

# Tara L. Vasicek

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## Summary

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Dynamic leader with significant experience leading diverse city departments and managing a wide variety of municipal initiatives and projects. Expert in project development and implementation, fiscal oversight, community planning and relationship management. Adept at cultivating organizational unity and enhancing the performance of numerous complex strategic initiatives while upholding the highest level of professional integrity.

## Experience

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### City Administrator - City of Columbus, NE

January 2017 - Current

- Lead 16 'direct reports', which manage 200+ full-time employees across 13 departments, 15 units which represent five financially independent businesses, one being tax-supported and four utilities.
- Leadership duties include executive fiscal oversight, capital and strategic planning and implementation, cost control and revenue management, continuous operational improvement and fostering a service culture.
- Serve at the City's economic development director and city planning director.
- Provide strategic guidance to ensure the city teams exceed the expectations of the Mayor and City Council and the 19 appointed boards and committees to ensure the wide variety of city plans and goals are implemented in the most innovative and efficient manner possible.
- Collaborate with a wide variety of stakeholders including: businesses, community groups, governmental entities and general public to advance City and Community plans, projects, goals and overall operational effectiveness.

### Major Project Examples:

- Construction of multi-phased wastewater treatment facility. \$35M
- Implementation of Tax Increment Financing in Columbus. To date: 16 projects, \$340M private investment
- New Fire & Police Stations. Full project development, voter approval, bonding, design & construction. \$16M
- New Columbus Community Building. (Library, City Hall, Children's Museum, Arts, etc.) \$32M
- Planning: implemented the following: annual pavement management plan, communication plans across all departments, new comprehensive plan and long-range transportation plans, downtown revitalization plan, city's strategic plan updated annually, etc.
- City workforce housing subdivision, Vitality Village. Leading full project: land & builder RFPs, subdivision planning, financial planning. 4 builders will construct 320 units in 2 years on 25 acres of land the city has developed.

**City Administrator - City of York, NE****August 2013 – December 2016**

- Substantially similar duties as those listed above as Columbus City Administrator, was involved in a wider variety of affairs as York is smaller and has a smaller team than Columbus.

**Major Project Examples:**

- Youth Softball/Baseball Complex. Project development, community engagement, voter approval, fiscal planning.
- Several street, water & sewer projects.
- Holthus Convention Center
- New Wastewater Treatment Facility. Project Development & Financing. Not present for construction.

**Project Manager - City of York, NE****April 2010 – August 2013**

- Planning, development and management of roadway, water, sewer, wastewater, solid waste, housing and economic development projects.
- Developed a GIS system and used it to start an asset management system for streets, water & sewer.
- Coordinated projects and tasks with the local stakeholders, outside government agencies and organizations.
- Responsible for the City's compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, codes and regulations.
- Manage Projects. Including: writing requests for proposals, consultant selection, design and construction oversight, budget management, schedule oversight, staffing, and required documentation submittal to state and federal agencies.

**Education and Training**

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- University of Nebraska – Lincoln,  
Bachelors of Science in Geography and Community and Regional Planning

**Recent Continuing Education and Professional Development:**

- Lean Six Sigma, Yellow Belt
- Stanford Executive Education Course, Brains and Guts of Decision Making
- Sherwood Community Catalyst Program
- Welcoming America's Rural Welcoming Communities Participant

**References available upon request**

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