

January 26, 2012

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Burleson City Council members have narrowed the list of candidates for city manager from five to two. The finalists are Dale Cheatham, town manager for Brownsburg, Ind., and former city manager for The Colony, Texas; and Elizabeth Grindstaff, assistant city manager, San Angelo, Texas.

The five candidates were interviewed Jan. 24-25 during executive sessions with council. Cheatham and Grindstaff will return on Wednesday, Feb. 1, for a closed meeting with a panel from the community and a panel from City staff. On Feb. 2, Burleson City Council members will meet again, in executive session, for a second round of interviews with the two finalists. The announcement of council's selection for the next city manager will be made after terms are agreed on by both the City and the selected candidate.

Cheatham has worked for six municipalities:

- Administrative intern in public works (1989-1990) and in the city manager's office (1990-1991) for the City of DeKalb., Ill.;
- Budget analyst (1991-1992), senior budget analyst/citywide grant coordinator (1992-1993), and budget supervisor (1993-1994) for the City of Dallas;
- Deputy finance director (1994-1995) and director of administrative services/finance director (1995-1996) for the City of Greenville;
- Assistant city manager (1996-1997) and city manager (1997-2001, interim for four months in 1997) for the City of Watauga;
- City manager for The Colony, 2001-2009;
- And, town manager for the Town of Brownsburg, Ind. (2010 to present).

Cheatham earned his bachelor of science degree in business management from Bradley University and a master of arts in public administration from Northern Illinois University.

Grindstaff has worked for four municipalities.

- Director of economic development for the City of Hillsboro (May 1988-February 1991);
- Project manager for Bryan Downtown Revitalization, Inc., (February 1991-September 1991) and Main Street project manager and historic preservation officer, both for the City of Bryan (October 1991-August 1995).

- Downtown manager (August 1995-May 1998), planning services administrator (May 1998-October 2000); assistant planning director (October 2000-August 2004); and interim planning director (August 2004-April 2005) for the City of Abilene.
- Planning director (May 2005-July 2006) and assistant city manager (July 2006 to present) for the City of San Angelo.

Grindstaff earned a bachelors degree in environmental design and a master's degree in urban planning, both from Texas A&M University.

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. The five finalists included James Earp, assistant city manager for Kyle, Texas; Charles Ewings, assistant city manager for Longview, Texas; and John Godwin, town manager for Fairview, Texas.