

Verne E. Rupright, Esq.

Executive Profile

Chief Executive Officer and Manager of the City of Wasilla with complete oversight, committed to cost-effective management of resources and quality performance. Visionary Operations Executive with solid experience managing all levels of multiple projects, including budgeting and administration. Accomplished Executive with demonstrated ability to deliver mission-critical results. Hands-on approach to management, with high motivation, performance innovation, mature, multi-task-orientated and hardworking. Directly responsible for developing programs and overseeing the City Directors of Public Works, Finance, Public Safety, Cultural and Recreation Services. Additionally supervised and directed the Deputy Administrator. As Mayor was director of Human Resources Director per Wasilla City Code. Responsible for overall supervision of 142 personnel. As a licensed and practiced attorney, utilized this knowledge and experience in risk management on behalf of the city. Prior to being CEO of Wasilla, engaged in the private practice of law, owning and operating a law office business.

Skill Highlight

- Project planning and management
- Leadership/communication skills
- Business operations organization
- Budgeting expertise
- Negotiations
- Employee relations
- Risk Management
- Strategic planning
- Team Building/Leadership
- Interpersonal Skills
- Organizational Restructure and change
- Organizational Skills
- Critical thinking and research skills
- Developed regulatory needs for city management
- Human Resources Management
- Fast learner

Core Accomplishments

Operations Management: Managed and balanced the city enterprise on a base two cent sales tax on the first 500 dollars of sales and charging no city property tax. Innovatively increased the sales tax one cent to forward fund a new library complex for the city without bonded debt. Cut 19% of the overall operations costs to the city without layoffs or diminishment of services.

Projects Management: Added 91 acres of new parks to the city, developed a connecting roadway with water service to the city airport and brought GPS navigation to the enterprise to enhance safety and commercialization. Planned and developed a 24,000 sq. ft., library complex. Reconfigured downtown Wasilla, removing a junk yard, acquiring key property for the couplet roadway development with completion of a Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Plan going forward. Lobbied for and added new roadways and resurfacing projects on existing roads. Expanded the city by annexation of additional area.

Staff Development: Instituted weekly staff meetings to ensure communication to all personnel. Provided sufficient time and funding for staff development. Instituted policy of inner departmental accountability in order to avoid a need for crisis of management intervention.

Human Resources: As Director and CEO, achieved successful negotiation twice in a six year period with three unions within the city and ensured parity for non-represented personnel. I reviewed all hiring and discharges in the city government and performed the task of hearing officer in disciplinary actions. Analyzed and advised Human Resources personnel on legal accountability and procedure in employment law principles.

Professional Experience

2008-2014 CEO of the City of Wasilla Initiated a new way of doing the public's business by instituting open communication and sharing of ideas between key and subordinate staff and public input. Reduced the operations budget without sacrifice to negotiated contracts with personnel or loss of service. Introduced the concept of forward funding the cities projects without debt service. Paid off debt of the city and managed to accumulate approximately 20 million in overall reserves. Developed plans and projects to move the city and the greater area forward.

1992-2008 Law Practice full-time, servicing client base in the areas of personal injury, criminal defense, contract and employment matters. Began working in the legal profession in 1992 and remained engaged in aspects of the practice throughout the 6 years as full-time CEO of the City of Wasilla. Legal experience with the law firm of Stepovich, Kennelly and Stepovich, LLC. in Anchorage, having been a partner culminating with the opening of personal offices in Wasilla, Alaska. Appeared before every level of court within the State of Alaska system. In addition the U.S. District Court, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

1982-1988 Alaska Department of Adult Corrections Institutional Probation/Parole Officer and Corrections Officer Corrections experience was post education at University of Alaska, Glennwood Halfway House in Anchorage, as a program officer, supervising Federal and State pre-released offenders.

Military

1995-2004 Alaska State Defense Force as a Military Police Officer and Trainer at the rank of Major for 9 years and was awarded the Alaska Homeland Defense Medal for active security service at Valdez, AK.

1977-1980 Employed on a full-time basis with the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Operations, Training and Readiness as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve.

1970-1992 Served 4 years in the U.S Air Force with one year service in the Vietnam War and U.S. Army Reserve obtaining status as a Army Reserve Commissioned Officer in this period, leaving service as a Captain.

Education

Negotiations, 2013

Harvard University - Cambridge, Massachusetts

Thirty hour in classroom training seminar on negotiations with over 200 national and international attendees. Conducted by the Harvard Law Center on National and International Negotiations.

J.D. : Law, 1992

Creighton University School of Law Omaha, Nebraska

US Army Armor Officer Advanced Course 1989 Ft Knox Kentucky

Bachelor of Arts : Justice, 1981 University of Alaska-Anchorage - Anchorage, Alaska

US Army, Amor Officer Basic Courses 1978 Ft Knox Kentucky

US Army Officer Candidate School 1978 Ft Richardson Alaska

US Army, Commissioned 1977

Verne E. Rupright, Esq.