

# ***NEWS RELEASE***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 11, 2014

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## **The City of Anniston fills two key positions**

The City of Anniston recently filled two key positions after hiring a new director of finance and director of economic development, both with a Tuesday, Sept. 2 start date.

Cory Salley has been named as the City's new director of finance and will be responsible for safeguarding the city's financial resources, overseeing the daily operations of the finance department and preparing financial reports.

He will also assist City Manager Brian Johnson with budget preparation and financial planning in accordance with state and local laws.

"Cory is known for his attention to detail and his commitment to the highest standards of financial reporting," said Johnson. "His wealth of experience in public finance makes him an excellent choice to lead the finance department."

Salley previously served as contract manager with the City of Roswell, Ga. as well as accounting supervisor, assistant finance director and finance director with the City of Garden City, Ga.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in economics as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Georgia. He is also member of the Government Finance Officers Association.

"When the opportunity to work for the City of Anniston first presented itself I began doing some research and it became clear very quickly that the City is undergoing some major changes. I think that is what appeals to me the most—the opportunity to be a part of such a shift in a community," Salley said.

"My wife and I have four small children and after a couple of visits, we can envision our family being here for a long time. It seems like there is just a strong sense of community in Anniston."

The City's current Interim Finance Director, Brandon Phillips, will resume his previous position as assistant finance director upon Salley's arrival.

"While the finance director position is required by the Alabama Constitution, we created the in-house economic development office after witnessing that model's success in vibrant cities," said Mayor Vaughn Stewart.

"The state of Alabama is still recovering from the Great Recession and, therefore, Anniston is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to create jobs."

Eric Basinger has been named as the City's new director of economic development and will be responsible for recruiting new retail, commercial and industrial business to the area.

Much of Basinger's experience has been rooted in recruiting new business, assisting existing companies with expansion, and building relationships over the last 10 years with developers. This experience includes recruitment within areas such as automotive, aerospace, design, electronics, medical device, metals, plastics, and research.

Basinger previously served as the executive director at [Ozark-Dale County Economic Corporation](#), a non-profit 501c6 organization in Dale County whose mission is to "improve the economy of Dale County through the creation and preservation of jobs and wealth."

"It's exciting to have the opportunity to become Anniston's director of economic development and I plan to work with city staff and local leadership to develop a balanced economic development program that places emphasis on corporate and commercial development," said Basinger. "My wife and I are looking forward to moving to Anniston."

#### **The City of Anniston**

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit [anniston.al.gov](http://anniston.al.gov).