



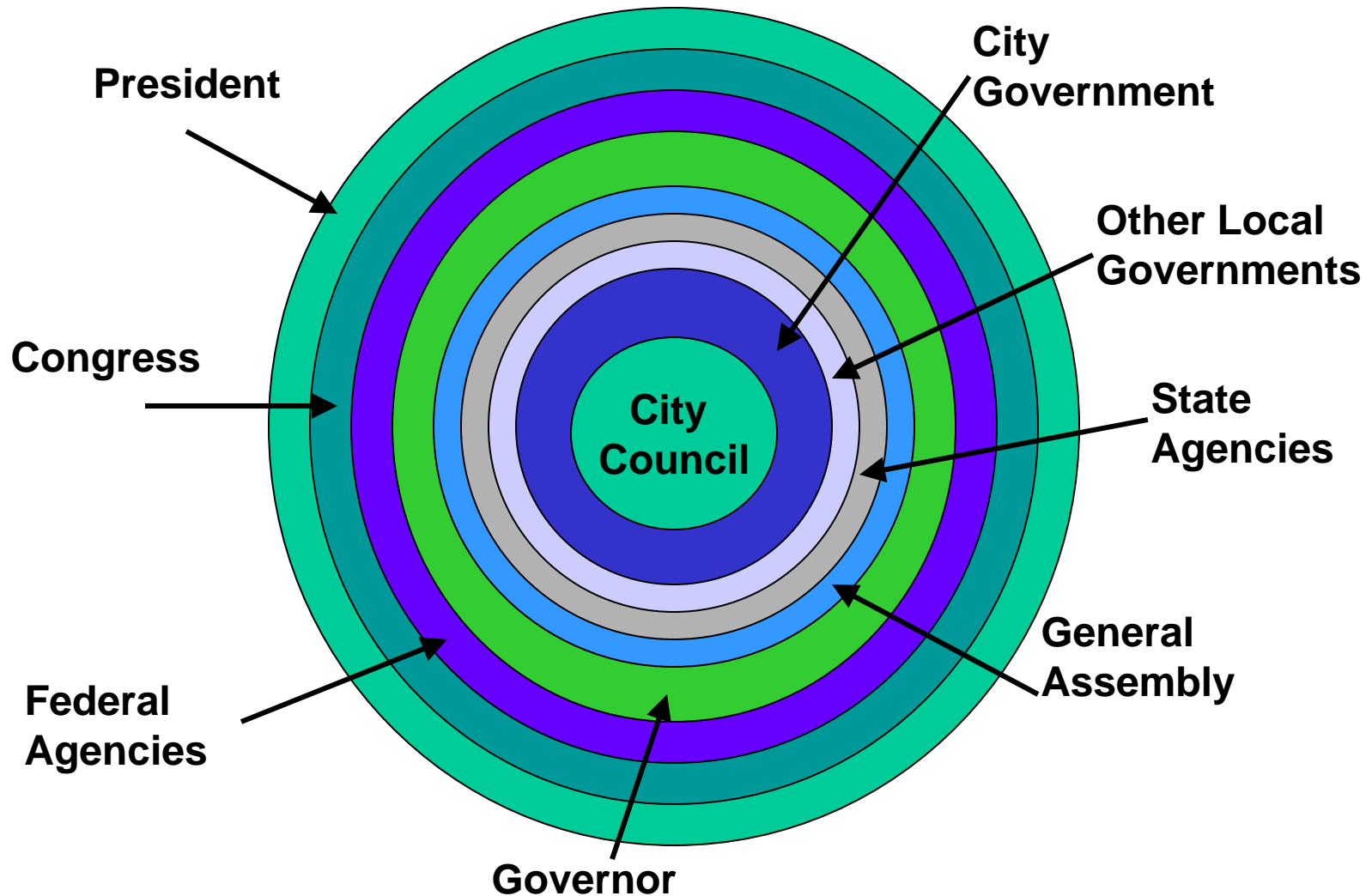
# Huntersville 101

Conversation with  
Town Manager  
Greg Ferguson

# National Recognition

- August 2010** Standard & Poor's Gives Huntersville's bonds its highest rating: AAA
- May 2010** Moody's gives Huntersville's bonds its highest rating: Aaa
- March 2010** 4th Best Affordable Suburb in America by *BusinessWeek*,
- July 2009** No. 2 on *Forbes* America's 25 Best Places to Move
- May 2008** Standard & Poor's upgrades Town of Huntersville's G.O. Bonds to AA+; Moody's Investors Service upgrade G.O. Bonds to Aa1
- July 2006** One of America's Top-Rated Smaller Cities by Grey House Publishing (2006/2007 Edition)
- Nov. 2005** One of Top Places to Retire in North Carolina by *CNN/Money* magazine
- July 2005** No. 76 on Top 100 Best Places to Live 2005 by *Money* magazine
- Dec. 2004** One of America's Top-Rated Smaller Cities by Grey House Publishing (2004/2005 Edition)

# Layers of Government



## What the Town of Huntersville Funds

Planning / Code Enforcement

Police

Parks & Recreation

Trash / Recycling / Yard  
Waste (contracted out)

Public Works & Engineering



Maintenance of Town-  
owned Streets

Fire - Capital

Economic Development –  
Partner with Cornelius  
and Davidson

## What Mecklenburg County Funds

Parks & Recreation

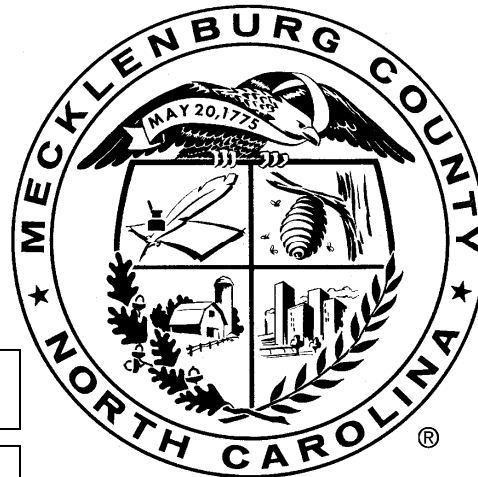
Air / Water Quality

Libraries

Jails / Sheriff

Child Support Enforcement

Medical Examiner / Morgue



Education (CMS/CPCC)

Elections

Property Assessment/Tax Collection

DSS / Comm. Support Services

Register of Deeds

Public & Mental Health Services

## City of Charlotte Funded Services (used locally):

Water/Sewer - CMU

CATS

# Role of Municipal Government

- Municipal governments help people make their communities better places to live.
  - They provide services to make life safer, healthier, and happier for the people who live there.
  - They offer incentives for improving the appearance and economy of their community.
  - They make and enforce laws to deal with public problems.

# Role of Citizens

- The people who live in a city or town also play an important role in providing municipal services. Volunteers help supervise recreation programs, organize recycling, and even fight fires. Citizen advisory committees, boards, and commissions help city councils and city employees review and plan programs.
- Individual citizens influence city policies through petitions, public hearings, and conversations with city officials.
- Residents also help carry out city programs. They sort their trash for recycling. They call police or fire departments to report dangerous situations.
- Many municipal services cannot be provided effectively without the active cooperation of residents.

# Reasons the Public Participates in Local Government

## Government Perspective

- Required by law
- Citizens have a right to be involved
- Allows better understanding of problems
- Introduces fresh ideas on options
- Ensures better decisions and outcomes
- Creates a sense of community representation
- Encourages greater buy-in and political cover
- Gets message out to community
- Allows transparency and helps build trust
- Helps build long-term capacity for community problem solving

## Citizen/Resident Perspective

- Clear interest in the matter and want to influence the decision because they are directly affected by it
- Civic responsibility and general interest in community well-being)
- Personal satisfaction
- Special expertise to contribute
- Personal ambition

# NC Municipalities by Population Size

Population of Municipality	Number of Municipalities of This Size	Total Population in Municipalities of This Size
Fewer than 2,500	340	286,875
2,500 to 9,999	136	655,925
10,000 to 49,000	56	1,191,165
50,000 or more	16	2,690,153
All cities and towns	548	4,824,118

Source: Gordon P. Whitaker and the NC City and County Management Association.

- Except for some of the smallest towns, North Carolina municipalities hire a professional manager (or administrator) as chief executive.
- Under the council–manager plan, the manager is responsible for carrying out the council’s policies and for running city government.
- The manager “serves at the pleasure of the council.”

# Council-Manager Form

- The council-manager form of government is the system of local government that combines the strong political leadership of elected officials in the form of a council or other governing body, with the strong managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. The form establishes a representative system where all power is concentrated in the elected council and where the council hires a professionally trained manager to oversee the delivery of public services.
- **Based on Separation of Functions:**
  - Governing Board is Legislative and Policy Oriented.
  - Administration is responsibility of professional manager.
- **Characteristics:**
  - More Businesslike Form of Government
  - Pinpoints Authority and Responsibility

# **Manager's Role (N.C. General Statute 160A – 148)**

- Appoint, suspend, remove all employees not elected or appointed by council.
- Direct and supervise the administration of all departments.
- Attend all council meetings and make recommendations to council.
- See that all state and city laws and council directions are carried out within the city.
- Prepare and submit annual recommended budget and CIP to council.
- Submit annual report on city finances and activities to council.
- Make any other reports that council requires on activities under manager's control.
- Perform any other duties that council requires or authorizes.

# **Mayor's Role (N.C. General Statute 160A-151)**

- Very Few Formal Powers.
- Preside at governing board meetings.
- Voting to break a tie.
- Sign documents on behalf of the city.
- Can call special meetings of council.
- Mayor and all council members are ineligible to serve as manager, interim manager, or acting manager.

# Questions