

Jacksonville administrator to take job at Anniston water board

- By Eddie Burkhalter, Star Staff Writer, eburkhalter@annistonstar.com - Oct 20, 2017



Jarrod Simmons

Jacksonville's city administrator has taken a job with the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board.

Jarrod Simmons, 39, said Friday that he'll remain in his current position until Nov. 28, and then will take over as finance director for the board.

Simmons was hired by the city of Anniston in November 2004 as a revenue officer, then became assistant finance director in April 2009 and left in February 2013 to become a finance control officer for the city of Jacksonville. In 2014, Simmons' role for Jacksonville expanded when he was named city administrator.

Simmons will replace outgoing board finance director Del Ferguson, who has held the job for 31 years. Ferguson will stay on until May to help Simmons' transition, Simmons said.

"And then hopefully I'll build on the foundation that's been laid," Simmons said.

Rodney Owens, assistant general manager for the board, said Friday that Simmons is not only familiar with Anniston's workings, but also with the members of the board.

"We certainly look forward to having Jarrod on board. He'll have some big shoes to fill, but we're confident that he can do the job," Owens said.

Mayor Johnny Smith said Friday that Simmons "has been a tremendous asset for us in Jacksonville. He's just very well thought of."

Smith said Simmons helped update the city's personnel policies, increased efficiency in the finance department and tackled all sorts of duties that weren't in his job description.

"I depend on him a lot," Smith said. "I hate to see him go but I understand. We'll support him in that too."

Simmons said his family will continue to live in Jacksonville, where he'll remain active in civic life.

Smith said Simmons' job duties will be split among several city employees.

"And at some point we'll decide what we need to do," Smith said.

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