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Press Release:

Title: The City of Shelby Selects Director of Finance

City Manager, Justin Merritt, has announced the appointment of Chris Costner as the newest member of the City's Finance Department team, and will serve as the Director of Finance.

"We're excited to have Chris join the City of Shelby as the newest member of our Management Team," Merritt stated. "He brings extensive knowledge, experience and ethical leadership to this role. I am proud to welcome Chris to the Team and look forward to working with him to continue a long history of excellent financial stewardship at the City of Shelby."

As Director of Finance, Mr. Costner will report to the City Manager and will be responsible for directing, planning, organizing, implementing, and coordinating the activities and divisions of the Finance Department, including Customer Service Billing, Collections, Purchasing, and Finance. He will also coordinate budget preparation and monitoring; planning and implementing capital projects budgets; evaluating financial management operations; coordinating external auditors; administering and monitoring the City's debt service program; preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and serving as the City's Investment Officer.

"I'm extremely excited about the opportunity to join the City of Shelby as Director of Finance," stated Mr. Costner. "I look forward to working with City management and staff to continue the provision of excellent fiscal services, with the highest level of integrity and accountability."

Mr. Costner holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Western Carolina University and is a University Scholar Graduate. He is a Certified Public Accountant with over 20 years of experience in municipal government and public accounting, and has extensive experience in governmental financial operations, budgeting, personnel management, leadership, and staff development.

Previously, Mr. Costner worked as a Senior Accountant with Johnson, Price and Sprinkle, P.A., and as Accounting Manager Rockwell Automation. He also served for more than 13 years as an Audit Director with Martin Starnes and Associates. Most recently, Mr. Costner served as the Assistant City Manager and Finance Director with the City of Kings Mountain.

He is a member of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association.

Mr. Costner will begin with the City of Shelby on Monday, July 20, and assume duties as the Director of Finance upon the retirement of the current Director of Finance, Beth Beam, on July 31.