

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David Clyne, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: December 8, 2023

City Manager Finalists Announced

The Cottage Grove City Council is pleased to announce the finalists for the highly anticipated City Manager position. Following an extensive and rigorous search process, the Council has identified a group of distinguished candidates who possess the leadership, experience, and vision necessary to guide the city forward.

The City Manager position plays a pivotal role in shaping the direction of Cottage Grove, overseeing crucial aspects of municipal governance and administration. With the goal of selecting a candidate whose experience and education aligns with the values and aspirations of our community, the Council diligently reviewed a pool of highly-qualified applicants from across the nation.

These finalists have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in their respective careers, showcasing a deep understanding of the complexities and challenges associated with municipal management. Each candidate brings a unique set of skills, experiences, and innovative ideas that position them as strong contenders for the role.

James Hunt brings over 20 years of City Manager/City Administrator experience across multiple states. Most recently, he spent five years as City Manager for the City of Whittier, AK, and seven years as City Manager for the City of Seward, AK. He has also been a City Administrator in both Oregon and Iowa. He holds a BA in Education from the University of South Dakota Vermillion and is a member of ICMA.

Scott Meszaros has over 23 years of public service. During this time, he has held multiple executive positions including Town Administrator in Meeker, CO, Town Manager in Hope Mills, NC and City Manager in Seward, AK. Scott served five years in the US Navy, and most recently held the position of Interim President/CEO of Distinctly Fayetteville (formerly the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau). Scott obtained his BA from Colorado State University-Pueblo, his MPA from Troy State University, and is an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

Charles Morris brings over 20 years of public service with the City of Niceville, FL, where he obtained progressively responsible management experience. He currently serves as Deputy City Manager as well as Director of Purchasing and Director of Information Systems. From 1986-1988 he served in the US Army. He holds a BSBA from the University of West Florida and an MPA from Troy University and is a member of ICMA.

Michael Sauerwein has over 30 years of public service experience. During this span of time Michael has served as a City Manager for the City of Sheridan (OR), Assistant city Manager for the City of Sammamish (WA) and the City Manager for the City of Medina (WA). Most recently, he spent a part of this year as the Interim Administrative Services Director for Grays Harbor County. He has received a Masters of Public affairs from the University of Oregon.

Faye Stewart is currently the Public Works and Development Director with the City of Cottage Grove (OR). He has been in this role since 2017. He began public service in 2005 as a Commissioner for East Lane County. Faye has had many leadership opportunities as Owner/President of several different companies. He holds a variety of certificates for Community and Catalytic Leadership.

As the Council moves forward in the final stages of the selection process, the Cottage Grove community is encouraged to engage with the finalists during the upcoming Candidate Reception at the Cottage Grove Armory. This interactive process, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on Thursday, December 14, will provide residents, stakeholders, and community members with the opportunity to learn more about the finalists and offer their input.

For further information and updates on the City Manager selection process, contact the City Manager's office at 541-942-5501.

November 2023 Building Inspection Services Report

For the month of November, the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 29 permits, one for a single family home and performed 85 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell, 12 permits were issued and 55 inspections were performed. In Veneta, 19 permits were issued, two for single-family homes and 46 inspections were performed. In Coburg 7 permits were issued and 43 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 27 plan sets in November and 10 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

Self Serve Sandbag Site

City staff has set up a self-serve sandbag site at Coiner Park where City residents and property owners can fill sandbags if their property is being threatened by flooding. Last weekend 4.25 inches of rain fell causing low areas to retain water and theadend flooding of buildings.. A second rain storm is predicted this week by the National Weather Service that could cause local flooding. If your property is threatened by high water and needs sandbags bring your shovel down to Coiner Park and fill some bags to use.

Quote of the Week:

“There is nothing permanent except change.”

~ Heraclitus