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City Council appoints Keith C. Rogers Jr. as city manager

Rocky Mount, North Carolina – Rocky Mount City Council members voted unanimously Monday night to appoint Keith C. Rogers Jr. as city manager.

Rogers is currently the town manager of Dumfries, Virginia. He has been responsible for the leadership and management of daily operations of the town's government since 2019. Dumfries has 30+ employees who serve the town's nearly 6,000 residents.

Among his many accomplishments in Dumfries, Rogers successfully led Town Council and staff through a municipal bond refunding process, resulting in a savings of more than \$640,000.

Rogers previously spent a decade working for the city of Richmond, Virginia, holding various executive roles that included chief of staff and chief administrative officer.

"I am excited to join the Rocky Mount community," Rogers said. "I thank the Mayor and City Council and I look forward to working with City staff to ensure that we serve this community with excellence."

Rogers' start date as Rocky Mount's city manager has yet to be determined. His annual salary will be \$225,000.

He will replace Peter Varney, who has served as interim city manager since former Rocky Mount City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney announced her retirement in January.

The City Council hired POLIHIRE in April to conduct a national search for a new city manager. POLIHIRE is a Washington, D.C., firm with more than 15 years of executive search and leadership development experience.

Council members conducted virtual interviews with five candidates. They interviewed Rogers in person last month.

“Keith Rogers brings a depth of experience to this role,” said Mayor Sandy Roberson. “After an exhaustive national search by POLIHIRE and an extensive vetting locally, I am confident he will excel in this role.”

Rogers has a Master’s degree in public administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a member of the International City Managers Association and the Virginia Local Government Management Association. He is a past adjunct professor in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at VCU.

About Rocky Mount

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. The city was recognized as one of 10 winners nationwide of the 2020-21 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 54,000 residents daily.

The city’s mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit www.rockymountnc.gov for news and updates.

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