

**TCPalm**

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## **Sebastian (FL) hires new city manager**

By Janet Begley

SEBASTIAN — It's official. Glades County Administrator **Paul Carlisle** is the next city manager here.

**Carlisle**, 56, signed a contract Wednesday with the City Council that will pay him \$135,000 annually. Additionally, **Carlisle** will receive the health, vision and dental insurance offered to all city employees, plus a term life insurance policy equal to one year's salary.

Current City Manager Joe Griffin earns \$136,000 annually, according to the city's 2017-18 budget. He will continue working through the May 9 City Council meeting when **Carlisle** officially will assume the position of city manager. After his retirement, Griffin and his family are moving to South Carolina, he said.

**Carlisle** has been Glades County's chief administrative officer since 2014, according to his job application. He has more than 30 years' experience in municipal government and has worked for several municipalities in South Florida, including Wellington and Lake Park, his application showed.

As part of his separation agreement with Glades County, **Carlisle** has agreed to assist the county in its transition to a new county administrator during his first month of employment with Sebastian. He still needs a letter from Glades County releasing him from his current contract before he can start work in Sebastian.

Mayor Jim Hill said he is pleased that **Carlisle's** contract was worked out so quickly.

"I went through the document and it seems pretty darn good," Hill said. "Welcome to Sebastian, Mr. **Carlisle**."

Prior to joining Glades County, **Carlisle** was director of public works for the city of Rock Hill, South Carolina. Previously, he was a regional manager for a company that offered consulting services and pavement-management for municipalities and counties throughout the southeast.

**Carlisle** lives in Loxahatchee in Palm Beach County. As part of his agreement with the city, he and his family will relocate to Sebastian by November 1.

"I am excited for the opportunity," **Carlisle** said after he co-signed the employment agreement with Hill. "I am looking forward to serving this city, and I know Mr. Griffin will be a tough act to follow."

For a companion story, see next page.

## Carlisle may be leaving manager post

By Chris Felker

GLADES COUNTY — **Paul Carlisle**, who has been a workhorse as head of the Glades County administrative staff for the past four-plus years, may be leaving his post as county manager to take the reins as city manager in Sebastian.

Glades County commissioners scheduled a discussion on the matter for Tuesday after learning a few days previous that he was being offered that position. They ended up recessing, so they could continue their talks, until 1 p.m. Friday, April 13.

Board Chairman John Ahern said he wanted to hear the views of his fellow commissioners. “Last week, we were made aware that Mr. **Carlisle** had interviewed on a position with the City of Sebastian and was selected. He has not accepted the position yet, so we’re kind of in a state of limbo depending upon that. He’s still working with the City of Sebastian on the contract, so nothing’s finalized,” he said. Mr. Ahern added that he was still under contract with Glades County.

The chairman also said he’d checked with County Attorney Richard Pringle about procedure and that he said commissioners could just recess their regular meeting until later when more information was available so they could take official action if needed without having to advertise and call a special meeting, since the matter already had been put on the regular meeting agenda.

Mr. Ahern opened the floor for comments and questions from other commissioners. Donna Storter Long spoke first, relating that “first of all, I was pretty mad at Mr. **Carlisle** and I told him that, but I understand.” She asked him, “If you do accept it, is there a time certain that you already know that would help us decide if we want to wait and talk about it ... ?”

“They want me there May 1, if we can come to terms,” he answered. “I haven’t seen the final draft yet. This is a tough decision, because I love Glades County and I love working with all of you. It’s weighing heavy, but I have discussed with them to allow me, if the board wants, to do a consulting agreement where I can come and consult, if they would allow me to come back to the county ... one day a week at least for a month after that to try to keep things moving.” He said he could do necessary tasks via internet and phone, if necessary.

Mr. **Carlisle** said he expected to receive a final proposal on Tuesday afternoon and that the Sebastian City Council would be considering it on Wednesday.

Mr. Ahern polled commissioners on when they could meet next and learned only Ms. Long would not be able attend a Friday meeting in person. She said she’d call in but pointed out she would not be able to vote by phone if one was taken.

None of the other commissioners had much to say, although Tim Stanley threw in, “Hopefully, this contract fails tomorrow...” which caused everyone to laugh.

Ms. Long interjected that she didn’t think it would be fair to ask or expect a new employer to let Mr. **Carlisle** divide his duties, even for one day a week, although Mr. Stanley said, “We haven’t got anybody, so I would be more than glad to have him one day a week ... as long as we’ve got his advice because there’s a whole bunch of stuff on the fire that we haven’t finished yet.”

Chairman Ahern noted he’d already made a list of “things in the works” that the board would need to keep an eye on or study so that “we’re all on the same page,” and Ms. Long said, “Mr. Chairman, that was a great thought; perhaps we need Mr. **Carlisle** to do that whether he comes or goes.”

The county manager said, “I’ve already worked on that, tried to remember everything and put it on paper because a lot of stuff is just routine.”

Ms. Long said she had one other concern, saying she thought the board should rescind Mr. **Carlisle**’s authority to hire and fire staff until he decided whether he was leaving, putting it into a motion that the board then passed on a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Stanley voting no.