

CITY MANAGER

City of Port Aransas, Texas

Salary: $230,000 – $260,000, DOQ

Are you an experienced, community-minded public executive ready to lead a close-knit coastal town that welcomes visitors from across the country? Do you bring the steady judgment to guide a city through capital growth, tourism demands, and coastal storms alike? If so, the City of Port Aransas invites you to apply to become its next City Manager.

Appointed by and reporting to a seven-member City Council, the City Manager serves as chief administrative officer of a full-service organization with 227 employees and a $49.6 million budget, leading an island community that balances year-round residents with a large seasonal visitor population.

We're seeking a fair, experienced, and approachable leader who is:

- A firm, transparent decision maker who applies the rules consistently for everyone
- A strong steward of municipal finances and major capital projects
- Engaged in the community and at home in a casual, small-town beach environment

If this sounds like you, read on to learn more about this exceptional opportunity!

Executive Recruitment Provided by SGR

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Perched on the northern tip of Mustang Island, Port Aransas is a barrier-island community where life moves at a slower pace. Known as the Fishing Capital of Texas, “Port A” offers 18 miles of sandy beaches, world-class bay and offshore fishing, and more than 600 species of saltwater fish in the surrounding waters. Mustang Island’s beaches rank among the top 25 in the nation and #1 in Texas, along with being a popular beach destination for Texas’ major metropolitan areas like San Antonio, Houston, Austin and Dallas/Fort Worth.

The island’s story stretches back to the Karankawa people and early Spanish explorers, whose wild horses gave Mustang Island its name. The village known as Tarpon by 1899 took the name Port Aransas around 1910, and landmarks such as the historic Tarpon Inn, the Lydia Ann Lighthouse, and the Chapel on the Dunes remain beloved today.

Residents and visitors enjoy the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, the Port Aransas Nature Preserve, the University of Texas Marine Science Institute’s Patton Center for Marine Science Education, and a lively arts scene anchored by the Port Aransas Art Center, Museum and Community Theatre. A full calendar of events, from Texas SandFest and the Whooping Crane Festival to Beachtober, keeps the island vibrant all year.

When the tourists head home, Port Aransas reveals its true character: a safe, welcoming, Norman Rockwell–style small town where residents and businesses are deeply involved, schools are highly ranked and offer one-on-one learning, and the amenities of Corpus Christi are a short drive away. It is a great place to raise a family and a perfect community in which to live and work.

POPULATION
3,616

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
$88,947

MEDIAN HOME VALUE
$588,700

History CLICK!

Tourism CLICK!

ABOUT THE CITY OF PORT ARANSAS

The City of Port Aransas is a full-service municipal organization whose scope reaches well beyond that of a typical small city. Alongside police, EMS, fire, public works, development services, parks and recreation, and library services, the City operates its own natural gas utility, municipal harbor, airport, public transit and trolley service, beach operations, surf rescue program, and nature preserve. Water and wastewater service is provided by the Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4.

With 227 employees and a total budget of $49.6 million, the City is supported by a strong tourism economy and an ad valorem tax rate of $0.222577 per $100 valuation.

With recovery from Hurricane Harvey in 2017 largely behind it, the City is focused on the future: modernizing infrastructure, completing a slate of new community facilities, and ensuring Port Aransas keeps its core identity as it grows.



GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

Port Aransas operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council consists of the Mayor and six Council Members, all elected at-large to two-year terms and limited to three consecutive terms. The Council sets policy, appoints the City Manager and City Attorney, and is supported by a range of advisory boards and commissions. The City Manager works closely with the Council, the City Attorney, Nueces County, the Tourism Bureau, the Port of Corpus Christi, the Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4, and state and federal partners.

ABOUT THE JOB

The City Manager serves as chief administrative officer of the City of Port Aransas and is appointed by and accountable to the City Council. The City Manager implements Council policy; advises the Council on policy, financial, and operational matters; directs all City departments; and oversees the annual operating and capital budgets.

As a coastal destination, Port Aransas presents unique demands, including tourism, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery, coastal infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and seasonal swings in population and service needs. The City Manager provides the long-range planning and steady leadership to meet them while protecting the community's quality of life.

The successful candidate will provide executive leadership for:

- City Council policy administration and strategic initiatives
- Budget, financial, and long-range capital planning
- Emergency management, hurricane preparedness, and disaster recovery
- Personnel management and organizational development
- Economic development, tourism, and community relations
- Intergovernmental relations and contract administration

Full Job Description



DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

The City Manager leads a diverse organization serving residents and visitors alike, with department leadership reporting directly to the position.

Positions Reporting to the City Manager

- Development Services Director
- Public Works Director
- Parks & Recreation Director
- Police, EMS and Fire Chiefs
- Assistant City Manager – Finance
- City Secretary
- City Engineer
- Human Resources Director
- Harbor Master

ORGANIZATIONAL QUICK FACTS

Total Budget: $49,552,000

Ad Valorem Tax Rate: $0.222577 per $100 valuation

Total Employees: 227

Divisions: Emergency Management, Gas Utility, Harbor, Airport, Beach Operations, Nature Preserve, Surf Rescue, Police, EMS, Fire, Facilities, Information Technology, Municipal Court, Library, Human Resources, Administration, Public Works, and Transit

Public Safety: Police department with 27 officers and 9 dispatchers, City EMS, and a volunteer fire department

KEY INITIATIVES

The next City Manager will step into a forward-looking agenda with significant momentum, including:

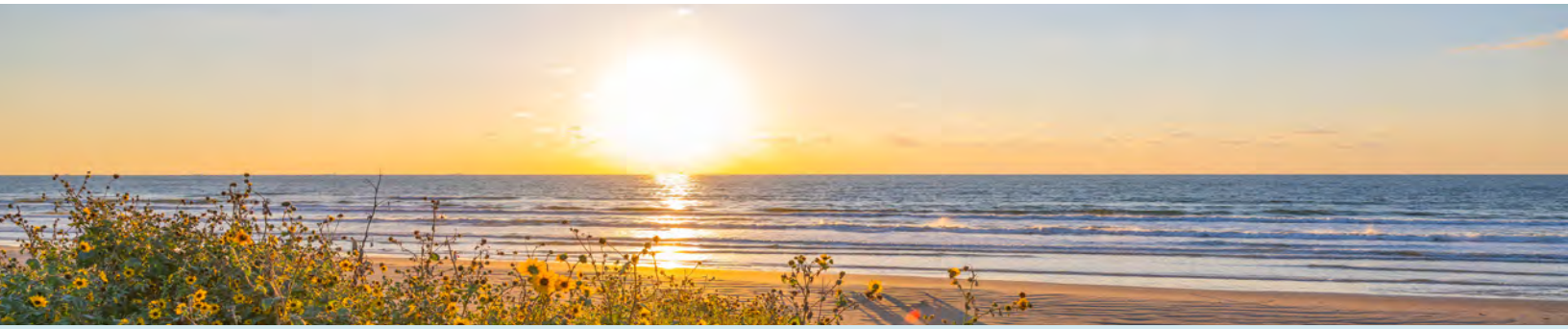
Infrastructure & Mobility The City will coordinate with state and regional partners on the major widening of State Highway 361, the island's main corridor, while advancing city street upgrades and improved signage. A voter-approved 2% venue tax, added to the Hotel Occupancy Tax, will fund $42 million of new streets, lighting, and connectivity to community venues.

Community Facilities A slate of new facilities is moving toward completion: a new lifeguard building that has just broken ground, a planned animal shelter, and a new Recreation Center scheduled to open in the spring. The City Manager will oversee these projects through delivery and into operation.

Waterfront & Marina Planning The City currently leases its marina from the Port of Corpus Christi and owns a 67-acre waterfront tract with approved usage permit, and the next City Manager will help the community build consensus on location, viability, strengthen the partnership with the Port, and address build-out funding strategies.

Coastal Stewardship & Resiliency Port Aransas balances the needs of permanent residents and visitors safety, with friendliness. Caring for the beach means managing traffic, Spring Break, golf carts, trash, seaweed, erosion, and development, alongside dune preservation. Continued storm preparation and the final wrap-up of Hurricane Harvey recovery will keep the City ready for whatever each season brings.

Organizational & Fiscal Sustainability The City will continue investing in staff development, technology, and operational efficiency, cultivating a culture employees want to stay in and evaluating long-term staffing needs, including a review of future conversion to a paid fire department. The City Manager will also address workforce housing affordability and plan for future revenue needs.



IDEAL CANDIDATE

The City of Port Aransas is seeking an experienced City Manager with a proven record of fair, honest, and transparent leadership. The ideal candidate is a firm decision maker, never wishy-washy or arrogant, who applies the rules consistently, works for everyone, and shows no favoritism. Organized and efficient, they are a strong, accountable leader who is calm but has tough skin and balances their approach with a measured response.

Inside City Hall, the next City Manager will build a professional workplace, treat employees fairly, and stay attentive to staff. They will bring new eyes and new ideas, a strong understanding of municipal finances, and the experience to provide oversight of capital projects. Great communication skills and good relations with state and local governments are essential, and emergency management experience is preferred.

Above all, the ideal candidate understands that Port A is a tourist destination but ultimately a small community: a casual beach environment with the tourism and coastal management issues of a much larger place. Approachable and never dismissive, they will be a good listener, engaged in the community, and committed to the sense of community that makes Port Aransas such a special place to call home.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Political Science, Finance, Management, Urban Planning, or a closely related field
- Minimum of seven years of progressively responsible experience in municipal or local government administration, including significant executive, management, or department-level leadership
- Valid Texas driver's license
- Residency within city limits, per the City Charter
- An equivalent combination of education, training, and experience may be considered

Preferred:

- Master's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, or a related field
- Experience as a City Manager, Assistant or Deputy City Manager, City Administrator, or department director
- Texas municipal government experience
- Experience in coastal or tourism-dependent communities
- Hurricane preparedness, emergency management, and disaster recovery experience
- Capital improvement, infrastructure, bond, and grant-funded project experience
- ICMA Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM) designation



SALARY & BENEFITS

The City of Port Aransas offers a competitive compensation and benefits package designed to attract and retain an exceptional executive.

Compensation
Salary: $230,000 – $260,000, DOQ

Health & Wellness

- UnitedHealthcare (UHC) PPO medical plan at no cost to the employee, with a City subsidy toward dependent coverage
- Free employee access to the City Recreation Center

Retirement

- Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) with a 7% employee contribution and a 2:1 City match
- Social Security participation

Paid Leave

- 12 paid holidays
- Vacation and sick leave
- Personal day

Other Benefits

- City-provided phone and technology
- Mileage reimbursement for use of a personal vehicle
- Relocation reimbursement

The City Charter requires the City Manager to reside within city limits. The City Council will work with the selected candidate to establish a timeline for fulfilling this provision.



HOW TO APPLY

Apply Here



For more information on this position, contact:

Jay Singleton, Senior Vice President
jaysingleton@governmentresource.com | 817-223-2654

The City of Port Aransas is an Equal Opportunity Employer.