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Former Vallejo interim city manager chosen for Desert Hot Springs job

Robert Adams to start Sept. 3

DESERT HOT SPRINGS — Desert Hot Springs officially has an interim city manager.

The City Council voted 5-0 Thursday to hire former Vallejo interim city manager Robert Adams until a permanent city manager is hired.

He was among six candidates for the position and City Attorney Steve Quintanilla contacted him Wednesday to negotiate a contract.

“He has experience in dealing with cities and communities similar to Desert Hot Springs,” Quintanilla said.

Adams could not be reached for comment Thursday.

He worked for Vallejo, which is about 30 miles northeast of San Francisco, from 2008 to 2010.

During that time, Adams led the community of 117,000 through its recovery after it filed for bankruptcy in May 2008.

“We got to get a balanced budget and his experience in Vallejo will help us,” Desert Hot Springs Councilman Adam Sanchez said Thursday night.

In 2011, Adams worked as interim human resources director in Madera, north of Fresno, but he was also city manager in the Bay Area communities of Manteca and Lafayette before working in Vallejo.

He is a retiree of CalPERS, the state's retirement system, and is only permitted to work a maximum of 960 hours per fiscal year.

Adams will be paid \$93.75 per hour and mileage reimbursement with no benefits.

His first day on the job will be Sept. 3, although he will be available via email or conference call until then, Quintanilla said.

Sanchez said Adams will most likely be in the position for six to eight months.

He will fill in as the city's top executive while city leaders search for a permanent city manager to replace outgoing City Manager Rick Daniels.

Daniels took a job as city manager in Needles and starts there Sept. 16.

Adams and the five other candidates were interviewed Monday, and the City Council held a closed session meeting on Tuesday to decide who should be offered the job.

Another closed session meeting was held Thursday night. It lasted less than 30 minutes before city leaders resumed the open session and voted to hire Adams.