



## PRESS RELEASE

The City of Monmouth is pleased to announce the hiring of a new City Administrator. At last night's meeting, the Monmouth City Council officially entered into an employment agreement with Lou Leone as its new City Administrator.

"On behalf of the Council and the City of Monmouth, we're excited to have Lou Leone be our next City Administrator," Mayor Rod Davies said. "Lou has some excellent experience in similarly-sized cities and the right background and skill set to ensure we continue prudent financial management, aggressive economic development and effective leadership of city government."

Leone is planning to begin working in his capacity as the Monmouth City Administrator on July 10th and replace retiring City Administrator Lew Steinbrecher who has served in that position for the past 9 years and 4 months. Mr. Leone brings to Monmouth sharp financial management skills, experience in successfully undertaking new residential housing projects, the ability to negotiate collective bargaining agreements and address other human resource management issues, the adeptness to prepare long-term capital improvement plans, and to proficiently address organizational culture to enhance cross-department collaboration which improve local government services to the community.

Mr. Leone has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois and a master's degree in public administration (Local Government Management) from the University of Colorado-Denver. He has served as City Administrator in four communities, including Kiowa, Kansas; New London, Wisconsin; Nebraska City, Nebraska; and Harvard, Illinois.

In Kiowa, Lou guided the City from near bankruptcy to solvency and saved \$1.2 million in three years, and delivered a new City Hall while also replacing a water distribution system. In New London, he developed/implemented a strategic residential and economic development plan, led a Riverfront Redevelopment project, including a 60-unit housing and mixed-use commercial along the Wolf River in the downtown district. He also served as the Emergency Manager and Public Information Officer. In Nebraska City, Mr. Leone was able to reduce the property tax levy, undertook a 127-home residential development project and improved its capital/planning process. In Harvard, he significantly increased residential development and improved the permitting and review process, improved the organizational culture, and negotiated union labor agreements.

The City of Monmouth first advertised for the City Administrator's position in late March with a May 1, 2026 deadline for resumes. Qualifications included a bachelor's degree in public administration, urban management, public policy, community development, business administration or related field with five years of experience in public management at the local level. A master's degree in public or business administration was highly desired. The City received a number of applicants which were subsequently screened by Steinbrecher with the assistance of the Illinois City Manager's Association (ICMA) Senior Advisor for western Illinois John Phillips, the former long-time City Administrator in Rock Island, IL. The two most qualified candidates were selected for City Council interviews in mid-June. Following this interview process and



conducting due diligence on the background of the candidates, the Administration was authorized to negotiate terms of employment with the candidate that the City Council felt was the best fit for Monmouth.