

Interim finance director Steve Dunivent departs after four years with city

After four years with the City of Costa Mesa, Interim Finance Director Steve Dunivent is set to retire at the end of December.

“I love working with Steve Dunivent,” City Manager Tom Hatch said. “He approaches issues as a strong professional but with a unique way of calming any discussions. He will be missed.”

Dunivent began his career in 2013 during a transitional phase, which was expected to last for four months and lasted four years.

During that time, he helped achieve several key milestones, including securing a AA-plus bond rating from Standard & Poors for the Lions Park Projects bond sales, a five-year financial plan and several awards for the city’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Review.

Originally from Wisconsin, Dunivent grew up in Illinois where he received his bachelor’s degree in accounting before beginning his finance career in California. He spent 35 years with the County of Orange before retiring as Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

“My biggest accomplishment is the ability to be trusted by my boss or my bosses and having a positive influence on the people I work with.” Dunivent said. Part of his accomplishments stem from his influences from his family, people from the Bible and pastors.

“My mantra is what would Steve do or say, before I do whatever I do, and it has made me a better person,” Finance Executive

Secretary Kathy Ulrich said.

Dunivent has left an indelible mark on the City of Costa Mesa. His colleagues at City Hall agree that he leads with humility and works with relentless drive and in result has provided a great service to the city.

Once retired Dunivent plans to dedicate his attention towards two personal projects and catch up on some reading.

“It’s time,” Dunivent said.