



CITY OF MIDLOTHIAN

PLANNING DIRECTOR

THE COMMUNITY

With a rapidly growing population, currently 24,461, the City of Midlothian is a dynamic, community of 54 square miles, strategically located 25 miles southwest of Dallas and 27 miles southeast of Fort Worth. Midlothian is located along both Interstate Highway 67 and U.S. Highway 287 which intersect within the city.

Midlothian is located close to the highest elevation in Ellis County atop the Austin Escarpment, a thick chalk ridge that runs in a northeast to southwest direction. The Austin Escarpment through Midlothian represents a 600-year potential limestone reserve that has attracted three cement plant operations that can closely serve the expanding Dallas-Fort Worth real estate market

This year the city is on pace to issue over 500 new single-family residential building permits for 2016. The average square footage for new home construction (2883) and construction/sales values continue to trend upward. There are currently over 2100 lots platted for development and approximately 8200 lots to be developed.

Midlothian is also home to one of the best and fastest growing school districts in Texas. MISD currently has more than 8400 students enrolled across 11 campuses and is committed to inspiring excellence today to change the world tomorrow. www.misd.gs.

The average household income in Midlothian is \$100,979. There are over 11,333 total households. Median age is 33.5.



HISTORY

Among the earliest settlers, in the area that would later become Midlothian included the families of William Alden Hawkins and Larkin Newton, who moved to the area in 1848. For Hawkins to claim his 640 acres of land from the Peters Colony group, he was required to build a house on the property he chose along the mouth of Waxahachie Creek before July 1, 1848. The structure was built before the required deadline and the land near the present day Hawkins Spring went to the Hawkins family. For Larkin Newton, who moved his wife Mary and their eight children from Missouri, the same requirement was given. Larkin met the due date and became owner of his 640-acre claim.

In 1883 the name 'Midlothian' was accepted by the local population. According to local legend, the area was named Midlothian when the Chicago, Texas, and Mexican Central railroads, which would eventually connect Dallas and Cleburne, arrived in the area and a homesick Scottish train engineer stated that the local countryside reminded him of his homeland in Scotland and the location served as the midpoint between Dallas and Cleburne, and between Ennis and Fort Worth. With the coming of the railroad, Midlothian grew and was incorporated in April 1888.

After World War II, Midlothian's economic base would undergo another transition into an industrial center serving the growing Dallas-Fort Worth market. The community would continue to enjoy its strategic location as the southern transportation crossroads with easy access to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but lying beneath its productive agricultural soils was the bedrock of its economic expansion.

In 1959, Texas Industries, Inc. (TXI) began construction of its first cement plant in Midlothian. By 1967, the company had a total of three kilns to help meet the demand for cement with the construction of the Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Airport. TXI became the largest cement operation in Texas with the addition of the third kiln. In 1972, TXI added a fourth kiln to its Midlothian cement plant. TXI's fifth and latest kiln went into operation in the beginning of 2003. TXI was purchased by Martin Marietta in 2015. Other major cement operations in Midlothian include Ash Grove Texas, LP and Holcim (Texas), LP.

Adjacent to Martin Marietta's Midlothian plant is steel manufacturer Gerdau Ameristeel. Today, Gerdau Ameristeel operates a steel plant in Midlothian and is the second largest producer of structural steel products in North America. RailPort is a 1,700-acre business park developed by TXI and now owned by Martin Marietta.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

Midlothian is a home-rule city operating under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council consists of the Mayor, and six City Council members, representing at-large member district, all serving three-year staggered terms. The City Council appoints a professional City Manager who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization.

The City has 232 employees delivering a full range of municipal services. The FY 2016-2017 budget is \$26,768,317, and the ad valorem tax rate is \$0.708244 per \$100 valuation. The City maintains an S&P's AA/Stable bond rating.

The City processes over 500 new single family permits per year as well as commercial, multi-family and remodels. Planning leads a 13- member Development team for this fast growing community. Midlothian is a dynamic community going through tremendous growth both residential and commercial.

ABOUT THE POSITION/ IDEAL CANDIDATE

The Planning Director receives general administrative direction from the Assistant City Manager and provides direct supervision for the Planning Manager, Planner/GIS Coordinator and Administrative staff.

As a part of the City's management team the Planning Director must be able to communicate effectively with residents, the City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, developers, builders, engineers, and architects.



The selected candidate will direct, coordinate and monitor all department projects and operations. Makes recommendations for adoption and amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, Parks Master Plan and other parks, land use and construction related codes.

The ideal candidate will possess skills in managing, and developing a highly professional work team while imparting customer service as the top priority. Another key attribute is the ability to speak on technical topics and gain consensus for planning and zoning projects. Establishes a turn key development process for citizens and commercial developers.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrated knowledge in:

Comprehensive knowledge of the principles and practices of comprehensive planning, zoning and environmental issues

Skill in the policy and program development and evaluation

Ability to work effectively and accomplish results with developers and City Council

Proven effective presentation skills on highly technical and controversial projects

Ability to effectively monitor all technical aspects of the planning and zoning process

Preferred experience working with ArcGIS

Demonstrated supervisory skills

Preferred experience working with Public Improvement District (PID) and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ)

Ability to work as part of a team to achieve goals

Must have open and progressive view point

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning, Geography, Architecture, or closely related field; preferred Master's degree in Urban Planning or MPA. Seven years of progressively responsible supervisory experience in regional or area wide planning.

Preferred Qualifications:

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification

Membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The salary range is \$82,118-\$127,275 DOQ. The City of Midlothian offers a generous benefits program including: city paid employee medical, dental, life and disability insurance; and paid vacation and sick leave. The City participates in the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) at 7% employee rate with a city matching ratio of 2:1 or 14%.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please apply on-line at www.midlothian.tx.us/employment. There is an employment link on the homepage for your convenience. Please direct all cover letters and resumes to Janet Goad, Human Resources Director, at janet.goad@midlothian.tx.us or fax to 972-775-7193.

The City of Midlothian is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Applicants selected for position will be subject to a comprehensive background check and drug testing.