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Scottsdale City Council Names New City Manager By Beth Duckett

Pinal County Manager Fritz Behring will start work this summer as Scottsdale's new city manager.

The City Council on Wednesday unanimously chose Behring for the city's top administrative post, nearly a year after David Richert resigned due to perceived lack of support from some council members. Public Works Executive Director Dan Worth has served as interim city manager.



Vice Mayor Suzanne Klapp made the motion Wednesday to select Behring, who has been Pinal County manager since November 2010.

"I see him as being a strong leader," Klapp told *The Republic*. "I believe he will bring that kind of strong leadership to the city. He has great experience, and I'm sure he is able to work with the people in the city of Scottsdale."

Klapp said she believes that Behring "has great people skills" as well as "an understanding of how to manage operations" of Scottsdale's roughly 2,500 employees.

Behring's proposed contract with the city, which is not yet finalized, sets a base salary of \$205,000, greater than the \$180,000 base salary Richert received.

Benefits include four weeks of vacation, a moving allowance, and a six-month severance package, Klapp said.

Behring, who has a targeted start date of July 1, was among three finalists interviewed by the council this week. The others were former Tempe City Manager Charlie Meyer and Tom Wilson, an assistant city manager for development services in Palm Springs, Calif.

The city issued a statement on behalf of Behring: "I look forward to working with the staff and citizens in Scottsdale to make this an even better community. I am confident that working together, we will accomplish the community's goals."

Scottsdale's City Charter states that the city manager should become a Scottsdale resident within six months after the start of employment.

Mayor Jim Lane called the recruitment and decision process "a good process, with some tough decisions to be made."

Behring has more than 20 years of experience in government administration, according to the city. He previously served as city manager of Central City, Neb.; Fort Meade, Fla.; and Deltona, Fla.; and county manager of Clay County, Fla. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Dakota.

[The nationwide search was conducted by Colin Baenziger & Associates.]