

Walkertown's manager quits after meeting

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WALKERTOWN - Town Manager Ronald Bell resigned last night after a closed session with the Walkertown Town Council, saying later that he has a new job and that "things have not been particularly good" in his position as manager.

Bell was hired by the council last May to replace Toby Linville, who worked as manager for the town for two years before leaving for a county-government job in Henderson County. Bell, who made \$42,000 a year, was given two months insurance coverage and pay by the council last night.

Council members Sarah Welch and Brenda Mabe said after the meeting that they were disappointed that Bell had not followed through on some tasks, including codes enforcement and obtaining grants.

"Things were just not working out," Mabe said. "We all wanted to leave on good terms."

Mayor Doc Davis said that Bell had always carried out assigned tasks but that some council members wanted Bell to take more initiative.

Bell said that his accomplishments included getting roads paved, and that he had negotiated the purchase of property for a town park, "handled over 70 code violations" and gotten N.C. Department of Transportation approval for an intersection improvement on Old Hollow Road.

"I did everything they asked me to do," he said. "They just seemed to be on a different path."

The town hasn't decided on its next step toward filling the position, Davis said.