



AS WE SEE IT

The Search for a new City Manager

Our city is facing and will continue to face many challenges in the coming decades. Our new City Manager must be a visionary leader, familiar with and ready to serve the community. We must capitalize on this opportunity to find the best qualified candidate; someone willing to lead NSB to be the best, most resilient and sustainable beach community on the east coast.

The City Commission has begun the process to identify and hire a new manager. It is imperative that the Commission is transparent throughout the process. We believe there should be public input into the criteria being considered. Our special city requires and deserves an individual who understands the challenges we face:

GROWTH: Over the last decades, our quiet beach town has rapidly grown from 20,000 residents to over 30,000 and considering the pending development, the population could be over 40,000 in ten years. While the east part of town was traditionally the center of business, the west side will soon have a significantly larger population that will demand services to meet their needs. Transportation is highly limited with only one major east-west corridor that has been overwhelmed by weekend and holiday traffic and sections have been closed by flooding. Over the last decade, 300,000 new residents have moved to Florida within an hour's drive of NSB. With no viable capacity to expand east-west corridors, traffic will only get worse.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY: Based on assumptions from past storm damage, many of NSB's existing buildings and residences are in jeopardy from future storms, floods, and fires. Given the demand for development, there is no reason for overly liberal building codes, zoning and permitting. The next city manager will require knowledge of how climate change may impact the region. Homes have been built on wetlands and wetlands are predicted to expand as the sea level and water table rise and the severity of storms increase. Climate impact is predicted to increase the number of days seeing temperatures over 100 degrees. Living conditions, infrastructure and utilities will be tremendously affected and the NSB economy will be challenged.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: Artificial intelligence and other technologies are beginning to have astounding impacts on economies of all scales. Change will be exponential. The next city manager will have to not only anticipate these impacts but will need to hire staff who can manage and leverage them to benefit and sustain the local economy.

FINANCIAL FUTURE: With financial expertise, the new CM can strategize for sufficient reserves to withstand anticipated storms and downturns in the national economy. With adequate impact fees, development can pay for itself. With excellent building codes and support for sustainable development, we can save reserves because we will experience less damage that is easier and faster to repair. It is not too late to save much of our history, ambiance, and environment but we must act now, and hire a person who supports these criteria.