



News Release

February 6, 2018

By Barbara Peterson, writer

Williston Economic Development

## **Schneider takes on New Role as Williston Development Services Director**

The City of Williston has filled a new administrative position designed to create a more favorable environment for future development.

Mark Schneider officially became the Development Services Director on Thursday, Feb. 1. The longtime architect and home builder will oversee the services provided by the Williston Building Safety, Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Departments. His office is housed on the second floor of the Center for Development at 113 4<sup>th</sup> St. E.

Schneider, a native of southwestern North Dakota, is a graduate of Bowman High School. He earned an Architectural Degree from North Dakota State University in 1987. After college he spent 24 years working in the Minneapolis area as both a commercial architect and part-time home builder. He decided to revisit the opportunities in western North Dakota when Minnesota's economy began to slump.



"I came out to explore the housing needs in 2010 and ended up filling the need for more architects," said Schneider. "I have been honored to have worked on over 100 projects from layouts of new developments to designing new residential and commercial projects."

Some of the projects Schneider has worked on include the 20/20 Professional Building, ProMed Plaza, Thrivent Financial, Ebel Integrators, Oasis Petroleum Corporate Headquarters and the Grand Theatre remodel in Downtown Williston. He is also credited with construction and oversight of 24 manufactured homes that were built in fewer than 18 weeks on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

Williston City Administrator David Tuan believes Schneider's background in the private sector will benefit him as he seeks to improve communications between the city and the public.

"As someone who has spent the past 30 years on the other side of the table as a builder and architect, we look forward to the new ideas and innovations Mark will bring. We are very excited to have him on the City team!" said Tuan.

One of the first things Schneider will do as Development Services Director is gather input from the construction industry, city staff and administrators to see if improvements can be made in the permitting, code enforcement and inspection processes.

"A lot of my work up front will be to meet with builders, developers and targeted groups to see if we can implement a process for communication and permitting," said Schneider.

Schneider lives in Williston with his wife Lori and their three children. He can be reached via email at [marks@ci.williston.nd.us](mailto:marks@ci.williston.nd.us) or phone at 701.577.8115.