



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### PRESS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### City Manager of Athens Wins Tennessee Historical Commission Award

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – June 4, 2018 – Since 1975, the Tennessee Historical Commission Certificate of Merit Awards Program has honored individuals, publications, projects, and programs that contribute to historic preservation and/or history efforts in the state. This year, one of those recipients was Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner. Under the Special Commendation award category, Sumner was given honors for facilitating and supporting the City's successful 2017 application to the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Nominations were voted on and approved by the full Commission at their February meeting and recipients were notified last month with May recognized as Preservation Month.

Across the nation, hundreds of communities have taken action to preserve their unique historic character through the passing of historic preservation ordinances and the creation of historic zoning commissions and design review. The CLG program was established through 1980 and 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, and has become a cost-effective local, state, and federal partnership. The CLG Program has been a major source of support and guidance for local communities for over twenty years. The program provides technical assistance and grants to local governments who are committed to protecting their historic and architectural heritage for future generations.

As of 2017, thirty-nine (39) towns, cities, and counties in Tennessee have been certified by the Tennessee Historical Commission and the National Park Service as CLGs. These communities have benefited from their participation as CLGs through the technical assistance, training, and networking opportunities provided by the Tennessee Historical Commission, and through the grants they have received.

City Manager Sumner stated, "The Certificate of Merit was a real surprise, and I am grateful to be recognized by the state's Historical Commission, but the real winners here are the property owners of our beautiful city. The CLG program provides some of the greatest tools available for citizens to protect their investments in our community's historic assets."

The other recipients of the Special Commendation award include Teresa Prober, Preservation Planner for the South Central Development District in Mt. Pleasant for helping with successful Certified Local Government applications for four communities in the service region; Clayborn Temple in Memphis for their ongoing preservation and restoration efforts; and Barry Thacker and Carol Moore of the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation for various restorations and programming to bring attention to the history of the Coal Creek area.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at 423-744-2702.

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