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Tenured Enforcement Director to serve as City's next City Manager

July 22, 2014—He jokes that he began his career at the City of Deltona as “dog catcher” and many of his co-workers aren’t even aware of the experience Dale Baker brings to the position of City Manager because he doesn’t talk about his past very much. Yet on Sept. 3, Baker will become the City of Deltona’s Interim City Manager after the retirement of City Manager Dave Denny. The Deltona City Commission voted last night to offer the position to Baker after a day of interviewing Baker and three other candidates.

Baker has been tasked with leading the City through the period following Denny’s retirement through an election season that will bring much change to those seated on the Commission dais. Voters will also be asked to answer the question of should Deltona’s future City Manager’s be required to live in the City limits. Perhaps the most important task facing Baker and the City is the search for Deltona’s next permanent City Manager.

Baker claims this position will not be nearly as stressful as other “jobs” he’s had. From 1976 to 1998, Baker was in the U.S. Navy and his service included being a “Navy Diver & Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician.” He was a member of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Accident Response Capabilities Coordinating Committee involved with their “Health and Safety and Weapons Recovery Working Group.” His duties included heading up a team in counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He was the Director of Training for Atlantic Fleet’s Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit. He trained personnel in operational mission areas that included diving, parachuting, insertion and demolition. He was the Officer in Charge of the bomb disposal unit in the Caribbean and provided 24-hour explosive disposal as well as running counter narcotics operations.

But it was as a hobby in New Mexico dealing with nuisance animals like raccoons, snakes,



skunks and squirrels the lead him to the field of code enforcement. In 1998, Baker was hired as a City of Deltona, Animal Control Officer and was paid \$8.32 an hour. Baker became the Enforcement Services Coordinator in 2000 and in 2001 under City Manager Fritz Behring the department Director. He was named the Deputy City Manager not long after Denny was promoted to the City Manager.

Baker has Bachelor of Science in healthcare services obtained from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., and a master's in security management from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo. He holds numerous certifications in animal control, chemical immobilization and code enforcement.

The Deltona City Commission directed Denny and City Attorney Becky Vose to negotiate a salary contract with Baker for the interim term. Baker currently makes \$112,000 as the Deputy City Manager.