

## **Craig Raymond Selected as New Planning & Community Development Director**



PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CRAIG RAYMOND HIRED AS NEW PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

**GREAT FALLS, Montana** – This week Craig Raymond was hired as the City’s next Planning and Community Development Director. Craig has been serving as the Acting Director since Mike Haynes left the City to accept a position in Missoula earlier this spring. Craig has excelled in the position and demonstrated outstanding leadership and management skills. While serving in the acting role, he has received support from the Great Falls Society of Architects and the Home Builders Association of Great Falls.

According to a letter received from the Great Falls Society of Architects, “Craig has gained the trust of the design and construction community in Great Falls. His willingness to work together to find ways to enforce the code while also being practical and reasonable makes him a huge asset to the City. His diplomatic approach has improved the image of the entire Community Development and Planning Department and his efforts have proved that the City can be a partner in the growth and improvement of our community.”

Craig began his tenure with the City in 2011 as the Building Official and since that time has worked hard to develop and establish strong working relationships with the business and development community. In this role he oversaw all operations of the City’s Building Safety Division and custodial staff. According to those he has worked with, he is respected within the building community and has embraced Great Falls as his home.

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Prior to coming to Great Falls he worked for the City of Omak, Washington, for ten years as the Building Official and Permit Administrator. There he was responsible for the operations and functions of the Building Department including plan review, permit issuance and the inspection of all phases of construction. He performed zoning and current planning functions including the processing of land use applications. Craig also assisted the City's contract planner in long range planning efforts including updates to their Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Master Program and Capital Facilities Plan. He also served as the staff liaison to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Craig also worked in the private sector as an architectural designer for John F. Buchan Homes where he assisted with construction drawings of custom and speculative projects using AutoCAD software. He has training from the Phoenix Institute of Technology where he completed architectural design and drafting courses and is an International Code Council Certified Building Official and Inspector.

According to Greg Doyon, City Manager, "Craig has proven himself to be a steady and effective department manager. His appointment will provide the City and department with continuity after the departure of both the director and deputy director in prior months. Craig has a positive can-do attitude that has caught the attention of the development community he serves."

Craig has been happily married to Elaine for 19 years and they have two boys, Craig Jr. (13) and Nicholas (10). Craig enjoys being outdoors – camping, hunting and fishing.

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### **Supporting Documents**

 [Press Release - Craig Raymond Hired as New Planning & Community Development Director](#) (352 KB) (PDF)

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