



## City Finance Official of the Year

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**Jim R. Myers, Jr., CMC, CGFM**

Jim Myers was first hired by the City of Eustis in October 1974 as the City's first Administrative Accountant and has since established himself as the cornerstone of the City's success. During his first three years with the City of Eustis, he held several different positions including Buyer, Purchasing Agent, Deputy City Clerk, Personnel Officer and Assistant Finance Director. In December 1977, Mr. Myers was appointed to the position of Finance Director/ City Clerk. At the age of twenty-three, he was the youngest person to be appointed to this position in the State of Florida.

In 2007, Eustis was facing many areas of uncertainty. There was an increasing emphasis on slow growth. Following the City Manager's early retirement after twenty-three years, the Eustis City Commission selected Mr. Myers to become the Interim City Manager to assist them in carrying out their policies during this time of transition. As the Interim City Manager, he provided a degree of stability to the Eustis City workforce and was able to move the City forward until a new City Manager was hired.

During this period, Mr. Myers excelled by initiating several projects as the interim City Manager while still achieving financial success for the City. Highlights of his achievements are listed below:

- Professional planners were hired to assist the City in making drastic revisions to its Land Development Regulations, to better reflect the type of future growth the citizens of Eustis desired.
- Worked with the City Commission to initiate a City-wide building moratorium until the new Land Development Regulations could be crafted.
- Consultants were hired to perform the Eustis Downtown Traffic Circulation Study that would help design the downtown traffic circulation footprint after the Florida Waterman Hospital moved to another location. This was a partnership between the City of Eustis, Florida Department of Transportation and the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- An update of the City's Community Redevelopment Area was initiated and visioning session soon began.
- Initiated City/ County planning coordination in an effort to better control growth in and around Eustis and to ultimately update the Joint Planning Area agreement.
- The third CDBG façade grant was awarded to the City of Eustis, which included the installation of underground electric service in some of the downtown Eustis area.

- Implemented the Trout Lake Loop Trail grant program that provided a section of trail system in the City's northeastern portion of the Community Redevelopment Area.
- Major improvements began to the City's municipal water and wastewater system. The design and permitting began on the construction of a water booster station in the northwest portion of the service area, to address water pressure issues.
- Began construction of the second phase of wastewater plant expansion in the City's Eastern Utility system.
- Began construction of reclaimed water lines to areas of the City's residential water customers for irrigation. This was in compliance with conditions of the City's Conditional Use Permit from St. John's River Water Management District.
- Began groundwater studies that were required to be completed under the City's Conditional Use Permit from St. John's River Water Management District.
- Initiated arrangements to begin the City's Strategic Planning process.
- Received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for the past nineteen (19) consecutive years and has continued to obtain a favorable AAA bond rating for debt issued.
- Continues to serve as Executive Director of the Lake County League of Cities, Inc. and has been instrumental in the revival of that organization's Annual Lake County Community Service Awards event. He was instrumental in reviving the Lake County League of Cities Annual Sponsor's Night. This event provides area

businesses and consultants an opportunity to meet and interact with Lake County elected officials to discuss city matters.

Mr. Myers served as the Interim City Manager until the end of July 2007, when the new City Manager, Mr. Paul Berg arrived at the City. With the passage of House Bill 1-B, by the state legislature in 2007 and the voter approval of Amendment One in early 2008, fiscal instability has become a major concern to all cities. Mr. Myers' experience has aided in meeting those fiscal challenges.

Mr. Myers continues to:

- Take a leadership role in making this city a thriving community under a managed growth philosophy and a desire for better quality of life conditions.
- Supports the concept and practice of enhanced economic development.
- Believes in, practices and encourages his employees to seek professional development opportunities whenever possible.
- Possesses the knowledge, the experience, and the respect of those persons involved to provide the City of Eustis fiscal guidance that it needs.
- Makes every effort to provide whatever assistance to help fellow employees and the citizens of Eustis.

His professional affiliations include the Government Finance Officers Association, Florida Government Finance Officers Association, the International Institute of

Municipal Clerks, the Florida Association of City Clerks, the Association of Governmental Accountants, the International City Management Association and the Florida City/County Managers Association. He is also a charter director and member of the Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association.

After thirty-four years of service with the City of Eustis, Mr. Myers is not planning on a retirement in the near future. He and his wife plan on continuing to live in the Eustis area and raise their and daughters (ages 7 and 10) there.

Mr. Myers believes in and practices the adage of making sure that we leave things better than we found it, in whatever we do.