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# Tabor-Loris Tribune

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‘Interim’ no more

## Ward named Tabor’s Town Manager

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Josh Ward’s title is a word shorter today, perhaps a bit more impressive, with a unanimous vote from the Tabor City Town Council Tuesday naming him Town Manager.

“I appreciate the vote of confidence,” Ward said later Tuesday evening. He’s served

as interim town manager since Al Leonard’s retirement effective on Jan. 31, and has impressed council, Mayor Royce Harper said.

“He stepped into some big shoes,” Harper said of Ward. “He’s been working hard.”

“I look forward to serving the town of Tabor City,” Ward said. “I think we’re going through a period of opportu-

nity that I’m going to try to take advantage of for the residents of the town.”

Harper Ward’s annual salary was set at \$84,000.

### Six applied

Ward was one of six applicants for the manager’s post, one of three selected by council for interviews that were scheduled for Tuesday at Town Hall.

One of the finalist withdrew his application before Tuesday’s meeting, Harper said. The other, Harper said, had a background in education and was less familiar with municipal government, water and sewer systems, and more.

“Council was unanimous,” Harper said. “We’re pleased.”

Ward, 26, is an Old Dock (Continued on Page 10)



Town Manager Josh Ward

(Continued from Page 1) Community native and a 2016 Early College graduate. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Policy and Administration from the

University of North Carolina at Pembroke, where he earned his Master’s Degree in Public Administration in December 2022.

He began work as a consul-

tant to the town during the summer of 2022, while completing his degree work at UNCP, and was hired full time in January 2023.

In addition to his zoning

work Ward also worked as a firefighter for the town and a probationary Building Inspector under the tutelage of Mike Richardson.

Single, Ward said he is in

a long-term relationship with Justice Owens, a grant writer and planner with Families First, an agency supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.