

**THE CITY OF
PLANT CITY, FLORIDA**

invites your interest in the position of

CITY MANAGER

THE COMMUNITY

The City of Plant City is home to 35,000 residents and a land mass of 28 square miles. Plant City is geographically located in the middle of the west coast of Florida, approximately 25 miles east of Tampa, immediately west of Lakeland, and 70 miles west of Orlando. Plant City is located in northeast Hillsborough County, which is the fourth largest county in Florida.

Plant City has adopted the theme of “Embracing the Future, While Preserving the Past” as it captures the residents desire to adapt and plan for expected growth, while protecting the enduring assets and hometown charm of Plant City. Plant City is known as the winter strawberry capital of the world and hosts the annual Florida Strawberry Festival in the late winter, beginning the last Thursday in February and continuing for 11 days in March. The annual Festival is attended by people from all over the United States as well as many people from around the world.

Plant City's original name was Ichepucksassa after the Seminole Indian village that once occupied the territory. So much confusion was created with the spelling and pronunciation that the Irish postmaster renamed the village Cork, after his home city.

Chartered in 1885, many people believe the City was named for the flora (especially vegetables and fruits, as well as tropical houseplants) grown at local nurseries in its tropical Gulf Coast climate. However, the City was actually named after prominent railroad developer of the time, Henry B. Plant, who extended the South Florida Railroad into the area in 1884.

Plant City is directly served by U.S. Highway 92 and Interstate-Four (I-4) through the City, while State Roads 39, 60, and 574 also provide easy access to the City. The City is also serviced by railroad from both the CSX S line (north-south) and the CSX A line (east-west).

The Plant City Airport is located three miles from the City's Historic Downtown Business District and has a 3,950 foot runway with beacon, lighted windsock, and pilot instrument approach, and provides service and maintenance for private plane owners.

The City owns and operates its own water, wastewater, and solid waste systems. Water is obtained from four deep wells owned and operated by the City. Wastewater is treated at the City's Water Reclamation Facility, which underwent a \$56 million upgrade and expansion in 2008, with a total capacity of 10 million gallons per day, sufficient to handle projected growth through 2025.

Light, clean industry is encouraged in the City. There are over 2,000 acres of privately owned industrial parks. Among industries located in the City are James Hardie Building Products, International Paper, Paradise Fruit, Kerry Ingredients & Flavours, and Tata Tea.

Plant City has its own municipal library which has over 120,000 items in a variety of formats, including books, DVDs, audiotapes, CD-ROMs, magazines, and the ability to borrow from a regional library collection. The City offers 158 acres of public parks; playgrounds; athletic fields and courts; recreation centers; a 6,700 seat softball stadium, home of the International Softball Federation; and six miles of recreational trails.

Plant City has fourteen public schools:

- Advantage Academy of Hillsborough (K-8)
- Burney Elementary (PK-5),
- Bryan Elementary (PK-5),
- Jackson Elementary (K-5),
- Lincoln Elementary Magnet (PK-5),
- Walden Lake Elementary (K-5),
- Wilson Elementary (PK-5),
- Marshall Middle (6-8),
- Tomlin Middle (6-8),
- Plant City High School (9-12),
- Simmons Career Center (11-12),
- Simmons Exceptional Center (K-12),
- Teen Parent East Program (K-12) and
- Plant City Adult Learning Lab (GED Prep)

Five private schools:

- Evangelical Presbyterian Church Learning Center (PK),
- First Presbyterian Learning Center II (PK-K),
- Palnez Academy (PK-6),
- St. Clement Early Education Center (PK) and
- Plant City's First Baptist Church Learning Center (PK).

Learn more by visiting the official site of the City of Plant City, Florida

www.plantcitygov.com

ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POSITION

The City of Plant City operates on a commission/city manager form of government. The City has five elected City Commissioners, who serve as the policy-making body of the City, serving three-year staggered terms. One of the commissioners is appointed in June by the City Commission to serve as Mayor for an annual term.

The City Commission appoints the City Manager who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government under the direction and supervision of the City Commission, and he/she shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Commission.

As provided in the City's Municipal Code, The City Manager shall be responsible to the City Commission for the proper administration of all affairs of the City, and to that end his/her powers include:

- To see that the laws and ordinances are enforced.
- Except for the City Attorney and City Clerk, the City Manager appoints all subordinate officers and employees of the City; all appointments to be made upon merit and fitness alone.
- To exercise control with direct supervision over all departments and divisions of the municipal government, including public utilities owned or operated by the City.
- To see that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the City or its inhabitants in any public utility franchise are faithfully kept and performed; and upon knowledge of any violation thereof he/she shall report same to the City Commission, and call the same to the attention of the City Attorney, whose duty it is hereby made to take such legal steps as may be necessary to enforce the same.
- To attend all meetings of the City Commission, and of its committees; with right to take part in the discussions, but without having a vote.
- To recommend to the City Commission for adoption such measures as he/she may deem necessary or expedient in the interest of the City.
- To keep the City Commission fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City, and to submit for its consideration an annual budget.
- To perform such other duties as may be prescribed under the City's Municipal Code, or as may be required of him/her by ordinance or resolution of the City Commission.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

The City Manager of the City of Plant City is required to possess a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration or a related field with a Master's degree preferred and at least three to five years of municipal management experience as a City Manager or Assistant City Manager (or equivalent executive position) in a city equal to or larger in size than Plant City. The City Commission expects the successful candidate to be a member in good standing of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Evidence of continued professional development is also important.

The City Commission is looking for someone who will represent the City, maintain an open door policy, enjoy community involvement and will become well known in the community. The successful candidate will be a leader who is inspirational, has a good sense of humor, out-going and a sincere commitment to diversity. He/she will have a high degree of integrity and honesty while being an excellent communicator that listens as well as speaks. The City Commission expects the City Manager to keep them, all the City Commission Members, equally informed with unfiltered information.

The new City Manager will have the following **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**:

- Well-versed with a working knowledge of Finance and Budgeting

- Hands-on and practical knowledge of municipal public safety services including Fire Rescue and Police.
- Hands-on and practical knowledge of municipal and government owned Utilities and Sanitation services.
- A demonstrated knowledge of Economic Development.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience dealing with Growth Management issues.
- A good grasp of Redevelopment and Community Redevelopment Agencies.
- A demonstrated understanding of Tax Increment Financing.
- Knowledge and understanding of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster preparedness and disaster recovery policies and procedures.
- A demonstrated ability to successfully work with other legislative bodies, elected and appointed officials; County, State and Federal.

RESIDENCY

The City Manager will be expected to live within the community.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

While the starting salary is expected to be within a range of \$120,000 to \$135,000 annually, the City Commission is committed to a starting salary that will be market competitive, depending on the experience and qualifications of the selected individual. In addition, the City Commission expects to provide an excellent fringe benefit package to the successful candidate. Reasonable relocation expenses will also be provided to the successful candidate.

HOW TO APPLY

For additional information on this outstanding opportunity, please contact W. D. Higginbotham, Jr., Senior Vice President, The Mercer Group, Inc. at 727-214-8673, WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com

A letter of interest and resume should be sent electronically by the close of business, June 30, 2014 to:

**W. D. Higginbotham, Jr.
Senior Vice President
The Mercer Group, Inc.
9123 Cherry Trace
Seminole, FL 33777**

Email - WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com

Resumes are subject to the provisions of Florida Public Records Statutes

The City of Plant City, Florida, is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of Plant City does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, political ideas, or disability in employment or in the provision of services.

 The Mercer Group, Inc.

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