

JONATHAN "FOX" SIMONS, JR.

PERSONAL

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration - 1995
The American University, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts - 1993
High Point University, High Point, North Carolina

SUMMARY OF RELATED EXPERIENCE

2015 - Present	<u>CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA</u> Population 33,900
2019 - Present	Deputy City Manager
2015 - 2019	Assistant City Manager
2006 - 2015	<u>CITY OF EASLEY, SOUTH CAROLINA</u> Population 21,240
	City Administrator
2001 - 2006	<u>CITY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA</u> Population 56,000
2005 - 2006	Interim Director, Office of Management and Budget
2005	Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget
2004 - 2005	Interim Finance Director
2001 - 2004	Budget Administrator
1998 - 2001	<u>PRIVATE SECTOR</u> Syracuse, New York
	Manager
1996 - 1998	<u>MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND</u> Population 873,000
	Office of Management and Budget
1995 - 1996	<u>INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY</u> <u>MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION</u> Washington, DC
	Researcher

Jonathan "Fox" Simons, Jr.

August 16, 2020

Robert E. Slavin
Slavin Management Consultants
3040 Holcomb Bridge Road #A-1
Norcross, GA 30071

City of Myrtle Beach – City Manager Recruitment

Dear Mr. Slavin:

Thank you for taking the time to review my credentials for the Myrtle Beach City Manager position.

As you're aware, I have had the opportunity to serve the City of Myrtle Beach for the last five plus years. It has been a wonderful experience and honor, both professionally and personally for me. The City has a great group of dedicated professionals committed to public service. While my tenure in Myrtle Beach has been incredibly fulfilling, I firmly believe the best is yet to come for the City, and I am very excited to see what the future holds. It would be an honor to be a part of the team that helps bring this community to the next level as its next City Manager.

Arguably, the most exciting project we've undertaken in the last five years has been the City Council led initiative to redevelop our downtown. Every strong and successful city has a vibrant and robust downtown, and City Council not only made the decision to redevelop downtown, but has boldly taken the first steps to implement and begin the redevelopment process. In order to maintain this progress and keep the momentum, I believe the next City Manager needs to be familiar with the projects that are underway. To this end, I am actively involved and engaged in the implementation of the Downtown Master Plan/Implementation Team.

Furthermore, I believe my previous Economic Development experiences in Greenville and Easley can be beneficial to the City as we progress with our redevelopment strategy. While in Greenville, I was the lead financial/budget member of the team who helped successfully transform Greenville's WestEnd from a forgotten part of the City into a lively destination area. Together we financed infrastructure and streetscape improvements to support a privately financed baseball stadium, the City financed a large public garden and park that is recognized in many leading trade and travel magazines, and we worked together in developing a portion of the river front into a major commercial, retail, and residential anchor for the city. Furthermore, I was also part of the team that first acquired the TD Convention Center (then known as the Palmetto Expo Center and Textile Hall) that was close to insolvency and then financed the subsequent capital improvements to modernize the facility.

There was an equally important Economic Development project in Easley, The Easley Town Center, a \$100-million-dollar retail center that I played a major role in. This project was a public-private partnership, and I was the lead for the City in negotiating the development agreement between the city and the developer, in which we were able to include a payment guarantee from the developer as insurance.

While it is true that every strong city has a strong downtown, it is equally true that the heartbeat of a community is its neighborhoods. Therefore, besides the redevelopment of downtown, an equally exciting initiative is City Council's decision to implement the Quality of Life Court. The ability to efficiently and effectively abate public nuisances is critically important to the quality of life of our neighbors, both residential and commercial. Not only does an effective and efficient nuisance management program help ensure public health, safety and welfare of our neighborhoods and our business districts, but it also fosters economic development, helps to deter crime, increase

property values, and will be a positive influence on tourism. Taken together, these factors will strengthen our neighborhoods and commercial districts and improve our appearance. I am very proud of City Council's willingness to establish this Court and undertake this initiative, and I am equally as proud to have played a significant role in the Court's establishment.

Another initiative that I feel is very important to our community and neighborhoods is the recent Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, City Council initiated for the Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism Department. It had been almost twenty years since our last strategic plan. A lot has changed since then. For example, for the last three to four years, our area has been ranked as the second fastest growing MSA in the Country. In 2010 the City's population was 27,100, in 2018 the Census Bureau estimated our population to be 33,900, a 25% increase. Since 2018, the City has issued over 1,000 new single family home permits. By the time the 2020 Census is released it is entirely realistic to expect to see a 30% increase in the City's population over the last 10 years. This type of growth is placing a significant demand for recreation, and the need for open space in our community and we need to be able to meet that demand for our citizens.

In addition to quality of life, another area high on City Council's list of priorities is Public Safety. City Council has made a significant investment in the Police Department over the last five years, both in terms of personnel and equipment, specifically technology. With the continued year over year double-digit reduction in Part 1 crimes, the results speak for themselves. To maintain this energy and momentum, I think it is important the next City Manager understand this priority. Having been a part of this initiative for the last five plus years, I fully understand and appreciate the importance of this policy in our community.

While I have briefly touched on three important areas (Economic Development, Quality of Life, and Police), there are other areas of opportunity before us, as we look to the future. Probably one of the biggest opportunities we have before us, is the chance to focus on the service needs of the organization. Due to the significant growth in population, a lot of opportunity awaits us, to meet the demands both in our daily operations as well as capital and infrastructure demands. Having the familiarity of the organization and what the community's expectations are, I feel I am well positioned to lead and manage this initiative into the foreseeable future.

In closing, I believe with my familiarity and knowledge of the organization and community, coupled with my previous experiences in Easley and Greenville, I am the most qualified to be the next City Manager of Myrtle Beach. If you would like to speak to me further please feel free to call me at (843) 685-1972, or I can be reached via email at jfsimons71@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jonathan "Fox" Simons, Jr.

Enclosure: resume, references

Jonathan "Fox" Simons, Jr., ICMA-CM

Myrtle Beach, SC 29677

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Myrtle Beach, SC (February, 2015 – present)

Deputy City Manager (July 2019 – present)

- Serve as Chief Operating Officer of the organization;
- Assist with the administration, development, and implementation of a \$193.8-million-dollar budget, including a \$84.1 million General Fund budget and 977-employee organization;
- Direct and indirect responsibility of over 80% of the organizations resources. Including direct oversight of the Assistant City Manager (who is responsible for Construction Services, Public Works, Neighborhood Services, Capital Projects, City Clerk, Construction Services, Parks, Recreation (including Library) and Sports Tourism, and Research & Development Analyst), Convention Center, Police, and Fire Departments.
- Acting City Manager in the Manager's absence;

Key Accomplishments and Initiatives

- A team leader on the City's Downtown Master Plan/Implementation Team;
- Serve as the leader for the establishment of a Quality of Life Court to help address public nuisances in the downtown and throughout the City;
- Led the reorganization of the Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism disciplines into one department for organizational efficiencies;
- Serves as a member of the City's state lobbying team
- Team member on the City's homelessness and opioid initiatives;
- Key member of the City's initiative to become a 'Smart City';
- Led the consolidation and reorganization of Fleet Management for efficiency purposes;
- Spearheading the City's effort to modernize the City's minor-league baseball stadium & serve as principal contact for lease negotiations with minor league baseball team;
- Initiated a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan to develop recommendations that will guide the delivery of Parks and Recreation Services for the next several years;

Assistant City Manager (February, 2015 – June, 2019)

- Assisted with the administration, development, and implementation of the City's budget;
- Team leader for the City's two Opportunity Zones;
- Direct oversight of six functional areas (City Clerk, Convention Center, Human Resources, Recreation (including Library), and Sports Tourism);
- Acting City Manager in the Manager's absence;

Key Accomplishments and Initiatives

- Collaborated with local Boys and Girls Club on developing a new facility;
- Facilitated the conversion of 30-year-old water meters to new state of the art meter technology;
- Directed the partnership between the Technology Advisory Group and HTC for naming rights for the eMYRge technology center;
- Led the transition of concession services from a private provider to an in-house operation;

City Administrator, City of Easley, SC (October, 2006 – February, 2015)

- Chief public policy advisor to seven-member City Council;

- Responsible for the development, administration, and implementation of a \$16.6 million dollar budget, including \$12.7 million dollar General Fund budget;
- Direct oversight of seven departments and 171 full and part-time employees;
- Responsible for directing, supervising, and coordinating all administrative activities and operations of the City;
- Directly responsible for all financial aspects of City operations including budgeting, fiscal planning functions, business licenses administration, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable and auditing;
- Served as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Procurement Officer, Human Resource Director, and Risk Manager;

Key Accomplishments and Initiatives

- Negotiated development agreement with private developer for a \$100.0 million dollar Retail Destination Center;
- Led City through the acquisition and conversion of an 8.5 mile abandoned railroad to a community trail for biking, walking, and jogging;
- Implemented City's bicycle/pedestrian friendly initiative by installing bike lanes and sidewalks throughout City;
- Completed modernization and expansion of the City's information technology functions including updating hardware and software enterprise applications;
- Led City through economic recession without layoffs or furloughs;
- Created a "Partners in Pride" partnership with local businesses and civic organizations to beautify areas in the City;
- Implemented an employee wellness program, including a Nurse Practitioner, which allowed employees to lower their health insurance premiums and the City to lower its annual health insurance renewal rates;
- Initiated a Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update the City's parks with fresh amenities and features, including the City's first dog park;
- Launched the City's semi-annual community magazine to enhance communication engagement;
- Started a community garden within the city to provide fresh vegetables and produce to citizens in low income neighborhoods;

City of Greenville, SC (July, 2001 – September, 2006)

Interim Director, Office of Management and Budget, (November 2005 – September 2006)

- Chief Financial Officer of the City; responsibilities included oversight of a \$100 million operating budget as well as a \$150 million Capital Improvement Program, including a \$30 million Capital Budget;
- Supervised and managed 30+ staff with direct responsibility for accounting, business license administration, purchasing, budget, GIS, MIS, risk management, and internal audit functions;
- Conducted fiscal analyses on all bond issues;
- Coordinated and presented City financial outlook to Wall Street rating agencies as well as community groups
- Analyzed and projected financial trends relevant to public policy development;

Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget, (May 2005 – November 2005)

- Assisted in the overall administration and management of a 30+ person municipal budget and finance department;
- Direct supervision over a staff of 16 with direct responsibility for accounting, business license administration, budget, and internal audit administration;
- Insured coordination and consistency of departmental programs and initiatives;
- Synchronized staff efforts and oversaw analysis of significant policy issues;

Interim Finance Director, (October 2004 – May 2005)

- Managed 19 person municipal Finance department including accounting, budget, internal audit, purchasing, and risk management operations;
- Coordinated and conducted fiscal analysis of a \$30.7 million Parking Revenue Bond refunding issue;
- Led the development and coordination of a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program;
- Analyzed financial trends and prepared financial forecasts relevant to public policy decisions;

Budget Administrator, (July 2001 – October 2004)

- Responsible for the development, administration, and implementation of a \$101 million annual operating budget, including a \$55 million General Fund operating budget;
- Directed/managed \$160 million five-year Capital Improvement Program, including a \$28 million Capital Budget;
- Researched and prepared special fiscal reports addressing significant policy issues;
- Performed fiscal analyses of departmental expenditure and revenue trends;
- Monitored compliance with City Council mandated fiscal policies;
- Provided oral and written presentations of fiscal matters to staff, elected and appointed officials, and the public;

T.V. Guilfoil & Associates, Inc., Syracuse, New York (July 1998 – June 2001)

- Managed consumer accounts including supply vendor coordination;
- Provided customer based sales forecasting and merchandising targets;

Office of Management and Budget; Montgomery County, Maryland (September 1996-June 1998)

- Analyzed and monitored a \$650 million bi-County water/sewer CIP and a \$150 million Capital budget;
- Provided fiscal oversight of a \$37 million fleet management budget;
- Monitored a \$180 million Solid Waste CIP;
- Researched and maintained demographic data for fiscal projections;
- Coordinated and provided administrative oversight of 25 public service programs with a combined budget of \$32 million;
- Represented and supported agency budgetary recommendations to elected and appointed officials;

International City/County Management Association; Washington, DC (1995-1996)

- Researched issues of privatization and other alternative forms of service delivery;
- Conducted specialized research for municipal officials (United States and International);
- Researched and published a MIS Report on the restructuring of Parks and Recreation Departments;

EDUCATION

- The American University, Washington, DC; Master of Public Administration* **May 1995**
High Point University, High Point, North Carolina; Bachelor of Arts **May 1993**

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

- South Carolina City/County Management Association – Executive Committee (2015-2020; President (2018-2019)
- Founder – Local Government Leadership Institute of South Carolina
- International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
- South Carolina Economic Developers' Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Myrtle Beach Rotary Club – Paul Harris Fellow
- New Direction of Horry County (Homeless shelter organization) – Ex-Officio
- Leadership Grand Strand – Class of 2017
- Pickens County YMCA Board of Directors – Executive Committee Member
- Leadership Pickens County – Board of Regents
- Junior Leadership Pickens County – Board of Regents – Program Founding Committee
- Leadership South Carolina – Class of 2012
- Leadership Pickens County – Class of 2011
- Big League Baseball World Series Steering Committee
- Board of Directors - Easley Chamber of Commerce
- Board of Directors - Pickens County Chapter of American Red Cross
- Easley Rotary Club
- Advisory Committee – Tri-County Technical College – Easley Campus

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

CITY MANAGER

SEMI FINALIST CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Fox Simons

1. Why are you interested in becoming Myrtle Beach's next City Manager and how does this job fit your overall career goals?

- If given the opportunity to be Myrtle Beach's next City Manager, it would be the most significant achievement of my career up to this point. Without question, Myrtle Beach is the preeminent leader in local government within South Carolina and it would be the ultimate honor to be her next City Manager.

At this point in my life I can certainly see myself ending my career in Myrtle Beach. My family and I have come to love Myrtle Beach, and over the last five plus, almost six, years we've fully immersed ourselves into the fabric of this community. We live in Market Common, we belong to local civic organizations (Rotary Club of Myrtle Beach), we attend church at St. Andrews, our children attend Horry County schools, and my wife is employed with the school system. There isn't another City in this State that we'd rather live and raise our family in than Myrtle Beach.

2. What is the largest number of employees you have managed and where? Explain any inordinately high or low staffing level relative to population such as operating an airport or a utility.

- As the Deputy City Manager for the City of Myrtle Beach, SC, I have direct supervisory and leadership responsibilities over the Police Department (338 FTE's), the Myrtle Beach Fire Department (including Emergency Management) (172 FTE's), the Myrtle Beach Convention Center (43 FTE's), and the Assistant City Manager.

The Assistant City Manager's portfolio of responsibilities include, Public Works (151 FTE's), Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism (135 FTE's), Construction Services (20 FTE's), Capital Projects (10 FTE's), Neighborhood Services (3.5 FTE's), City Clerk (2 FTE's), and Research and Development (1 FTE),

In total, I have direct and indirect (via the Assistant City Manager) supervisory and leadership responsibilities for over 850 FTE's, over 80% of the City's total FTE count of 977.

In addition, I function as the Chief Operating Officer of the organization and serve as the City Manager in his absence. When serving in the Manager's absence I have direct oversight and leadership over all 977 FTE's.

3. What are the largest operating and capital budgets you have managed and where? Explain any inordinately high or low amounts relative to population such as enterprise operations.

- I've been responsible for large budgets (both operating and capital) throughout my career. In Myrtle Beach, I assist in the development, management, and administration of the City's \$193.8 million dollar operating and capital budget, including a \$84.1 General Fund budget.

During my time in Greenville's Office of Management and Budget I was responsible for the development, administration and implementation of a \$100 million dollar operating budget, and a \$150-million-dollar Capital Improvement Program, including a \$30-million-dollar Capital Budget.

Earlier in my career, I worked in the Montgomery County, MD Office of Management and Budget. In this capacity I analyzed, monitored, and administered a \$650 million dollar bi-County water and sewer Capital Improvement Program, including a \$150 million dollar Capital Budget.

I'm very comfortable working with large budgets.

4. Do you hold any professional certifications such as ICMA - Credentialed Manager?

- I have been an ICMA-CM (Credentialed Manager) since 2012.

In addition, I was President of the South Carolina City County Manager's Association from June, 2018 – June, 2019. I've been an active member of this organization since 2006, and a member of the Executive Committee from 2013-2020.

5. Describe your experience in developing revenue and expenditure options to enhance a city's financial condition. What is your jurisdiction's bond rating? Has it changes during your tenure?

- As I discussed earlier in question #3, I have extensive budgeting experience. As such, I'm very familiar with budget forecasting. Having spent most of my career in South Carolina, I am also very cognizant of the challenges the State of South Carolina imposes on local governments and how these challenges affect local finances, both short and long term.

Currently the City of Myrtle Beach's debt rating is:

- Moody's = Aa2 (Gen. Fund bonds); Aa3 (water and sewer bonds)
- S&P = AA (Gen. Fund bonds); AA- (water and sewer bonds)

On May 21, 2020 Moody's downgraded the City's Hospitality Fee debt to A3, stating, "acute declines in travel and business restrictions have caused pledged revenues to

significantly decline, and prolonged declines would likely require the city to step in and cover any shortfalls in pledged hospitality fees given the lack of a debt service reserve requirement."

If I am selected as the next City Manager for the City of Myrtle Beach, one policy I will support is the establishment of a debt service reserve for Hospitality Tax backed bonds and/or a fund balance policy for the Hospitality Tax fund. Such policies will help mitigate these type of actions by the rating agencies. We'll also explore similar policies in other funds (i.e., Local Accommodations Fee, Market Common TIF, etc).

Moody's also affirmed the City's A2 rating for Tax Increment Bonds and maintained the stable outlook status of that debt.

In 2016 S&P improved the Tax Increment Bonds from no rating to A, and Moody's raised the rating from no rating to A2.

During my time in Greenville, the City's bond rating was:

- o Fitch = AA+
- o Moody's = Aa2
- o S&P = AA+

Maintaining these ratings requires regular communication with the rating agencies and their staffs. I am experienced in these type of discussions and I have even traveled to New York City to make presentations before the rating agencies.

The City of Easley did not have any publicly traded debt. During my time in Easley, all the debt in the city's debt portfolio was privately placed which does not require a bond rating.

6. An important goal of the City of Myrtle Beach is to increase opportunities such as sports tourism that expand the tourism season and economic development directed at retention and attraction of businesses conducive to improving and maintaining the community's unique quality of life. Describe any experience you have which substantiates your ability to assist the community in reaching this goal.

- I am very familiar with Sports Tourism and its economic impact on the City's economy. In 2019 the Sports Tourism impact on the greater Myrtle Beach economy was \$144.4 million dollars.

One initiative we introduced to increase the impact of Sports Tourism in the community was the establishment of a Sports Tourism Task Force Committee. Through leading this Committee, we've been able to bring new events to the market that otherwise would not have materialized.

The composition of the Task Force includes City Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism staff, Chamber of Commerce staff, staff from the Myrtle Beach Sports Center, and a couple of members from the lodging industry.

Another proposal the Task Force developed to help increase the market share was to request Accommodations Tax revenue for specifically attracting new events to the market. Through this dedicated revenue stream, we have successfully attracted several new events to the market during soft periods on the calendar. One example is the 2020 Winter Shine youth football event. This event is expected to bring up to 72 teams (approx..20 kids per team), plus family members, to market between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Another plan we are working on is a Sports Tourism summit in early 2021. During this summit, event owners and event promoters will come and be introduced or re-introduced to the market. This is a great opportunity for us to expose Myrtle Beach and our Sport Tourism assets to new event owners and promoters.

7. A substantial portion of the community's workforce lives inland and/or outside of the City's boundaries but are essential to the viability of the City, creating a need to partner with the development community to spur and provide workforce housing. Any experience or creative thoughts?

- Workforce housing is an important initiative, and like all successful projects, is going to take a team effort to be successful. The development community, city departments, local housing agencies, the local real estate industry, and the neighborhoods all need to work together if we are going to make an impact on this initiative.

In my view, a key in this initiative is establishing a strong relationship with the local and national banking community. Banks have a tremendous amount of capital and we need to leverage the Community Reinvestment requirements placed on banks and federal saving institutions.

Recently, the City took a positive step in addressing workforce housing by establishing a Community Development Corporation (CDC). When utilized correctly, CDC's can be very instrumental in coordinating partnerships between local governments, and housing agencies to expand the inventory of workforce housing. CDC's can also establish land banks to assemble property for workforce housing.

8. How would you go about developing a financing strategy(s) to meet significant infrastructure needs including water and sewer line replacement and beach renourishment without raising taxes?

- For this goal to be achieved, I believe careful planning coupled with strong financial management practices are necessary. With a strong and active five-year Capital Improvement Program (a plan that is not just put on the shelf), communities are able to adequately plan for the large expenditures and match the improvements with sufficient debt capacity and issuance. This plan should be evaluated at least annually and adjustments made as the infrastructure needs change, as well as reacting to market conditions in the bond markets.

We can try to pre-plan for beach renourishment because we generally know when that will occur (every five to ten years). As such, our goal should be to set aside a certain amount of cash each year in anticipation of the expenditure.

9. As Myrtle Beach's new City Manager, describe how you would begin the process of working with a senior management staff consisting of highly qualified and respected members.

- Fortunately, I have a very good relationship with the City's senior management staff now. I feel we have worked very well together during my tenure in Myrtle Beach over the last five plus years. Therefore, I do not believe there will be much of a 'getting to know you' stage here.

10. What experience do you have with organizational and performance analysis?

- There is a saying, you can't manage what you can't measure. As I have mentioned in several other areas in this questionnaire, I have extensive financial management experience. One of the key elements to successful financial management is data analytics. I'm a firm believer in tracking data and using the data to help make informed decisions. All of the budgets I've worked on include performance management indicators, or data. I am very comfortable with this and believe local governments need to increase their use of data.

11. An important current project for the City is funding for and implementation of the Myrtle Beach Downtown Master Plan -- the revitalization of Downtown Myrtle Beach. The purpose is to create a more urban setting targeted at encouraging an attractive and vibrant live/work/play atmosphere. Please describe any background you bring that suggests that you can assist the City to succeed with this project.

- During my time in Greenville, I was the finance officer responsible for putting together the financial plan for many of the downtown projects. While in Greenville, we successfully transformed Greenville's WestEnd from a forgotten part of the City into a vibrant tourist destination area. Together we financed infrastructure and streetscape improvements to support a privately financed minor league baseball stadium. We financed a large public garden and park that is recognized in many leading trade and travel magazines, and we worked together in developing a portion of the river front into a major commercial, retail, and residential anchor for the city. Furthermore, I was also part of the team that first acquired the TD Convention Center (then known as the Palmetto Expo Center and Textile Hall) that was close to insolvency and then financed the subsequent capital improvements to modernize the facility.

In my opinion, there were/are several factors in place that made Greenville so successful in redevelopment. First, and most importantly, was the leadership and support of the City Council. Redeveloping Greenville was a major priority for the City Council. This clear commitment from City Council allowed staff to focus its energy and gave staff the confidence that they were on the right track. Secondly, we had an experienced team of City staff that collaborated and worked well together. Successful projects take a team effort. The Economic Development folks are important, but so too are the Public Works

and Finance Departments. Finally, a third important factor in successful downtown redevelopment is the private sector, and specifically the development community. Many of the aforementioned projects we worked on in Greenville involved public-private partnerships. Public-Private partnerships are going to be necessary and critical in revitalizing downtown Myrtle Beach.

12. Please describe any experience you have in developing and implementing a strategic planning process that resulted in the establishment of plans and priorities for both the community and the organization.

- I have 20 plus years of experience in local government. Through this experience, I've participated in numerous City Council retreats and/or Strategic Planning sessions. I've experienced these type of sessions within the community and I've participated in a few where we traveled outside the community. In addition, I've participated in sessions that used a facilitator and ones that did not.

These sessions are very valuable in setting short and long term goals of the organization, and they are appreciated by staff in assisting with setting priorities in budget development.

13. What experience do you have in any innovative policing or crowd control methods related to community event(s) involving significant crowds and their associated traffic, noise, criminal activity, etc.?

- Since 2015 I've been very involved in the City of Myrtle Beach's planning efforts for large community events (i.e., Memorial Day, Carolina Country Music Fest, etc...). The one element that is key to policing these type of events, is maintaining a strong police presence. Due to staffing limitations, I'm familiar with the process and understand the extra law enforcement the City brings in from the State as well as from other cities and towns throughout South Carolina. I'm also familiar with traffic flush plans to help with traffic control. The second necessary element is strong enforcement of quality of life issues (i.e., noise violations, code violations) when these violations are observed.

14. What management experience do you have related to weather-related or any other significant community emergency or crisis situations?

- Since the beginning of my tenure in Myrtle Beach in 2015, we've had at least one named storm every year. As such, I have been intimately involved in the pre-planning for these events as well as managing the post storm clean-up. Pre-planning includes participating in conference calls and coordinating evacuations with South Carolina Emergency Management Division, South Carolina Highway Patrol, and Horry County Emergency Management. Post event includes working with the same agencies in coordinating re-entry, damage assessment, and clean-up.

Also, as a member of the City of Myrtle Beach's Leadership team I have experience in planning the annual Memorial Day Weekend events, the annual Carolina Country Music Fest, numerous other large events (i.e., Marathon, Mini-Marathon, Run to the Sun car show, Mustang week, etc...), and most recently I have been involved with the Myrtle Beach

Police Department's efforts in handling the two protest marches that stemmed from the death of George Floyd.

Most recently, I have been assisting with the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this role, I have been helping with the City's mitigation efforts and coordinating the City's re-opening plan.

Finally, during my time in Easley we experienced an EF1 tornado that came through downtown 4 days before the City's annual Christmas parade. The tornado cut a path right through the main parade route causing damage to buildings and public infrastructure. Through hard work and dedication, we were able secure buildings and clean up debris sufficiently enough to hold the parade with no issues or delays.

15. Do you have any unusual personal consideration(s) that would need to be resolved before you could accept this position? If so, please explain.

- I do not have any unusual circumstances.

16. Is the resume you submitted accurate and current? If not, please explain any discrepancies.

- Yes, my resume is accurate and current.

17. If selected as a finalist candidate for this position, we will conduct comprehensive background checks on you. These will include educational degree verification; driving, civil and criminal court record checks; a credit check; internet checks, Sex Offender Registry check and reference checks. Will we find anything concerning you that you need to disclose and explain ahead of time?

- There won't be any problems.

However, please be aware that in 2007 I was the victim of a fairly significant identity theft crime. The out of state perpetrators made some significant purchases using my stolen identity (ex. cars, furniture, etc...) before being apprehended by authorities. All my credit was restored (I have an excellent credit rating), but I have now authorized credit companies to use password protection blocks to help prevent this from happening again. I mention this because you may run into some of these blocks during your research. I'll be happy to help you in any way I can in working through any obstacles you may encounter.

18. Are you currently employed? If so, where?

- Yes, I am currently employed as the Deputy City Manager for the City of Myrtle Beach, SC.

19. Have you ever been fired or resigned under pressure from a job? If so, please explain.

- No, I have never been fired or forced to resign.

20. Have you ever been alleged to have committed any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, or

creation a hostile work environment? If so, please explain.

- No, I have never been accused of any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, or creating a hostile work environment.

21. Have you ever sued an employer or been sued by an employer or employee? If so, please explain.

- No, I have never sued an employer, nor have I ever been sued by an employer/employee.

22. What is your salary expectation?

- As I mentioned in my original application, I am familiar with the current City Manager's contract, and I am fine with that. If I am fortunate enough to be selected as City Manager, I do not foresee any issues in negotiating a potential contract, including salary.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
CITY MANAGER

JOHNATHAN "FOX" SIMONS, JR.
REFERENCE/BACKGROUND CHECK SUMMARY

References include:

Former City Council Member, Easley, SC – Former Superior
Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity (Horry County) – Professional Colleague
General Manager, MB Pelicans – Professional Colleague

Professional Strengths:

Strategic thinker
Problem solving - An "idea man"
Municipal finance and budgeting
Organizational management and leadership
Effective communicator – thorough and well thought out communications

Interpersonal Skills and Characteristics:

Pragmatic
Effective listening skills
Cooperative
Thoughtful
Even-tempered
Thrives on challenges

Management:

A servant leader
Sees the "big picture"
Earns and gives respect and trust
Gives credit to others – leads from the background and lets others look good
Sets clear goals and direction and empowers his staff to get the job done – not a micro manager