

Michael Craig Peoples, ICMA-CM

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I am a native of North Carolina with a sincere dedication to the profession of local government management. I have enjoyed working in the City of Gastonia the last ten years in multiple roles. I have an in-depth understanding and proven track record of innovative, implementation-based, customer-driven executive public sector leadership. I have hands-on experience working collaboratively with the business community, non-profit organizations, regional, state, and federal government partners to accomplish shared goals. I am a team leader with a strong drive to achieve group results that positively impact individuals and communities. I have lived, worked, and raised my family in Gaston County for the last twenty years and I am dedicated to being a part of its continued success.

Academic Background

Master of Public Administration, Concentration in Town, City, and County Management **1998-2000**

Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Concentration in American Government **1994-1998**

Bachelor of Science in History, Concentration in American History

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina

Professional Experience

City Manager- City of Gastonia, North Carolina

April 2017-Present

City of Gastonia City Hall, 181 S. South Street, Gastonia, North Carolina

- Work directly for the Mayor and Council in operating the day to day business of a full service City including water, sewer, electric, stormwater, solid waste, police, fire, information technology, parks and recreation, engineering, planning, economic development, the Schiele Museum, finance, streets, transit, airport, community development, transportation planning, and communications/marketing.
- Responsible for a total annual budget of approximately \$346,000,000.
- Responsible for over 950 full time employees in all operations of the City.

Assistant City Manager- Operations, City of Gastonia, North Carolina January 2016-April 2017 Present

City of Gastonia Municipal Operations Center, 1300 North Broad Street, Gastonia, North Carolina

- Provide direct oversight of City's Public Works, Public Utilities, Enterprise Services, and Recreation Departments.
- Created the City's First Municipal Citizens' Academy.

Director of Enterprise Services, City of Gastonia, North Carolina

January 2015-January 2016

City of Gastonia Municipal Operations Center, 1300 North Broad Street, Gastonia, North Carolina

- Provided direct oversight of City's Electric Department, Fleet Services, Solid Waste, Transit, and Airport Operations.

Town Manager, Town of Cramerton, North Carolina

April 2005-January 2015

Cramerton Town Hall, Cramerton, North Carolina

- Performed all duties of a town manager under the direction of a non-voting mayor and five commissioners.
- Supervised all personnel in a full service municipality providing police, fire, water, sewer, stormwater, street maintenance, sanitation, parks and recreation, full time attorney, and planning, zoning, and code enforcement departments.

Town Administrator, Town of Grifton, North Carolina**August 2000-April 2005***Grifton Town Hall, Grifton, North Carolina*

- Performed the statutory duties of a town manager under the direction of a non-voting mayor and five commissioners.
- Supervised full service municipality providing public utilities, street maintenance, garbage and recycling collection, police, volunteer fire department, parks and recreation, library, and museum.
- Performed the duties of Planning Director and Code Enforcement Officer by reviewing subdivision proposals, prepared zoning compliance letters, set goals towards efficient land use, and provided nuisance abatement and code enforcement.
- Successfully completed five-year recovery plan implemented after the devastation of Hurricane Floyd.
- Served on the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority that constructed a \$100,000,000 multi-county regional surface water treatment facility and extensive distribution system.

Intern, Town of Yadkinville Town Manager's Office**Summer 2000***Yadkinville Town Hall, Yadkinville, North Carolina***Intern, Caldwell County Planning Department****Summer 1999***Caldwell County Office Building, Lenoir, North Carolina****Professional Development and Honors***

Completed ICMA Williamsburg Leadership Institute, October 2018

Completed ICMA Gettysburg Leadership Institute, May 2015

Awarded 2014 Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Service Award from the Montcross Chamber of Commerce, 2015

Completed UNC School of Government *Public Executive Leadership Academy*, August 2009

Youngest Member of ICMA to Receive ICMA Credentialed Manager Status, October 2008

Completed School of Government *Essentials of Municipal Government Program*, 2008, 2024, 2025

Awarded the Grifton Citizen of the Year Award from the Grifton Chamber of Commerce, March 2005

Completed Institute of Government *Effective Management Training Program*, August 2004Graduated from the Institute of Government *Municipal Administration Course*, April 2003Completed Institute of Government *Planning Practices in North Carolina*, September 2001

Graduated from North Carolina Rural Center's Economic Development Institute, May 2001

Professional and Personal Affiliations

Member, International City/County Management Association, Credentialed Manager	2001-Present
Member, North Carolina City and County Management Association	2000-Present
Past President	Present
Member, North Carolina League of Municipalities Board of Directors	2023-Present
Member, Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association	2000-Present
Past President	2018
Member, Appalachian State University Alumni Council	2015-2017
Member, Gaston Together Board	2019-Present
Member, Rotary Club of Gastonia	2018-Present
Member, Association of Local Government Catamounts (Western Carolina Univ.)	2015-Present
Member, ElectriCities NCMPA 1 Board of Commissioners	2017-Present
Vice-Chair	2024-Present
Member, NCLM Legislative Action Committee	2006-2023
Member, Two Rivers Utilities Advisory Board	2013-Present
Member, Montcross Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	2006-Present
Member, Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority	2003-2005