

Anthony G. Otte

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City Manager/CRA Executive Director, City of Lake Wales, FL 2001-2009

City population, 13,000; City utilities: Water, Sewer, Re-use, Sanitation (by contract). Municipal airport. A Florida Main Street City. One CRA District. 170 FT staff, \$41 million budget.

- Upon arrival, discovered a previously undisclosed financial crisis and directed a financial turnaround that over time:
 - Implemented a host of cost cutting measures including reducing City positions by 10%, and negotiating cost cutting partnerships with groups such as the Chamber of Commerce for Main St management.
 - Raised (and/or created) utility fees and development fees to appropriate levels.
 - Acquired 12 grants for capital improvements totaling \$8.05 million.
 - Increased General Fund reserves to the highest level in City history
 - Reduced the tax rate to a 17 year low
- Extensive Community Re-Development and Economic Development experience:
 - Directed negotiations for the conveyance and rehabilitation of the empty former City Hall building to Polk State College. It is now a PSC branch campus.
 - Addressed an abandoned 10 story hotel on the National Register through foreclosure, a bid process, and negotiations with the selected developer.
 - Directed an aggressive code enforcement program that brought about the demolition of over 50 buildings, including two brownfield sites.
 - Managed the start-up of a city business park; and the location of national firms such as Lowe's, Hampton Inn, Chili's, and international bowling company Kegel.
- Declared a "zoning in progress" and directed staff in an extensive code revision.
- Public safety improvements include the opening of a second fire station, dropping the ISO rating from a 5 to 3, and technological advancements in the police department.
- Managed emergency responses and re-building after 3 devastating hurricanes in 2004.
- Implemented numerous water and wastewater improvements.
- Authored the City's Strategic Plan, Annual Reports, and a weekly newspaper column.
- Implemented curbside recycling, and lake restoration projects.

City Manager/CRA Executive Director, City of Leesburg, FL 1996-2000

City population: 15,000; Utility service population, 40,000. City utilities: Electric, Natural Gas, Water, Sewer, Stormwater, Sanitation, Telecommunications, Internet. Regional airport. A Florida Main Street City. One CRA district. 354 FT staff; \$112 million budget.

- Revitalized downtown with a \$2.4 million new Town Square and streetscape.
- Helped create the Community Development Corporation of Greater Leesburg. In partnership with the city, and with two CDBG grants in four years, removed or improved over 100 houses. This effort won an award from the National League of Cities, Caucus of Black Elected Officials.

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- Obtained financing and constructed a \$10 million, 3.5 MGD wastewater plant.
- Directed negotiations with a dial-up vendor to create a new, profitable utility for the city: Internet Service Provider (ISP). Creation of the ISP won an Award for Innovation in Technology and Communications from the Florida City/County Management Association.
- Initiated a successful campaign before FDOT to keep plans in place for a FL Turnpike interchange that opened up a large area for development.

City Administrator (City Manager), City of Tavares, FL 1985-1996

Population: 8,000. City utilities: Water, Sewer, Sanitation, Stormwater. 91 FT staff, \$8 million budget.

- Successfully recruited the development of a regional hospital and negotiated the annexation and re-zoning of surrounding parcels for a total of nearly 500 acres.
- Planned and managed the financing and construction of a new city hall (\$1.6 million).
- Managed an aggressive utility expansion including the creation of a utility service district, construction of a 1 MGD wastewater treatment plant (\$6.6 million), a 15" well and 500,000 gallon storage tank, and over 15 miles of service line extensions.
- Gained statewide recognition as one of the first small cities to implement curbside recycling, and a stormwater utility. Presented a program on the city's stormwater utility at the 1988 Florida League of Cities' conference.

AWARDS · RECOGNITIONS · PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Dedication and Commitment Award, the Leesburg Partnership (Main St agency)
- Golden Hammer Award, Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce
- Man of Courage Award, Community Development Corporation of Greater Leesburg
- Awarded the "Key to the City" by the Mayor of Tavares
- International City/County Management Association recognition for 35 years of service to local government
- Full Member, International City/County Management Association
- Member, Florida City and County Management Association
- Member, American Planning Association
- Member, Florida Association of Code Enforcement
- Florida Real Estate Salesperson License (currently voluntarily in-active)
- Certificate of Achievement, 33rd Basic Economic Development Course, offered by the University of South Florida, Small Business Development Center

EDUCATION

- Master of Public Affairs, University of Cincinnati
- Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Thomas More College

Professional References

- Commissioner (and former Mayor) Alex Wheeler, City of Lake Wales
230 E. Tillman Ave, Lake Wales FL 33853
(863) 676-7981
- Gerald T Buhr, City Attorney for Utilities, City of Lake Wales
1519 Dale Mabry Highway
Lutz, FL 33548
(813) 949-3681
- Former Mayor and City Commissioner Bob Lovell, City of Leesburg
101 Lakeshore drive, Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 728-1105
- Bob Williams, City Attorney, City of Tavares
380 W. Alfred St.
Tavares, FL 32778
(352) 343-6655



City of
Lake Wales

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to introduce and recommend Anthony (Tony) Otte, who served as the Lake Wales city manager for the last eight years.

I am a city commissioner for the city of Lake Wales, Florida. I have served eight years on the commission and served 3 of those years as mayor. It has been my pleasure to work with Mr. Otte during my tenure on the commission. I am also a life long resident of Lake Wales and have known and worked with four city managers who preceded Mr. Otte.

In my estimation Mr. Otte was the finest city manager that our city has ever employed. When he came to the city, we were on verge of insolvency. When he departed our city enjoyed both cash position and reserves comparable to other similar sized cities. Beyond his budgetary talents, Tony fully integrated himself in our community and was thus more responsive to citizen needs than his predecessors who tended to isolate themselves from the community they served. Tony has always had very good "people skills" and assisted city commissioners in every way possible to keep them up to date on city matters so that we could make informed decisions in our meetings. He is also an extremely capable crisis manager and kept essential city services functioning in the aftermath of the 2004 hurricanes that devastated our community. His management talents could easily transition from the public sector to the private sector if necessary and I have no doubt he would be successful in either environment.

I would highly recommend Anthony Otte for any management position in either the public arena or in private business. If you would like me to discuss this further, I would welcome your call, either to the city or to my business phone: (863) 676-7981.

Sincerely,

Lee A. Wheeler III
City Commissioner

Progressive Vision



Vintage Charm