of downtown are being redeveloped. The former Day's Chevrolet lot just south of downtown is the future site of Senior Village, a \$38 million private development.

Allegood said Acworth has the right components -- including a strong sentiment among residents for historic preservation -- to drive downtown redevelopment. Acworth has earned millions of

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

dollars in grant money to redevelop its downtown in recent years. Ms. Harris could name about a dozen downtown projects the city has completed. Some of those projects include \$450,000 to acquire a bank building that is now City Hall; \$4.8 million in SPLOST and city matching funds to redo downtown streetscapes in 2002; \$130,000 to redevelop the Depot and nearby streetscapes; and \$95,000 to build 30 additional parking spaces on Cherokee Street in 2003. The city also completed a \$1.2 million parking lot with 72 spaces between City Hall and the library with a combination of SPLOST and city funds.

Acworth's Revitalization Grant Committee also awards façade grants to downtown businesses to improve entrances. Ms. Harris said any independent business in the downtown district is eligible to apply for the grants. "They continue the growth of the 'mom-and-pop' businesses because that's really the heart of the downtown area," she said.

Ms. Harris said the downtown authority works with the city to provide investments and incentives for business owners to redevelop downtown. "The downtown historic area is important, and it's a great thing," Ms. Harris said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
February 28, 2007

Chamber accepting nominations for class

From combined reports

The Cobb Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for Leadership Cobb class of 2007. Leadership Cobb is a comprehensive leadership development program that provides participants with leadership skills and education about community demographics, economic development and available community resources.

Alexis Amaden, owner of the Whitlock Inn in Marietta, and Cobb Spokesman Robert Quigley will serve as co-chairs of the program. Nominees should be able to assume increased community responsibilities for the length of the nine-month course. Participants will be selected from business, industry, education, government and other professions, as well as from volunteer, civic and religious organizations.

The leadership course meets once a month, holds periodic evening sessions and attends retreats in the fall and spring. The program begins this fall and runs through spring 2008.

To make the nomination more meaningful to the nominee, those who submit a name are asked to contact the nominee personally to confirm their interest in the program. Nomination forms are available at www.cobbchamber.org or fax the nominee's name, title, employer, mailing address, e-mail address, business and home telephone number to Leadership Cobb Coordinator Ruth Evangelista by Friday.

Past participants include, Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**; Joyce Waldin, Caraustar Human Resources Manager; Smyrna Spokeswoman Jennifer Bennett; Stuart Sims, an attorney with Bentley, Bentley, & Bentley and Judge Juanita Stedman.

Call Ms. Evangelista, (770) 859-2345, for more information.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
August 3, 2006

This Day In History

Acworth -- In 1996, the Acworth City Council, by a 4-0 vote, hired a new city manager, city attorney and development authority director.

Mayor Bob Gibson said new City Manager **Brian M. Bulthuis** was hired "following a national search and an extensive screening process."

The Board of Aldermen also hired well-known Marietta lawyer Doug Haynie as city attorney and Robyn Rogers of Roswell as Downtown Development Authority director.

The appointment of **Bulthuis**, city manager in Mount Morris, Mich., for the past six years, was announced during the city council meeting.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
February 26, 2006

Hometown feel kept amid major changes [PROGRESS 2006] Acworth takes on stylish new look within historic ambience

Author: Katie Fallon

If a resident who moved away from Acworth five years ago were to return to town today, they might not recognize the downtown area. Although the revitalization process is not finished, it began about four or five years ago and the momentum has created a brand new downtown. "If you are talking about a 100-step process of revitalization, we are probably at step 60," said Mayor Tommy Allegood. "We are in step six of a maturing process of our downtown."

The mayor said the whole process began about four years ago with an active commitment from the downtown development authority, the city council, who provided incentives on things like sewer impact fees and sidewalk grants, and a city staff that helped facilitate the whole process from the renovations and economics to the responsibility of looking after the management of the downtown area. "It was a lot of different things and a lot of different momentum with the momentum being the overall desire of every citizen in the community really having ownership in the redevelopment of our downtown business district," Allegood said.

What has happened in historic downtown Acworth is a tremendous influx of development and new business over the last five years. City manager **Brian Bulthuis** said residents used to be able to joke that you could roll a bowling ball down Main Street and never hit anything. Similarly, Allegood said when he came to town eight years ago, he walked down the street and there were only two stores. "When you look at our downtown, if you had seen it even six years ago before we did the Main Street project, it had not had any work done on it...no sidewalks, no curb and gutter and the streetlights were not even the same as they are now," **Bulthuis** said. "It is a great town, but anywhere you don't do investment, it is going to get worn."

The revitalization of Main Street began with money from a 1994 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST. Allegood said the money for revitalizing Main Street was a huge part of the momentum. The city used the money to widen and add curbs and gutters to Main Street, fix the sidewalks for connectivity and, most importantly, construct the Cowen Road railroad underpass. Once revitalization began, Allegood said the costs ranged from at least \$5 million from the private side and several more millions from SPLOST, transportation grants and money from being designated both a Georgia and National Main Street City.

Bulthuis said the need for revitalization was the same in Acworth as it is in so many small towns. He said downtown was hit hard when Town Center Mall was built. Downtown, said **Bulthuis**, used to have drug stores, clothing stores and even a hotel, but as of a mere decade ago, all of that was gone. "When you look at where the city was even 10 years ago, most of the businesses were vacant," said **Bulthuis**. Now, **Bulthuis** estimates there are maybe two vacant storefronts and that renewed business has been a direct result of the revitalization.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

"If we have 25 businesses in a two and half block are, probably 80 percent of them are people that came to our community because of the opportunity," Allegood said. "They didn't live here."

The mayor said it is because of the downtown renovation that the city was able to attract new business. The "recruitment process," as Allegood calls it, has been successful because the city has been able to attract entrepreneurs from outside the city. "At the end of the day for us, it is really all about quality of life and quality growth," said Allegood.

That quality of growth is something the mayor and city manager said the city had to keep an eye on to maintain the historic, small town features of the planning and design of the revitalized downtown. "That has always been our focus, to basically, in all of our development, to enhance our historic look," said **Bulthuis**. "That hometown feeling and hometown spirit ... we have worked really hard not to lose that."

The city manager said that his own goal throughout the revitalization process has been to make downtown Acworth a destination city and that effort began when the mayor formed a task force to get more restaurants into the city. Now, the two and a half block radius of downtown boasts seven options for lunch and three for dinner.

Those three dinner spots do seem to be the definitive "hotspots" well known to all those who frequent downtown Acworth. While there are no tradition and clubs like what might be found in Buckhead, restaurants do seem to be the favored destination and the top spots all have their own distinct flare.

Within a two block radius, visitors to downtown can travel to the piazzas of Rome, the Louisiana Bayou or the French countryside. While parking can be a problem on Main Street, overflow is allowed in the parking lot behind City Hall. One of the most well-known establishments is Henry's Louisiana Grill. With the upbeat atmosphere of any Cajun-inspired eatery, Henry's prices are surprisingly decent considering the number of seafood dishes. Lunch prices range anywhere from \$3.95 to \$14.95 for appetizers to \$7.95 to \$14, depending on portions, for main dishes.

Just down Main Street from Henry's is the Italian trattoria Fusco's Via Roma. With an environment ripe for enjoying good food and good wine, Fusco's prices can climb to the steep end of the scale. Although appetizers and salads run from only \$5.95 to about \$13, entrees range from \$9.95 to \$22.95, with the exception of the one veal chop dish at \$34.95.

Finally, at Seasons de Provence, a romantic ambiance can definitely be found. The restaurant is actually the converted basement of a building across from the back of City Hall on Senator Russell Avenue. The prices, however, will not break the wallet. For lunch, appetizers, salads and main dishes range from \$3.50 to \$10.50. For dinner, a wide range of appetizers, soups and salads can be found for anywhere from \$3.95 to \$8.95 while entrees range from \$13.95 to \$22.95.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
December 22, 2005

1 percent tax kicks in Jan. 1 - Extra money to fund \$826 million in projects

Author: Richard Whitt

Looking to save a little on that Lexus? You have 10 days. On Jan. 1, Cobb County's sales tax will jump from 5 percent to 6 percent on just about everything you buy. It may not sound like much, but consider -- 1 percent amounts to \$3,280 on a \$328,000 Rolls Royce Phantom. Those not shopping for luxury can still save a few bucks by stocking up on groceries before Jan. 1.

Passed in September by a bare majority of 117 votes, the tax is expected to raise \$826 million over its six-year life. The 1 percent increase will cost \$140 a year, on average, for every Cobb resident -- man, woman and child.

Approximately \$110 million is earmarked for an 864-bed jail expansion, \$55 million for a new court building in Marietta and \$27 million for purchasing a new emergency communications system. The remaining \$634 million will be spent on roads, bridges and traffic flow improvements around the county and in Cobb's six cities. With additional state and federal matching transportation funds, the tax is expected to generate about \$1.1 billion for road and highway improvements. Cobb's cities will get \$161.5 million, or about 25 percent, of the funds for transportation.

Marietta's first priority is to build a connector road from Powder Springs Road to South Cobb Drive, said Mayor Bill Dunaway. "That's going to be one of the fastest solutions to traffic problems on Powder Springs and on the loop," he said.

Smyrna expects to spend about \$800,000 to upgrade to digital radios for public safety officers, City Administrator Wayne Wright said. The remainder will go for road improvement projects, many of which call for additional lanes and medians as well as sidewalks and bike trails, Wright said.

Kennesaw will spend nearly \$10 million to relieve traffic congestion on Jiles Road, which will be widened from U.S. 41 to Wade Green Road.

Powder Springs will spend the bulk of its funds on sidewalks, bike paths and trails.

Austell has identified four projects estimated to total \$5 million. The first project will be Humphries Hill Road at C.H. James Parkway, City Administrator Jim Graham said.

Acworth's top priority is adding parking downtown, City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said. The city is negotiating with Cobb officials to build a large parking lot on wooded land behind City Hall. The city also plans to acquire three adjacent properties for the parking lot. In all, the lot is expected to have 100 to 150 spaces. The county plans to fund jail expansion, emergency radios

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

and roads first. Money for the new courthouse will come in the final three years of the tax, said county spokesman Robert Quigley.

Cobb Transportation Director David Montanye said staff is first focusing on transportation improvements that are eligible for matching state funding and those that have the greatest impact on congestion relief. Among the transportation improvements being considered for early funding are Terrell Mill and Paper Mill roads, Stilesboro Road, Maxham Road, Wooten Lake and North Booth roads, Post Oak Tritt Road and Austell Road at the East-West Connector. A list of projects will be submitted to the County Commission for final action in January, Montanye said.

A citizen's oversight committee will be looking over the shoulders of county officials to ensure they follow the transportation improvement plan presented to voters. "I feel confident we won't have issues," said committee Chairwoman Holly Comer. "If we do get information that something's not going the right way, we need to investigate and make sure it does. We need to be able to respond to concerns any citizens have."

The citizens committee will set priorities for spending the \$17.4 million earmarked for county sidewalk improvements. The committee will select projects based on criteria approved by the commission, Comer said. Oversight committee meetings will be at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 26, and on the fourth Thursday of subsequent months. They will be open to the public, Comer said.

WHERE THE MONEY WILL GO

Distribution of the 1 percent sales tax funds based on population:

City.....Population...Amount

Austell.....5,230....\$5,540,132

Acworth.....13,422...\$14,213,749

Kennesaw.....21,675...\$22,951,974

Marietta.....58,748...\$62,201,305

Powder Springs..12,481...\$13,212,326

Smyrna.....40,999...\$43,400,391

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
December 15, 2005

Acworth aldermen to vote tonight on 2006 budget

Author: Tucker McQueen

The Acworth Board of Aldermen will vote tonight on its \$9.3 million budget for 2006. The fiscal year begins Jan. 1. As proposed, the budget shows a \$65,000 shortfall, which will be made up through the city's reserve fund. Overall, the spending plan is 5 percent more than the current year's budget.

The budget estimates an increase in revenue from 2005 of \$345,000, or about 4 percent. City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the increase in revenue is based on growth.

Also included in the budget is a fringe benefit for employees who become members of Gold's Gym. Employees pay 75 percent of the membership fee, and the city picks up the rest. **Bulthuis** said the city's cost is \$1,750. "We get a lower rate for employees to exercise there for better health," **Bulthuis** said.

The city has budgeted for three more police officers at a cost of about \$150,000. Acworth also plans to buy four fully loaded patrol cars for \$140,000 and 15 computers for the patrol cars at a cost of \$67,500.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
February 27, 2005

Acworth first to approve \$6M tax bond project [SPECIAL SECTION - PROGRESS EDITION 2005]

Author: Daniel Shuman

Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood and the Board of Aldermen made county history in December when they unanimously approved more than \$6 million in Tax Allocation District bonds, the first ever in Cobb. The money is currently being put to use to clean up underground contamination on the property of the old Highway 41 Flea Market, located on Cobb Parkway just south of Mars Hill Road. In its place, developer North American Properties will build 350,000 square feet of retail area called Lakeside Marketplace that will be anchored by a Super Target store.

"I think it's a great day for the City of Acworth and north Cobb County for the redevelopment of this property into a terrific shopping complex," Allegood said after signing the TAD bond documents. "I'm so proud of the fact that our city is the first city in the county to take advantage of the Tax Allocation District ... The flea market being contaminated with underground methane fires burning gave us the perfect opportunity."

Within a TAD, a city freezes the property tax on a specific area at its current level and uses taxpayer-backed bonds to fund improvements to that area. Taxes collected in the improved area then go toward paying off the bonds. Because TADs affect taxes collected by the county government and local school board, a city must have the approval of both to move forward.

The prospect of designating the 30-acre area as a TAD first arose about two years ago, Allegood said, and it was approved by both the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and the Cobb Board of Education last December. But getting such a project all the way through to issuing the bonds is an arduous, difficult process, according to both city staff and consultants, a point brought to light by the recent collapse of Marietta's TAD-backed plans for the Johnny Walker Homes site and the fact that Acworth's is only the fourth TAD in the state to be completed.

"If you've watched Marietta work through their TAD, then you know it's hard to do," said Gordon Mortin, who served as one of Acworth's financial consultants during the process of formulating the TAD documents. "These TADs are a good thing, but they're very hard to accomplish." Even with the difficulty and complexity involved, though, those involved say the TAD will turn an area that might have had trouble selling on the open market into a community asset. "If it wasn't for the Tax Allocation District we would have a \$6 million problem sitting out there that we could do nothing about," said Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**.

They will carry an interest rate of 6.25 percent and the principal amount -- \$6,050,000 -- will be paid back by the year 2029, said consultant Robert Reardon. All preliminary estimates say the project should be completed by the spring of 2006.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
December 17, 2004

Acworth

Acworth's Board of Aldermen has approved the city's budget for fiscal year 2005, which is a slight increase over this year's.

City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the new budget is \$8.1 million -- with both revenues and expenses -- and shows an increase of just under four percent from 2004's total.

Bulthuis said the increased budget was necessitated by the city's ongoing rapid growth.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
July 23, 2004

Aldermen unanimous in joining other cities on House Bill 489

Acworth kept House Bill 489's momentum rolling as it unanimously approved the controversial bill during a special called session. "It was a relief to finally get it settled and done," said Alderman Butch Price, adding "it seemed to be a pretty good settlement of the issue."

According to city manager **Brian Bulthuis**, the meeting lasted "about five minutes," with the council briefly explaining the agreement before giving it the all clear.

Assistant city manager Brian Binzer said the county addressed the council's last-minute concerns about land-use that necessitated the weekend meeting. "The (city and county) staffs hammered out the agreement, and that's what they wanted to stick with," Binzer said.

That brings the tally of cities that have agreed to H.B. 489 to four, leaving only Austell and Powder Springs to sign. If those two agree, city residents will see a reduction of the millage rate by 4/10 and they will no longer pay taxes for county services that they already receive from their city -- like police departments.

Calls to the mayor and other council members of Acworth were not immediately returned.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to the City of Acworth is listed below.]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
October 27, 2003

Increases in population evident across metro map

Author: Christopher Quinn

Brian Bulthuis, city manager in fast-growing Acworth in Cobb County, which got \$300,000 in LCI funds this year to help improve its central business district, said some growth is driven by homeowners who want a sense of living somewhere identifiable other than a suburb.

Seven years ago, his little downtown was looking run-down, with mostly empty storefronts. Now they are spruced up and filled with restaurants and small businesses. New neighborhoods have been built, and homeowners take advantage of the city's developing network of paths and sidewalks connecting downtown and a new green-space trail along Lake Acworth.

His city nearly doubled in density between 1990 and 2000 from a spread-out 982 people per square mile to 1,897.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
December 20, 2002

A Look Back

Author: From staff reports

* In 1997, residents calling Acworth city offices were no longer be greeted by a machine. Acworth ended the use of its automated voice mail system and replaced it with a receptionist who would direct all calls to the appropriate departments.

"We decided that it was more pleasant for people to talk to a real person when they call, rather than having to go through the voice mail system," said city manager **Brian M. Bulthuis**.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
July 4, 2002

Acworth selling its cable TV system

Author: Clint Williams

Acworth is getting out of the cable television business. But the only changes customers will see, officials say, will be more services. Acworth has signed a letter of intent with United Telesystems Inc. of Savannah to lease and eventually buy its system. The deal is expected to be finalized in August, said Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**.

UTI will refinance \$6.8 million in bonds the city issued to build the broadband network that delivers analog and digital video and music, and high-speed Internet access. Once those bonds are paid off, UTI will buy the system. "We come out of this breaking even," said **Bulthuis**, adding that UTI will pay the city an annual franchise fee of \$60,000 to \$80,000.

Acworth, which operates a municipal electric utility, began laying 100 miles of cable in 1999 and began providing service to residents in early 2001. Acworth CableNET is one of about a dozen municipally-owned cable TV systems operating in Georgia. The network lines now run past about 6,500 homes in Acworth and has about 2,600 cable TV customers and about 500 high-speed Internet customers.

UTI has the money to expand the system beyond the city limits and to add additional services, **Bulthuis** said. "One of the things we plan to do is add telephone services to the mix," said Allen Davis, president of UTI. The company intends to add video-on-demand within a year, Davis said.

The city will continue to handle customer service, **Bulthuis** said, and intends to maintain the same level of service, which includes 24-hour technical support.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
March 29, 2002

Changing hands? County votes to hand over 28 acres for recreational use

Author: Michelle Graff

ACWORTH -- The county will hand over nearly 30 acres of land leased from the Army Corps of Engineers to the City of Acworth, provided the corps approves the city's land-use plan for the property. By a unanimous vote Tuesday, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners voted to transfer 28 acres of corps property jutting between Kennworth Park and the Acworth Sports Complex to the city for the purpose of developing recreational facilities.

This proposed development is a variation on the corps' master plan for the entire 934 acres along Lake Acworth leased to the county, which calls for development of a botanical garden on that site. "We have always been told by the Corps of Engineers as we developed the 900-plus acres that you cannot have active, recreational uses. ... It has to be passive," Board Chairman Bill Byrne said. "Acworth has active recreational uses proposed. "In the past, that has not been accepted."

He said county officials are not opposed to Acworth's land-use plan, but added they are prepared to cancel the lease transfer if the corps does not approve the city's plans. "If they approve the plans, that's fine with us," Byrne said. "If Acworth can utilize 28 acres, then more power to them." Final approval of the city's land-use plan must come from the corps' district office in Mobile, Ala., which controls the corps' property throughout the Southeast.

Despite the variation on corps master land-use plan, Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood said he expects the city will have no problem getting approval from the corps. "We have already talked to the Corps of Engineers," he said, referring to local officials in the corps' Atlanta office. "They have given us the nod. "It has not been formally approved."

And while city officials have not approached the district office with their proposal yet, City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the city is no rush to transfer the lease. "We've talked with the local district office," he said. "Now we're going to have to go through the steps to change the lease."

"We wanted to make sure the county was agreeable to this course first," **Bulthuis** said. "Even if it takes three to four months, it does not affect us." He said the land the city is attempting to lease from the corps is part of a more than \$1 million plan to expand the Acworth Sports Complex, a process that will take several years. Under design by the Atlanta architectural and planning firm Robert and Company, the plan calls for the construction of baseball and soccer fields on the corps' land, as well as a walking trail.

And while the city awaits formal approval for the lease transfer from the corps, **Bulthuis** said the city is applying for a \$100,000 land, soil and water conservation grant from the state to build a

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

bridge across Proctor Creek connecting the sports complex, the corps property and Kennworth Park. He said the mayor and board of aldermen are excited about the possibility of acquiring the Corps land. "This corps property is a direct result of the direction taken by the mayor and board this year," Allegood said.

The city is in the process of renovating the Logan Road Horse Farm, a renovation which will make the 38-acre tract of land the largest passive park in Cobb County, and also is creating a new master plan for Cauble Park. "Literally, we're working on every park," Allegood said. "This is just part of what we are doing."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
March 1, 2002

City bargains to stabilize energy rates

Author: Michelle Graff

Better control over energy rates is what Acworth city officials say will come from the city's new contract with the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia. Scheduled for signing by Acworth and MEAG officials Wednesday at Acworth City Hall, the contract makes Acworth the 49th city in the state to become a full partner with the Atlanta-based energy provider. "There used to be the fear of the unknown," said City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**, who served as the city's chief MEAG negotiator. "This gives us some stability."

By becoming a member, Acworth shares part ownership in some of MEAG's power plants, allowing Acworth Power to pull power directly from the plant and eliminating the middle man routing through MEAG. The city joins Marietta in Cobb County, and College Park and East Point in Fulton County as the only metro-Atlanta-area MEAG participants.

Since 1995, the city purchased its power wholesale through MEAG, but was not a participant in the system. This caused power rates to fluctuate from year to year. "We were buying it from MEAG," said **Bulthuis**. "Now, we're buying into [MEAG] and we have some assets. "We know where our power is coming from, and there is stability in that." "It's an excellent move," **Bulthuis** said. He said while he cannot guarantee power rates in Acworth will never go up again, the MEAG contract will assure that residents do not see the great fluctuations in power rates they have seen in past years.

* The last rate increase occurred in May 2001, when the Acworth Board of Aldermen voted on a new rate schedule which established a \$7 per month base charge for service and kilowatt rates ranging from 6.5 to 9.3 cents per hour.

Acworth Power rates are higher than Marietta and Georgia Power, but lower than Cobb EMC. **Bulthuis** said this is the rate the city will stick with when the MEAG contract takes effect May 15. "We're not changing rates," he said. "This didn't affect rates at all." **Bulthuis** said when the rate hike took place, the city did not pass 100 percent of the cost increase onto consumers. "We just absorbed it," he said. "Our costs are still higher than they used to be."

MEAG is the third largest power supplier in Georgia, serving almost 750,000 customers statewide. A nine-member board of directors comprised of representatives from the participating communities governs the power company, which was formed in 1975 by cities in Georgia that provided residents with power directly.

Bulthuis said it is unclear when a member of Acworth will join the board. "It's something someone may want to [do]," he said. "Marietta has had someone on the board," **Bulthuis** said, referring to former Marietta Mayor Ansley Meaders. "I don't know if we'll have someone."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
February 11, 2002

Cobb people

* MARIETTA -- Twenty-seven community and business leaders were selected to participate in the Cobb Chamber's 2002 Honorary Commanders Association. The civilians have been paired with officers assigned to Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Naval Air Station Atlanta. The yearlong program is designed to give the civilians an opportunity to learn more about the activities of the military at Dobbins and NAS Atlanta. The association meets monthly for activities including luncheons, tours, orientation flights and special on-and off-base events. Dan O'Brien of Cordell Realty is the civilian chairman of the 2002 program.

The 2002 Civilian Honorary Commanders Association Participants are:

Brian Bulthuis, City of Acworth;

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
January 17, 2002

Wide-open spaces: Parks to have room to run

Author: Clint Williams

The emphasis is on open space -- not soccer fields or baseball diamonds -- for two city parks now under construction in Cobb County. An old horse farm just north of downtown Acworth is being developed into a 30-acre park that will feature a fishing pond, walking trails and "open space where kids can go and run," said Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**.

The city bought the property in 1999 when it went on sale because property taxes had not been paid. "We literally bought it on the courthouse steps," **Bulthuis** said.

The house on the property will be renovated to be used as a community center. The \$500,000 to develop the park comes from a recreation impact fee of \$500 a house. The park should be open by the end of the summer.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
July 29, 2001

CableNet system meeting goals [Fact Book - Special Section]

Author: David Burch

After six months, Acworth's venture into cable television appears to be a success. Mike Williams, general manager for the CableNet system, said the city-run cable company now has about 1,300 customers, about a quarter of all Acworth residents. "We are at 24 percent penetration right now," Williams said.

Acworth launched the city-run CableNet system in January, responding to complaints from residents about poor service provided by AT&T Broadband. In March, CableNet expanded its offerings to include digital cable and high-speed Internet access. A former NationsBank building on Dallas Street near city hall has been renovated for the cable system's customer service offices.

All private residences in the city now have access to the CableNet system if they want it. The city now is working to connect to Acworth apartment complexes and local businesses. "We are slowly penetrating the commercial market, but our first emphasis has been residential," Williams said.

Funding for CableNet comes from \$6.7 million approved by Acworth officials in 1999, plus an additional \$5.4 million bond issued through the Acworth Downtown Development Authority in May 2000. The bond was earmarked to get CableNet up and running, as well as provide operational support until the system turns a profit.

Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the city should be finished with a six-month financial report on CableNet by August. Of the original \$5.4 million bond, he said the system still has between \$2 million and \$3 million. "As we get more people, we need to use less of it," **Bulthuis** said. Original projections estimated CableNet would turn a profit if 36 percent of residents in the service area signed up.

Williams said the cable system has met or exceeded all financial projections and should be profitable before bond funds are used up. "We will be turning a profit well before that happens," he said. "The bond was designed to operate through the end of next year, and we are on schedule."

So far, recruiting new customers for the Acworth-based service has been confined to direct sales, with CableNet representatives going door to door. "Basically, that's all we are doing ... letting people know the difference between AT&T and CableNet," **Bulthuis** said.

Although AT&T Broadband advertises a wide variety of services, **Bulthuis** said they still do not offer extras like digital Internet and high-speed cable in the Acworth area. AT&T Broadband does not expect to offer either of these expanded services in northwest Cobb until summer 2002.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

According to **Bulthuis**, CableNet customer service is far superior than AT&T, with no excessively long hold times for customers calling for service.

With CableNet now accessible to most in the city, Williams said the city is moving to phase two of its marketing plans. "The next phase is moving into a mass marketing approach," he said, such as adding direct mailing and utility bill inserts to its advertising efforts.

Williams said he knows of about 16 other cities in Georgia that are contemplating some sort of municipal cable or high-speed Internet venture. The trend has caused the Georgia Municipal Association to create a new division dedicated to city-run cable systems. The division, of which Williams is on the board of directors, was created partly because the National Cable Television Association does not allow municipal systems into its membership.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
February 15, 2001

YOUR TOWN

Author: From staff and wire reports

ACWORTH: Decal? No thanks

City officials are less than thrilled with a new state law requiring city decals on government-issued cars. So the Board of Aldermen tonight is expected to take advantage of an option that allows local governments to exempt department heads, mayors and elected board members from the provision.

As City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** explains, sometimes it's helpful to drive incognito. He recently made a drive-by observation in his official car after receiving a complaint about contractors working on a job site. For obvious reasons, he said, it helps to not alert everyone in sight that the city is watching. "I want to do it anonymously," **Bulthuis** said.

The monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. today in the board room at City Hall, 4375 Senator Russell Square.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
January 26, 2001

Making service a priority: Officials review accomplishments, set goals at business luncheon

Author: Rachel D. Cooper

The city of Acworth is continuing to make "customer service" a priority in 2001, according to city manager **Brian Bulthuis**. At the Acworth Business Association luncheon Thursday, **Bulthuis** said serving residents better was one of the city's goals last year, and as part of the customer service priority, a new one-person department was created, the Management of Information Systems (MIS) department. The MIS department, headed by Keith Wilson, focuses on technology services for the city, such as telephone and computing services. The department has been in operation for one year.

Bulthuis' speech was made in place of Mayor Marcia Andruzzi's annual State of the City Address. Due to the death of a close friend, Ms. Andruzzi was unable to attend the luncheon and sent word with Mayor Pro-Tem Butch Price that she probably will deliver the address at a later date. The city is the largest employer with more than 100 employees and a yearly budget of \$6 million, according to **Bulthuis**. In the city's administration department, three new employees were hired, including a new city clerk, Kristi Lynch, and an assistant to the city manager, Brian Binzer.

The city's police department will focus on more "community policing" to make the area safer for its residents, according to **Bulthuis**. The department has 28 sworn officers to patrol the city. Video cameras also have been added to all of the patrol cars as well. The department also has hired Maj. Bobby Pearson as director of operations. In the public works department, the city upgraded equipment last year and recently bought a salt and snow spreader for the snow days. The power department, with a \$6.8 million budget, has more than 5400 customers, said **Bulthuis**. A \$1.3 million substation was built for the purpose of providing two feeds into the city. If the power goes out in one area, then it can be transferred from the other, said **Bulthuis**.

Other ways that the city is providing customer service for its residents are hiring new people to fill current positions and providing a new city-owned utility. Amy Lowry has been hired as the economic development director for the city. **Bulthuis** said her main priority is to attract and retain businesses so that Acworth can become a destination spot.

Sherry Levine has been named the new Downtown Development Authority director, filling the position that Lowry once filled. Levine will also work with Tourism Commission for the city, **Bulthuis** said. Michael Wyatt has been hired as a consultant for historic preservation. **Bulthuis** also updated the crowd on CableNET, the city's \$12.2 million project. He said that the purpose of the project was to help make Acworth a more progressive community. Mike Williams has been hired as the new general manager for the city-owned facility. When the plans for the project started almost two years ago, AT&T Broadband, formerly Media One, was not available to the community.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
December 22, 2000

Board of Aldermen OK budget for 2001

Author: Mike Sampogna

The Acworth Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the city's budget for the 2001 fiscal year. The budget passed 3-0, with Alderman Bill Park absent. Alderman Tim Richardson arrived at the meeting late, but not in time for the vote. The three votes in favor of the budget were the minimum necessary to pass an ordinance according to the city's charter. The Acworth charter also said the budget had to be passed by Jan. 1.

The budget anticipates general fund revenues of just under \$6.1 million dollars, with expected expenditures of \$6.17 million dollars. The amended budget for the 2000 fiscal year saw the city's general fund finish in the black with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$185,000.

"We did explore all the items in the budget in discussions during work sessions," Mayor Marcia Andruzzi said. "I feel comfortable with the budget. I feel it is reflective of all the interests of the city of Acworth."

City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said highlights of the budget included fully funded economic develop and management information systems directors. Also incorporated was a Geographic Information System mapping project for the entire city. "It will provide detailed overhead mapping," **Bulthuis** said. "It helps for planning, zoning, the public; it shows where everyone is located in relation to everyone else. It is also beneficial for police dispatch." The project, done in cooperation with Cobb County, will cost the city \$50,000.

After much discussion, the sanitation rate will remain at \$14 through 2001, though it will be revisited in the 2002 budget. "We decided to leave rates the same," **Bulthuis** said. "We transferred money from the general fund to make up the cost difference. We'll look at it again next year when we re-examine our recycling contract." The current recycling contract costs the city \$130,000 a year.

Acworth police are adding an additional patrol officer, as well as an additional patrol car.

Budget proposals also were completed for the power fund, 1 percent road tax fund, hotel/motel tax fund, the downtown development authority, the recreation impact fee fund, the water/sewer trust fund, historic commission fund, sanitation fund, capital improvements, CableNet and the Convention and Visitors bureau.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Tribune News, The (Cartersville, GA)
September 8, 2000

Acworth to fund CableNet

Acworth's venture into Internet service and cable TV will cost the city about \$8 million in addition to the \$6.7 million the city has already invested into the endeavor. The board of aldermen approved a bond resolution for \$5.4 million Thursday night. With interest, the city will spend \$8 million.

The city is still repaying its initial \$6.7 million bond issue for the project. According to City Manager **Brian Bulthuis**, the project, CableNet, was expanded to serve more customers.

The project was expanded in May after **Bulthuis** noticed that growth in Acworth was miscalculated. The project initially would have served 5,100 people. The expanded project will serve more than 8,000 customers, according to **Bulthuis**.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
August 10, 2000

Attorney general investigating Acworth open meeting compliance

Author: Lisa Borello

The state attorney general's office is investigating allegations city officials violated open meetings laws when they voted to rescind a request by a developer. Deputy counsel for the attorney general's office Daryl Robinson said the state is looking into two complaints filed last month by Acworth residents claiming the Board of Aldermen violated sunshine laws by discussing city business during a June conference in Savannah. No ruling on the matter has been handed down, Robinson said.

The complaints came after a motion to rescind a June 15 vote that denied a request by the Myrick Company to rezone 23.15 acres off Mars Hill and Orr roads for a 64-home subdivision. Mars Hill Road resident Vonda Benham filed a complaint July 21 with the state, alleging the city discussed the rescinding of the vote during a Georgia Municipal Association conference in June. "We feel that the city of Acworth should not be allowed to continue this type of arrogant disregard for the laws. Someone has to keep them accountable and responsible for correct procedures and abiding by the laws," Ms. Benham said. A similar complaint was issued by another Acworth resident, Robinson said.

According to Georgia law, a quorum of officials meeting to discuss public business must be properly posted and the public given adequate notification. The meeting is then open to the public.

Acworth city attorney Doug Haynie called the complaints against the city "without merit." In a letter dated Aug. 1, Haynie said interviews with all board members and City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** and Assistant City Manager Brian Binzer were conducted to determine if a meeting took place. The letter stated the review showed no wrongdoing by city officials and staff. "Each and every elected official stated that they did not engage in discussion of any official business of the city of Acworth during any of the gatherings mentioned in the complaining letter," Haynie wrote.

Robinson said the attorney general's office is reviewing Haynie's response to determine if it adequately satisfies open meetings requirements. If the board is found in violation of sunshine laws, it is unlikely the board will be chastised.

Despite complaints for open meetings violations each year, penalties -- which include a \$500 fine per offense under the law -- have not been imposed since the law expanded the power of the attorney general to enforce open meetings in July 1998.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Daily Tribune News, The (Cartersville, GA)
July 15, 2000

Another necessary evil?

It's a tax. It isn't a tax. It's a user fee. It's not a user fee. Whatever your perception of stormwater utilities are, they are growing in popularity in Georgia. And at this moment, Acworth has put the idea of stormwater utilities to sleep. "The council has been interested in it, but without a lot of education and more research into it, we're not doing anything with it," Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said. "We're looking at it periodically, but it's not a top priority."

Bulthuis said city officials have done studies on stormwater utilities based on whether the city needs them. "We've looked at it for the last two years," **Bulthuis** said. "We had some studies done and talked to consultants about that, but by doing that (implementing stormwater utilities), we found out very quickly without the proper education, it can be controversial."

And it's not a tax, according to **Bulthuis**. "Number one, it's a utility fee," **Bulthuis** said. "I think people understand when they get a garbage or water bill they have something tangible they see they're getting, but I think there has to be education for people to see they are paying to have stormwater taken away from them."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
April 25, 2000

Cobb cities scramble for HB 489 slice of \$6.3M pie

Author: Lisa Borello

House Bill 489 negotiations may be over, but some of Cobb's six cities are now scrambling to fatten their share of the \$6.3 million spoils from the county. Citing inaccuracies in the Atlanta Regional Commission's April 1999 population estimates, Marietta and Smyrna will likely increase their payouts from the county, which conceded to a \$6.3 million staggered payment plan to resolve tax equity and inadequate services issues. "We did not add anything to the estimate, but made sure the count was accurate," said Warren Hutmacher, Marietta's management analyst. According to Hutmacher, ARC miscounted 1,204 Marietta residents as residents of the county, he said. The "miscommunication" will translate to about \$19,000 more than the \$2.48 million the city originally agreed to, not including the more than \$60,000 the city will receive for its school patrol services, Hutmacher said.

Smyrna City Administrator Howard Smith said the city requested a corrected population estimate because ARC omitted several annexations from the 1999 figures. The difference amounts to about a one- or two-percent increase in funds dispersed from the county, Smith said. The city will now receive more than \$1.7 million from the county, which city officials will likely earmark for its downtown, Smith said. "The correct population count was more important than the actual dollar amount," he said.

But the dollars could matter to Cobb's smallest cities, which receive the smallest piece of the pie, which is determined by last year's population count. Kennesaw Mayor Leonard Church said the city will likely challenge its figures also to ensure the county's third largest city gets its "just due." But if all cities challenge their population, thus drawing funds from other cities agreed settlement, "someone's going to lose out on this somewhere," Church said.

Austell mayor Joe Jerkins said the city, which comprises less than 4 percent of the count's total population, will likely stick to the figures all mayors agreed on when the contract was signed earlier this year. Though Jerkins said he understands why cities are "trying to get what they are entitled to," the review of the estimates could delay the payment by the county. "They could lose more than they are getting out of it, just in interest alone," he said.

All cities must agree to the population and monetary allocations before the county delivers its first of three payments, according to Hutmacher. However, Acworth's city manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the population challenges won't delay the county's September 30 payment.

Acworth will also check its figures against ARC's, but doesn't expect the difference to be too significant, said **Bulthuis**. For now, the city is expected to receive upwards of \$500,000. A public hearing will be held May 15 to gather citizen input on how the money should be spent, he said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Daily Tribune News, The (Cartersville, GA)
February 1, 2000

Acworth to set new garbage rates

Trash service in Acworth is better than in many other cities in Bartow and Cobb counties, according to Acworth Alderman Doug Allen. So, at a Monday night work session, Allen proposed setting a rate of \$14 for all trash services the city provides. For the past month, Acworth citizens protested increased rates of trash service after City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said the city had to make up for a \$57,000 deficit in trash service from 1999.

Allen said even though trash service is superior to other cities, Acworth needs to stress the benefits of recycling. "If they're not recycling, we have to tell them how," Allen said. "We need to find out who isn't recycling."

Recycling was discussed for a while at the meeting. The board was in agreement that too many residents had not separated recyclable materials from their regular garbage. Allen said this would be a way to utilize the recycling service the city already pays for and keep the volume of garbage down.

Also discussed was a special rate for senior citizens. Alderman Tim Richardson said it wouldn't be fair to set a different rate for seniors. "I question having a special rate for a special group," Richardson said. "Conversely, we have young couples who are raising families who are in the same boat. We should set the rate as low as possible for everyone."

Aldermen Tommy Allegood and Albert Price agreed the rate should be as low as possible. Originally, **Bulthuis** proposed the city raise the residential rate from \$12 to \$16. To accommodate a \$2 increase, **Bulthuis** said the city would have to allocate monies from other funds to the sanitation department.

The board will vote on the proposed \$14 across-the-board rate at its meeting Thursday night.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
September 30, 1999

Officials still struggling to end double taxation tiff: County, cities may face sanctions if state's deadline not met today

Author: Megan Reisner

Despite a six-hour meeting Wednesday, Cobb County officials, with representatives from each of its six cities, continue struggling to end double taxation among city residents. City residents pay both county and city taxes for some services, such as police. Officials were supposed to have the issue resolved by today to meet the state's Oct. 31 deadline. The state needs 30 days in advance of the deadline to review the agreement, said Rob Hosack, Cobb's planning director. The county and cities face sanctions beginning Oct. 31, he said. Officials will meet again Oct. 15 to try and resolve the issue. Hosack did not know whether the state will impose sanctions if it does not have adequate time to review the material. City residents were overtaxed by \$2.8 million last year, according to a study conducted by Government Solutions Ltd., a consulting firm hired by Cobb County. But city officials argued Wednesday this figure is too low, calling the study one-sided.

A particularly sticky point is police. The study concluded city residents should continue paying taxes for Cobb's police department because of its presence in the cities. Twenty percent of the county's funding goes for countywide policing, according to the study. Cobb County police sometimes respond to calls in the cities and have many specialized units including a bomb squad, animal control, canine units, a shooting range and dive team.

Many of the cities do not have these services and rely on the county. "We respond any time, in any city, to a bomb call," Public Safety Director James Arrowood said. "There are a lot of things we provide to the cities. If they call us, we'll be there. This is not a money issue, it's a safety issue." But Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** pointed out city police also answer to calls outside their limits and said the costs should offset each other. He said Acworth police answer five times as many calls in unincorporated Cobb County as they do within the city.

Government Solutions Ltd. will study the issue further and make a new recommendation Oct. 15. Still, officials have made progress, having resolved 19 of 28 issues, including parks and recreation, according to Jacelyn Moore, a county employee who is drafting the agreement. Officials at Wednesday's meeting agreed to draft a 10-year countywide comprehensive plan of recreational needs. The plan will be complete Dec. 1, 2000. Acworth Mayor Marcia Andruzzi pushed for more immediate funding, saying the city is desperate for more ball fields. "We need some assistance now," she said. "I think it's way overdue in our area." The county is overburdened by its recreational needs, Cobb County Manager David Hankerson said. "None of us are meeting the recreational needs of the county and they're running away from us," Hankerson said. "We don't have anything to give up. We can't meet our needs now."

The outstanding issues are: courts, economic development, jails, libraries, police, senior services, street maintenance and water distribution

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Tribune News, The (Cartersville, GA)
December 19, 1998

Acworth approves budget of \$4.4 million

More police cars, more jailers and continuing improving the looks of Acworth are slated for funding in Acworth's 1999 budget. The Acworth Mayor and Board of Alderman approved the \$4.4 million budget at its Thursday night meeting after several weeks of discussion.

The city anticipates receiving more money from taxes, permits and police fines. But it also projects receiving less funds in 1999 than in 1998 from hotel/motel tax, business licenses and water/sewer interest income. Overall, its revenues are expected to climb 13 percent above the projected revenue for 1998, from \$3.9 million to \$4.4 million.

The city expects to collect about \$4,400 more in revenue than it plans to spend. City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** said that surplus will be added to the city's beginning fund balance, \$1.27 million.

With the approved budget, the city has earmarked funds to buy four more patrol cars, add a computer system for the police department and increase the pay of its officers. A full-time and part-time person will be added to the dispatch staff.

Two more jailers are also budgeted to add to the staff of five jailers. In January, Acworth plans to open a new jail, which will increase their jail space from five inmates to 42 inmates.

The approved budget also allots \$20,000 for the city's newly initiated facade grant program. So far, two business have used the program and the board of alderman approved five more at its meeting. The program reimburses business for up to \$2,000 for approved expenses to improve the looks of their exteriors.

Acworth's 1999 budget year starts January 1, 1999.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
December 11, 1998

Acworth fires two officers for alleged beating of prisoner

Author: Gary A. Witte

Two Acworth police officers have been fired in the wake of allegations they used excessive force in arresting a Marietta man. On Tuesday, Acworth City Manager **Brian Bulthuis** turned down appeals by Sgt. Mark Dykes and Officer David Grimes to get their positions reinstated.

Acworth Police Chief Randy Henson said he fired the two men in October for "violation of department policies and procedures" related to the arrest of 39-year-old Terry Kenneth Strain. A GBI investigation into the case is ongoing as both city officials and Strain's attorney anticipate a lawsuit will be filed over the accusations the two officers physically abused Strain during the Sept. 22 arrest. Neither **Bulthuis** nor Henson would comment on Strain's allegations or discuss specifics. "If I could tell you all the details, things might sound different, but I can't," Henson said.

Dykes, an eight-year veteran of the department, and Grimes, who was with the department two years, could not be reached for comment Thursday afternoon. The incident happened when officers responded to a 911 hang-up on Academy Street and found Strain lying on the living room floor of his estranged wife's home, according to the police report. Strain, who had been fighting with his wife, was belligerent and appeared intoxicated, cursing at officers and telling them to put handcuffs on him, the report said. Officer Scott Lacy, who also responded to the call, said in his report that as Grimes was walking Strain to the patrol car they struggled all the way to the vehicle. Grimes and Strain fought again as he was taken out of the car and placed in jail, according to the report. Staples said his client maintains he was pulled off the porch of the house, thrown to the ground three times and punched in the face when he was arrested. Then Grimes subjected him to a "screen test" by speeding up the patrol car and hitting the breaks, causing Strain to slam into the wire partition, according to his client. Strain, who said his shoulder was injured, maintained his face was slammed into a wall and officers initially would not take him for medical treatment, Staples said. The force in the arrest "certainly looks like it was more than what was necessary to take him into custody," Strain's attorney said.

According to the police report, Strain demanded to be taken to the hospital for an asthma attack after refusing treatment from an ambulance crew. He continued his belligerence while he was being treated at the hospital, the report states. Strain was charged with possession of marijuana, two counts of disorderly conduct and use of profane and vulgar language, police said. The charges are still pending in Cobb State Court. The wife also was arrested when a suspected marijuana cigarette was found in the house, police said. Both Strain and she blamed each other for the cigarette, according to the police report. The department conducted an internal investigation into the allegations. Strain's attorneys sent a claim of damages to the City Council that was rejected last month. The claim is typically the first step before filing suit, Staples said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Flint Journal, The (MI)
August 6, 1996

CITY MANAGER TAKES NEW JOB

Author: Metro Report

City Manager **Brian M. Bulthuis** resigned Monday, a decision that he said was hard to make and council members said was hard to accept. **Bulthuis**, who has been city manager for almost six years, has accepted the city manager job in Ackworth, Ga.

"I don't want him to go," said Mayor Pro-tem Gayle Reed.

"**Brian** has done a lot for this city," added Mayor Robert D. Slattery Jr. "He's moved us in a positive direction."

Council members said **Bulthuis'** accomplishments included his work on the city budget and bringing new development downtown.

Bulthuis, who did not say when his last day will be, said he will help the city find another manager. "I think we've accomplished a lot here, and personally, I feel I need some new challenges," he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Brian Martin Bulthuis** is listed below.]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)
August 3, 1996

PUBLIC AGENDA - WHAT METRO GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING - Poll shows close Senate race

ACWORTH GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER: Acworth has filled three City Hall vacancies, two created by the continuing struggle between the mayor and a majority of the Board of Aldermen.

On Thursday, the board voted to hire **Brian Bulthuis** as city manager, Doug Haynie as city attorney and Robyn Rogers as downtown development director.

Bulthuis, currently a city manager in Mount Morris, Mich., will begin work in September and earn \$48,000.

Haynie is city attorney for Marietta. Within the last year, two city managers and the city attorney have quit over conflicts with the Board of Aldermen, said Mayor Bob Gibson.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Flint Journal, The (MI)
May 24, 1995

CITY MAY MAKE PARENTS PAY FOR KIDS' OFFENSES

Author: Michelle Webster

Children in the city who participate in anything illegal could get their parents in quite a bit of trouble - at least financially. The City Council recently proposed an ordinance that would hold parents responsible for any misdemeanors by their sons or daughters ages 16 or younger. The police department would be able to issue a \$50 fine to parents for the first offense, and the penalty could rise as high as \$500 for parents of repeat offenders. Charges could include rock throwing, property destruction, driving with an open alcohol container and curfew violation. "What we're trying to do is to use the ordinance as a positive tool as well as a deterrence," said Police Chief Frederick Thorsby. "We're telling parents: 'You are going to take responsibility for your children.' But, on the other hand, we're also trying to save kids who might be on the borderline of going down the wrong path." The ordinance was presented at last Monday's City Council meeting, but it was tabled before it received a first reading. "Though it's not required, we wanted to have a public hearing so that we could have some input from the community," said Mayor Robert D. Slattery Jr. A public hearing has been scheduled for the June 12 council meeting to allow residents to voice their opinion about the ordinance.

"It's not that kids are doing anything bad, more than ever," said City Manager **Brian M. Bulthuis**. "We're simply concentrating on deterring kids in a time when things are consistently happening. We realize that only a small percent of kids actually cause problems. We also know that most parents are taking the attitude that they are responsible for their kids."

Mt. Morris would issue citations to parents only for civil infractions, unlike Flint, which has a similar ordinance that places a permanent mark on the teens' record as well as the parents. The Flint ordinance requires that if a resident's child commits a delinquent act, the parent will be guilty for that act if it is proven that the parent did not exercise responsibility, encouraged the act or allowed it to occur. If the parent is found guilty, he or she could be ordered to serve 16 hours of community service, fined up to \$500 and sentenced up to 90 days in jail.

In Mt. Morris, a citation would be issued to the minor and parent, but no court records would be involved. "We know that the criminal courts are so bogged down, that it wouldn't be as effective. We wanted something simple where we could get results right away," said Thorsby. "Also, we didn't want them to have the stigma of a permanent criminal mark on their record." Some Mt. Morris residents responded to the ordinance at a community meeting Tuesday night. "I see the ordinance as a kind of wake-up call," said Lori Schulz, the mother of three teen-agers. "If you have a problem with the same kid over and over again, what else can you do? Maybe if you hit the parents in the pocket, they'll prefer to spend money on the supervision of their kids instead of on tickets. The ordinance also will be discussed at 7 p.m. today, May 30 and June 6 during neighborhood meetings in the community room of the public library, 685 Van Buren St.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Flint Journal, The (MI)
April 13, 1995

VOLUNTEERS WORK SO KIDS CAN PLAY

Author: Michelle Webster

Instead of pounding pen to paper, some city workers soon will be pounding nails to wood in a community effort to complete the new Kids Kingdom playground. The \$85,000 playground is similar to one built last September in Flushing's Riverview Park.

Mt. Morris received a \$42,000 matching grant fund from the state Department of Natural Resources and has raised about \$37,000 through donations and fund-raising since late 1992. Now it is seeking volunteers to work for a few hours April 25-30 to help construct the playground. Among those answering the call: City employees.

"We believe it's a really positive project for the community," said City Administrator **Brian Bulthuis**. "Our offices will still be open but employees will be able to go down to the playground site and donate a few hours each day."

The city's contribution of volunteer workers will help but organizers say they're still shy of the 1,200 volunteers needed to complete the project. "We have about 500 or 600 people who are planning to volunteer throughout the five days, but we could still use another 600," said Mary Swedorski, coordinator for the Kids Kingdom committee.

Three meals a day and child care will be provided for volunteers. "We need people to volunteer for the child care committee and to help with building; skills or no skills, we can use every hand we can get," said Swedorski. Each day will be filled with festivities for kids and adults, including a visit April 29 from the original Ronald McDonald and a semi-petting zoo with llamas on the playground site in the Mt. Morris Community Park.

"It would help a lot if each person could bring their own hammer and saw," said Stephen Lee, public relations coordinator for Kids Kingdom. Also needed are wheelbarrows, paintbrushes, nail aprons and rakes for the duration of the construction. "What we need most of all right now, besides volunteers, are compound miter saws and Bob Cats to help us with the building," added Swedorski. "We could also use a hotel room for our engineers. Ramada donated four days but we need a total of seven."

On site also will be a first-aid crew and an ambulance in case of any emergencies. "We have everything very organized so that those too young are only helping in certain areas and only those over 18 will be able to operate power tools," said Swedorski.

The actual construction will cap off months of fund-raising, which included Mt. Morris elementary school principals promising to stay on their school building roofs for a day if students in their school raised \$300. "We raised most of the money through grass-root fund-raising," said

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Brian Martin Bulthuis**

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Swedorski. "Candy bar sales, pop can drives, swim parties at the high school; the community was very involved in helping to get this far." Swedorski said she has no doubt they will reach the \$42,500 goal. The committee also is focusing on a \$10,000 maintenance fund for the upkeep of the playground.

"We've had a lot of support from the community and many of the businesses," Lee said. "Some have helped with food and others donations. "Our biggest concern now is simply to get enough volunteers to finish up what we've started."

Some of the highlights of the 12,000-square-foot playground include a haunted house, a castle maze, twirly slide and a telephone system that kids will be able to use to speak to one another from each end of the playground.

Those wanting to volunteer their time or tools can contact Swedorski at 686-3543.

Research Compiled by: Shannon Farr
 Colin Baenziger & Associates