

Desert Sun

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Looking to the future

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The Desert Sun

Glance: About Hanson

Age: 56

City of residence: Riverside, though he said he intends to relocate as soon as possible.

Family: He's been married for 36 years and is the father of two grown children.

Employment history: Hanson has worked for the city for a little more than a year and oversaw engineering, development review, building and safety, capital projects, public works and maintenance during that time. he is a licensed engineer, architect and surveyor.

New Desert Hot Springs manager talks about his plans to bring the city back to health

By Jose Paul Corona

The Desert Sun

DESERT HOT SPRINGS - On Feb. 12, Jerry Hanson was thrown into the fray, taking the helm of a city in the middle of a bankruptcy lawsuit, financial turmoil and instability.

Desert Hot Springs had been without a permanent city manager since December of 2002 when then City Manager Joe Guzetta was fired by the council.

In addition, there hasn't been a permanent police chief since December 2001.

Hanson is now in charge of a city that is preparing for an April 1 bankruptcy hearing that may determine its future.

Depending on the judge's ruling the city could emerge from bankruptcy or it could face disincorporation.

Hanson answered questions this week about his new role as city manger and the path that lies ahead of him. His comments have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Do you have a plan now that you're in office? Is there something you want to tackle first?

A: One of the questions that (the City Council members) all asked me during that (interview) process was "What do you see are the issues within the city and how would you prioritize those issues?"

The three issues and the order I put them in were (to take) a more active role in resolving our destiny within the bankruptcy proceedings

To maintain and enhance revenues and to protect what revenues streams that we have