New Roanoke city manager Chris Morrill seen as a rising star

Chris Morrill's former colleagues in Savannah, Ga., have praised his commitment and inventiveness and urged Roanoke to hold on to him.

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Roanoke's new city manager, Chris Morrill, and his wife, Kimberly Morrill, laugh during a speech given at his farewell party in Savannah, Ga., where he worked in city government for nearly 18 years.

SAVANNAH, Ga. -- As a foot of snow lay on the ground in Roanoke and a wintry mix continued to fall in early February, the temperature was a balmy 60 degrees in this quintessential Deep South city.

A sign hung from the second story in the rotunda of its City Hall, "We'll miss you Chris," as nearly 100 people mingled to pay tribute to their departing assistant city manager, Chris Morrill, who will begin his tenure as Roanoke's eighth city manager on Monday.

To read more, please go to the following address at the Roanoke Times website:

http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/238159