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For immediate release

West Jordan City Council appoints new city manager

(West Jordan, UT) – The West Jordan City Council unanimously voted to appoint Tom Steele as the new city manager at its Feb. 10 City Council meeting. Steele has served as West Jordan’s assistant city manager since June 2001.

The City Council had initially planned to conduct a national search to fill the position. After working with Steele and interim city manager Brad Wardle after the December departure of Gary Luebbers, the City Council concluded Steele is the right person for the job.

“I’ve been very impressed with Tom’s understanding of city government,” Mayor David Newton said. “His years of experience not only in West Jordan but also other cities have prepared him to lead West Jordan into the future.”

Wardle will resume his duties as fire chief.

“I’m happy to have helped guide the city during this time of transition,” Wardle said. “But I’m ready to get back to my duties as fire chief. My interests – and my heart – have always been with my firefighters. Tom is the right man for the job, and I know he has the city’s best interests at heart.”

Steele has more than 30 years experience in the public sector. He previously served as city manager in Clayton, Calif. and Woodland Park, Colo. and as the assistant city manager in Walla Walla, Wash.

Steele favors a hands-on approach and isn’t afraid to get a little dirt under his fingernails. He asks the same from staff.

“I expect managers to be ‘hands-on’ leaders who value and solicit input from all levels,” Steele said. “The best results come from integration and partnering of staff, council and community. I plan to work hard to encourage those relationships.”

He also believes in government transparency.

“Democracy runs on the fuel of truth and intelligence,” he said. “The thinner the fuel, the lower the octane of the engine of government.”

Steele spent three years in the Army Security Agency performing border surveillance in Germany and also served a two-year mission in Brazil for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

He earned a master’s in public administration from California State University and a bachelor’s in political science from Brigham Young University. He and his wife Sandy have eight children and 19 grandchildren.

With more than 103,000 residents, the City of West Jordan is the fourth-largest city in the State of Utah.

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