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Burleson City Council members have narrowed the list of candidates for city manager down to five. The candidates are:

- Dale Cheatham, town manager for Brownsburg, Ind., and former city manager for The Colony, Texas
- James Earp, assistant city manager for Kyle, Texas
- Charles Ewings, assistant city manager for Longview, Texas
- John Godwin, town manager for Fairview, Texas, and
- Elizabeth Grindstaff, assistant city manager, San Angelo, Texas

The five candidates will be interviewed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 24-25, during executive session. Those interviews will not be broadcast via the streaming video on the City website. Council members will choose the top candidates from the five, then those top candidates will return for a second round of interviews with the council in February.

After City Manager Curtis Hawk announced in the summer of 2011 that he would be retiring in March 2012, council members sought a consulting firm to head up the search for Hawk's successor. In October, Heidi Voorhees with Voorhees and Associates, a public management consulting firm, began interviewing city council members and City staff to get a picture of what kind of city manager the City is seeking. The list of candidates was presented to council at a December 2011 council meeting. Following the Jan. 3 council meeting, the list was made official.