The City of Rockwall, Texas

Director of Planning and Community Development

Position Announcement
CITY OF ROCKWALL
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY AND POSITION PROFILE

Community Profile

The City of Rockwall, Texas is located along the eastern shore of Lake Ray Hubbard, approximately 20 miles east of downtown Dallas on Interstate 30. The City of Rockwall, the county seat of Rockwall County, is the largest city in the county with a current population of almost 44,000. There are five other smaller cities located within the county boundaries - Heath, Fate, Mobile City, Royse City, and McLendon-Chisholm. Rockwall County has an estimated population of 90,000.

The City has strong ties to Dallas, which is the primary employment center to Rockwall residents. However, there is a growing economic base of both retail and “high tech” industrial development. The 2010 U.S. Census dubbed Rockwall as the “fastest growing county in Texas.” CNN Money.com voted Rockwall as the best U.S. city for job growth in 2011. That same year, Rockwall’s retail market and shopping was voted best in growth across Texas by Texas Retail Survey. Rockwall was named as one of the best ten cities in America to raise a family by Family Circle magazine and was recently named as the sixth healthiest county in Texas.

Despite the many awards and accolades, Rockwall still maintains its family-friendly, small-town atmosphere. The City of Rockwall prides itself on being the perfect place to grow your business, raise your family and enjoy an unrivaled quality of life. The City reflects its past with an historic downtown, and a mix of older neighborhoods, along with the new housing developments, and a lakefront retail/hotel/convention-center with a Mediterranean flare, “The Harbor”. Bordering Lake Ray Hubbard, the City enjoys a variety of recreational opportunities and natural amenities.

Department Profile

The City has experienced significant residential growth over the past several years, with annual growth rates of 8-9%. The commercial development has been just as consistent with the development of the I-30 Corridor, substantial growth in the Rockwall Technology Park and a major re-investment in the City’s historic downtown. Currently, an $8.6 million downtown renovation project is underway that was approved by the voters in 2012. Rockwall has been a Texas Main Street City since 2009. Rockwall earned Scenic City recognition in 2014 with a Platinum Level certification.

The department will issue approximately three hundred residential building permits and twenty commercial building permits for new construction this year. The Planning and Zoning Commission averages 12-15 cases per month and the expected cycle time is thirty days.

The department consists of current and long range planning, GIS functions and services, building inspection, neighborhood improvement services and health inspections services by a private contractor. The total operating budget for FY 14-15 is $1.75 million.

Planning and Zoning meetings are scheduled on the second and last Tuesday evening of each month and the City Council meets on the first and third Monday evening of each month.
Position Profile

The City of Rockwall is seeking a dynamic, innovative leader with strong collaboration skills to guide the direction of the department. The successful candidate should have demonstrated competency in past working experiences with long range and current planning, Comprehensive Plan administration and updates, zoning administration, form based codes, overlay districts, building code administration, health and property code administration, historic preservation, code administration, community improvement programs, GIS and other administrative duties related to budget preparation and administration. The candidate should be prepared to work in a fast paced environment and be suited to work closely with other development related departments such as engineering, fire and parks. Candidate must be team oriented, possess excellent communication skills, be politically astute and manage the department and those in charge in a professional manner at all times.

The successful candidate will lead a three person Planning and Zoning division, a two person GIS division, a Building Official that oversees a seven person Building Inspection division and a five person Neighborhood Improvement Services division and a contractual Health Inspector.

Minimum qualifications
Requires a Bachelor’s Degree in Urban Planning, Public Administration or Engineering and seven years of progressively responsible experience in a municipal planning/community development setting. A Master’s Degree in Urban Planning or Public Administration may be considered as an alternate to the minimum years of experience. Professional certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is preferred.

Compensation

The starting salary range for the Director of Planning and Community Development is between $125,000 and $131,000 annually, depending on qualifications. The City of Rockwall offers a very competitive benefit program consisting of health, vision and dental insurance, participation in the Texas Municipal Retirement System with a 7% employee contribution matched 2:1 and life insurance.

How to Apply

All applicants must complete the online application by following link: http://www.rockwall.com/employment/JobOpportunities.asp. The preferred start date for the successful candidate is August 3, 2015. Resumes will not be accepted online; however, you can email them to Keri Johnson at kjohnson@rockwall.com.

Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2015