

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David Clyne, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: December 22, 2023

City Manager Finalists Announced

The City Council on Friday, December 15 selected Michael Sauerwein as the finalist for the City Manager position. “The Council had a great set of candidates and they are looking forward to Mike being Cottage Grove’s next city manager,” Interim City Manager David Clyne said.

The city and Sauerwein have signed a letter of intent and this commences the next steps of drafting an employment agreement and making the official appointment. These approvals are anticipated to occur on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the regular meeting of the City Council. Sauerwein has served as the City Administrator for the cities of Snoqualmie and Medina in Washington state. He previously served as the Assistant City Manager in Sammamish, WA. He’s a native of Oregon. He holds a master’s degree in public affairs from the University of Oregon.

Sauerwein stated he’s excited to have been selected and looks forward to working with the city council, staff and the community. “I’d like to thank Mayor Solesbee and the City Council for providing me with the opportunity to serve as your City Manager. Both my wife and I are looking forward to joining the Cottage Grove community.”

Cottage Grove operates under a council-manager form of government, whereby the mayor and six councilmembers hire and oversee a City Manager. That person acts as chief executive for the organization.

Since early October, David Clyne, a seasoned city manager, has been serving in an interim role and assisting with the leadership transition.

The mayor and council worked with the recruiting firm GMP Consultants on a national search. That process resulted in five finalists, who spent Thursday and Friday, December 14 and 15 in Cottage Grove meeting with Mayor Solesbee and councilmembers, staff and community members. A public reception for the candidates on Thursday evening drew over 100 community members to the city’s armory.

Mayor Solesbee and the city councilmembers thank everyone who participated in the recruitment process.

Quote of the Week:

“The beginning is always today.”

~ Mary Shelley