



November 12, 2019

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

James Hotopp appointed by City Council to be new city manager

WEATHERFORD (CITY OF WEATHERFORD), Texas - Deputy City Manager James Hotopp has been named city manager for the City of Weatherford, effective December 14. The decision comes after current City Manager Sharon Hayes announced her forthcoming retirement earlier this year.

Mr. Hotopp has been with the City of Weatherford since January 2007 starting as a civil engineer. He has held the positions of director of water utilities, assistant city manager and, most recently, deputy city manager. Before joining the City of Weatherford, Hotopp worked in the private sector as an associate engineer and project manager/engineer.

“City Council developed a process seeking information from a wide cross section of community stakeholders, business leaders, City of Weatherford employees and City Council members,” said Mayor Paul Paschall. “This survey provided a very unified, clear direction on how City Council would proceed in selecting the next city manager for Weatherford. It was evident that an internal search was most appropriate based on the community survey and direction from external experts.”

In the final analysis, it was determined that Mr. Hotopp not only met all the criteria but held the advantage of being able to keep City operations moving with no learning curve.

“We looked for technical expertise and grounded experience in local government, especially in high growth areas,” said Mayor Pro-Tem Heidi Wilder. “During the past few years the City has established a strong financial position and is in a great situation to manage growth. Weatherford needs a city manager that understands its past and present while embracing the future. Mr. Hotopp has all of the characteristics, experience and knowledge to keep Weatherford moving in the right direction.”

Mr. Hotopp holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. He has been responsible for overseeing numerous areas for the City of Weatherford including, Parks and Recreation, Water, Electric, Transportation and Public Works, Economic Development, Planning, Code Enforcement, and Engineering. Mr. Hotopp has also served as the City’s liaison with the Municipal Utility Board and City Council.

“James Hotopp is a highly qualified, results based, driven leader that embraces the mentality of a customer service model of operation,” said Mayor Paul Paschall. “The level of integrity, structure



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and pursuit of excellence that he possesses, makes him the obvious choice to help lead the City of Weatherford into the future. His education, temperament, respect from employees and the community were key in our decision-making process. The Hotopp family has shown that they embrace our area and are committed to more than this just being a professional stepping stone, but rather a long-term commitment to our community.”

“Serving Weatherford as the next city manager is an honor and privilege,” said James Hotopp. “I am extremely excited to partner with our citizens, dedicated employees and elected officials as we continue to make Weatherford a great place to live, work and play. I look forward to building partnerships and creating more conversation with our citizens to make Weatherford the strongest community in Texas.”

Hotopp assumes the role of city manager December 14. For news inquiries, please contact Director of Communications and Marketing Blake Rexroat at 817-598-4209 or brexroat@weatherfordtx.gov.

Editor’s note: A high-res image of James Hotopp is attached.

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