2020 City Manager of the Year Award –
David Smoak, Farragut TN

For 33 consecutive years now, the Association has recognized one its own for:

- Significant contributions to the betterment of the community and profession,
- Significant achievements within the scope of their duties,
- Special contributions made outside of their routine responsibilities,
- Length of service to the municipality, and
- Demonstration of outstanding initiative, perseverance, or dedication to the profession or their community.

This year, TCMA is pleased to recognize David Smoak, Farragut Town Administrator, as the 2020 City Manager of the Year.

While serving Farragut over the past 10 years, David has demonstrated outstanding initiative, perseverance, and dedication to the profession and to the community he serves.

Among many accomplishments, David demonstrated excellence in financial management and budgeting despite the town having no property tax or debt during a period when the net position of the town increased from $38 million to $872 million as the result of several important capital projects that were completed. David implemented an improved performance measurement methodology to allow for more robust statistical analysis and supporting data-driven decisions. This methodology has helped transform the town's operations to a results-oriented posture. Under his leadership, Farragut has received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for ten consecutive years as well as the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award each year since 2014.
Due to excellent management and long-term planning, the town has been able to:

1) Secure more than $40 million in federal and state grant funding for transportation and park improvement projects.

2) Purchase and restore the historic Campbell Station Inn, a nineteenth century home and inn used as a hospital in the Civil War.

3) Renovate a 34,000 SF facility and open the town's first Community Center.

4) Enhance park and recreation facilities and programming including upgrading existing fields to synthetic turf to increase field usage, purchase of additional park land, and expanded park holiday decorations and instituted an annual tree lighting ceremony and “Light the Park” event, helping to unite community members in holiday celebration.

In addition, David introduced several strategic initiatives including an “Introduction to Farragut Program,” a six-week course designed to enhance community involvement and knowledge of local government operations. The course includes sessions covering Farragut history, government relations, public safety, economic development, education, volunteer opportunities, and a tour of town facilities. Held annually since 2013, eighty-eight participants have graduated from the program with three subsequently serving on the governing board and 14 serving as volunteer on town committees.

Another strategic initiative implemented by David was the formation of the Farragut Business Alliance, which has the mission to positively impact Farragut's economic growth by assisting new businesses, supporting and promoting existing businesses, and aiding in the economic development and promotion of the community.
To improve relationships between the Town and the business community, David also assigned business liaison responsibilities with two town employees. These employees work to identify opportunities to improve policies and internal procedures to better serve the business community and improve satisfaction with the town's regulatory processes.

A consummate professional, the elected officials have confidence in his impartial judgement and recommendations; the residents trust him; and his staff respects him.