

**The following is the conclusion of a City Manager search conducted by Colin Baenziger & Associates**

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## **West Melbourne cheers choice for manager**

By Susanne Cervenka

WEST MELBOURNE — Citizens erupted in applause and cheers Thursday night after the West Melbourne City Council voted to select Scott Morgan as its next city manager.

"It's the first time anyone has ever clapped on our vote," West Melbourne Mayor Hal Rose quipped.

Morgan, who has been the city manager of Anderson, Calif., for 12 years, beat out four other candidates after West Melbourne's two-day interview process.

He will replace outgoing City Manager David Reynal, who told the council that he did not want to renew his contract when it expires in August.

City Attorney Jim Wilson now will begin contract negotiations with Morgan, who told city leaders that he would be able to start in July.

The pay range for West Melbourne's city manager is \$80,589 to \$120,884.

Six of the seven council members named Morgan as their first choice for the next city manager, while the seventh member, Michael Hazlett, had him as his second choice.

But the board voted unanimously for Morgan, who Rose described as "articulate" and "very energetic."

"He comes in with a clean slate and will be able to build a consensus with staff," Rose said.

Morgan said he was looking to move to Central Florida so his family could be close to his wife's parents, who are in their 80s and live in Winter Park.

He and his wife also wanted to move into an area that had strong schools for their children, ages 15 and 13.

Councilman Bill Mettrick said Morgan's focus on family was a selling point for him.

Morgan told the council looked to West Melbourne because it had many similarities with the California community he will be leaving.

Anderson, located in northern California, has population of about 11,000, compared with the roughly 17,000 in West Melbourne.

"I think I've had a lot of relevant experience with all of the things you are looking for," he told the council.

Councilman Andy Jones said he had initial concerns about Morgan's ability to work out the differences between California and Florida laws.

But Morgan assuaged those concerns, saying he would work closely with Wilson to make sure all city business follows Florida laws.

After that, Morgan said he would bring a creative approach to solving the issues facing West Melbourne.

Jones was reassured with the response, and said he felt comfortable moving ahead with Morgan, who he said had immediately impressed him as a candidate.

"I feel very good about our selection," Jones said. "I think we've made the right choice."