

# Michael Craig Peoples, ICMA-CM

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I am a native of North Carolina with a sincere dedication to the profession of local government management. I have enjoyed working in the City of Gastonia the last eight years in multiple roles. I have an in-depth understanding and proven track record of innovative, implementation-based, customer-driven executive public sector leadership. I have hands-on experience working collaboratively with the business community, non-profit organizations, regional, state, and federal government partners to accomplish shared goals. I am a team leader with a strong drive to achieve group results that positively impact individuals and communities. I have lived, worked, and raised my family in Gaston County for the last eighteen years and I am dedicated to being a part of its continued success.

I am happily married to Jamie Price Peoples who is serving in her first year as Principal of Forestview High School and previously served at Mount Holly Middle School and Hunter Huss High School. We have two sons in school in Gaston County. My wife and I both grew up in the Iredell and Alexander County area and attended Western Carolina University and Appalachian State University. I am a member of First Baptist Church Cramerton and my hobbies are coaching youth sports, playing golf, listening to all genres of music, traveling, attending sporting events, and spending time with my family and friends.

## *Academic Background*

**Master of Public Administration**, Concentration in Town, City, and County Management      **1998-2000**  
*Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina*

**Bachelor of Science in Political Science**, Concentration in American Government      **1994-1998**  
**Bachelor of Science in History**, Concentration in American History  
*Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina*

## *Professional Experience*

**City Manager- City of Gastonia, North Carolina**      **April 2017-Present**  
*City of Gastonia City Hall, 181 S. South Street, Gastonia, North Carolina*

- Work directly for the Mayor and Council in operating the day to day business of a full service City including water, sewer, electric, stormwater, solid waste, police, fire, information technology, parks and recreation, engineering, planning, economic development, the Schiele Museum, finance, streets, transit, airport, community development, and transportation planning,
- Responsible for a total annual budget of approximately \$275,000,000.
- Responsible for over 950 full time employees in all operations of the City.

**Assistant City Manager- Operations, City of Gastonia, North Carolina**      **January 2016-April 2017 Present**  
*City of Gastonia Municipal Operations Center, 1300 North Broad Street, Gastonia, North Carolina*

- Provide direct oversight of City's Public Works, Public Utilities, Enterprise Services, and Recreation Departments.
- Created the City's First Municipal Citizens' Academy.
- Improved relations with Gaston County and other surrounding municipalities in working collaboratively to provide regional utilities.

**Director of Enterprise Services, City of Gastonia, North Carolina** **January 2015-January 2016**  
*City of Gastonia Municipal Operations Center, 1300 North Broad Street, Gastonia, North Carolina*

- Provided direct oversight of City’s Electric Department, Fleet Services, Solid Waste, Transit, and Airport Operations.

**Town Manager, Town of Cramerton, North Carolina** **April 2005-January 2015**  
*Cramerton Town Hall, Cramerton, North Carolina*

- Performed all duties of a town manager under the direction of a non-voting mayor and five commissioners.
- Supervised all personnel in a full service municipality providing police, fire, stormwater, street maintenance, sanitation, parks and recreation, full time attorney, and planning, zoning, and code enforcement departments.
- Worked with the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to create the first Town Operated Fire Department.

**Town Administrator, Town of Grifton, North Carolina** **August 2000-April 2005**  
*Grifton Town Hall, Grifton, North Carolina*

- Performed the statutory duties of a town manager under the direction of a non-voting mayor and five commissioners.
- Supervised full service municipality providing public utilities, street maintenance, garbage and recycling collection, police, volunteer fire department, parks and recreation, library, museum, and civic center.
- Performed the duties of Planning Director and Code Enforcement Officer by reviewing subdivision proposals, prepared zoning compliance letters, set goals towards efficient land use, and provided nuisance abatement and code enforcement.
- Successfully completed five-year recovery plan implemented after the devastation of Hurricane Floyd.
- Served on the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority that constructed a \$100,000,000 multi-county regional surface water treatment facility and extensive distribution system.

**Intern, Town of Yadkinville, North Carolina** **Summer 2000**  
*Yadkinville Town Hall, Yadkinville, North Carolina*

**Intern, Caldwell County Planning Department** **Summer 1999**  
*Caldwell County Office Building, Lenoir, North Carolina*

### ***Professional Development and Honors***

Completed ICMA Gettysburg Leadership Institute, May 2015  
Awarded 2014 Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Service Award from the Montcross Chamber of Commerce, 2015  
Completed UNC School of Government *Public Executive Leadership Academy*, August 2009  
Youngest Member of ICMA to Receive ICMA Credentialed Manager Status, October 2008  
Completed School of Government *Essentials of Municipal Government Program*, January 2008  
Awarded the Grifton Citizen of the Year Award from the Grifton Chamber of Commerce, March 2005  
Completed Institute of Government *Effective Management Training Program*, August 2004  
Graduated from the Institute of Government *Municipal Administration Course*, April 2003  
Completed Institute of Government *Planning Practices in North Carolina*, September 2001  
Graduated from North Carolina Rural Center’s Economic Development Institute, May 2001

### ***Professional and Personal Affiliations***

Member, International City/County Management Association, Credentialed Manager	2001-Present
Member, North Carolina City and County Management Association	2000-Present
President	Present
Member, Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association	2000-Present
Past President	2018

Member, Appalachian State University Alumni Council	2015-Present
Member, Association of Local Government Catamounts (Western Carolina Univ.)	2015-Present
Commissioner, Electricities NCMPA Board of Commissioners	2015-Present
Member, NCLM Legislative Action Committee	2006-Present
Member, Two Rivers Utilities Advisory Board	2013-2015
Member, Gaston Transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization	2006-2015
Member, Montcross Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	2006-2015
Member, Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce	2006-2015
Member, Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority	2003-2005