

Desert Sun

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Desert Hot Springs manager to retire

Nelsy Rodriguez and Brian Joseph

Staff

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But under his new contract, city still could pay him as much as \$127,000

Glance: The Hanson file

· Titles: Interim city manager, city engineer, redevelopment director

· Announced retirement on Wednesday, effective Aug. 1

· New contract: Approved Tuesday in a closed-session meeting, allows him to earn as much as \$127,600 from now until Dec. 31, working part time after taking retirement Aug. 1, and

still legally receive his pension.

· Accomplishments: Helped the city emerge from bankruptcy, helped recruit new development, helped city establish new "spa zone" and plan for a new city hall.

By Nelsy Rodriguez and Brian Joseph

The Desert Sun

DESERT HOT SPRINGS - Interim City Manager Jerry Hanson announced his retirement Wednesday, a day after the council approved a new contract that could pay him as much as \$127,000 for a part-time job while he also collects his pension.

"I don't want to be the focal point of polarizing the community," Hanson said of why he's retiring, effective Aug. 1.

It is unclear what Hanson's annual pension will be.

"I don't come from a family of wealth, but I've done a lot to get where I am and everybody that owns property in this town has benefited," he said, referring to his efforts in pulling the city out of bankruptcy.

On Tuesday, with only three City Council members present, the council unanimously approved in closed session a new contract with Hanson, allowing him to step down as the full-time city manager to become interim city manager while the council searches for a permanent replacement.

The new contract is Hanson's ninth with the city of Desert Hot Springs since February 2003, when he was promoted from city engineer to city manager.

As of Wednesday, councilmen Gary Bosworth and Will Pieper, who were not at the meeting, had not seen Hanson's new contract. Neither had the public.

City spokeswoman Teresa Thompson told The Desert Sun the document wouldn't be available until today and would not release the details of the contract's contents.