



For Immediate Release
July 20, 2018

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer
540.432.8931
MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov

Longtime City Employee Makes Plans for Retirement

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg’s director of Public Works is set to retire at the end of the summer, wrapping up a 35-year career.

Jim Baker, director of the Public Works Department, has announced his plans to retire on September 1.

Baker started his career with the city in 1983, when he was hired as a maintenance foreman for the Public Works Department. In reflecting on his years of service, he recalls being tasked in the late 80’s with leading the construction of Mt. Clinton Pike and Acorn Drive, remembers the initial planning discussions for the construction of Stone Spring Road and Erickson Avenue, and can remember when University Boulevard ended at the mall and turned into pasture fields.

“I have enjoyed my employment with the city and have a great deal of respect for the knowledge and commitment my fellow employees give to this community,” explained Jim Baker. “This is a wonderful community and one that I have been honored to serve in.”

During his time with the Public Works Department, Baker continued to move up the ranks and was named director of the department in 1994.

“For an employee to serve 35 years with an organization is a remarkable accomplishment,” commented Eric Campbell, city manager. “I appreciate Jim’s dedication to the city of Harrisonburg and the many projects he has successfully led.”

At the Public Works Department Baker oversees approximately 100 employees who maintain city streets, traffic signals, street signs, and the refuse and recycling program; manage transportation planning and the construction of new transportation infrastructure; and oversee the stormwater management program and the city’s Central Stores.

The process for filling Baker’s position has not yet been determined.

Additional information about the Public Works Department can be found at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/public-works.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



###