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Sebastian council picks Glades County administrator to succeed Joe Griffin as city manager

by Janet Begley

SEBASTIAN — Glades County Administrator Paul Carlisle will be the next city manager here.

Carlisle, 56, was chosen Wednesday from four remaining candidates, who were interviewed this week by the City Council. A fifth, Ben Newhouse, withdrew from consideration Wednesday, citing family concerns about a move from West Virginia.

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

Prior to joining Glades County, he was Interim Fellsmere city manager for a brief time.

Carlisle would succeed Joe Griffin, who is retiring. Griffin, who originally was to retire May 9, will stay on through May 11.

Carlisle was the council's unanimous choice Wednesday. Should the City Attorney James Stokes fail to reach a contract agreement with him, Palm Bay City Manager Susan Hann is the council's second choice.

According to Mayor Jim Hill, all four candidates who interviewed were well-qualified.

"The decision was very difficult," said Hill. "I appreciate the council doing their work, and the end result is going to be outstanding.

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

He lives in Loxahatchee in Palm Beach County.

"I think Sebastian offers a great opportunity for a community that is sustainable, that's established and has a great staff," said Carlisle. "I think I can bring some outside ideas about how to do things and look at new ways and augmenting some of the ways you do business today. I think we can move the town forward and solve some of the issues you're facing."

The council would consider a contract with Carlisle at its Wednesday meeting. Current City Manager Joe Griffin will stay on with the through the second week of May.