

February 8, 2012

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Dale Cheatham is expected to be officially appointed as the next city manager of the City of Burleson at the Feb. 20 city council meeting. Once appointed, Cheatham would not officially start with the City until April.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to serve in the City of Burleson,” Cheatham said. “Burleson is a growing and thriving community that I believe is operating from a position of strength. I look forward to working with the city council, staff, and citizens to make a great city even better.”

Cheatham has worked for six municipalities, including four in Texas. He is currently the town manager for the Town of Brownsburg, Ind. His public administration career includes:

- 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 served in the United States Army for four years in Frankfurt and Heidelberg, Germany; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Harrison, Ind. Cheatham earned a bachelor of science degree in business management from Bradley University and a master of arts in public administration from Northern Illinois University. He and his wife DeeAnn have two children.

When City Manager Curtis Hawk announced he would be retiring in March 2012, council members hired Heidi Voorhees with Voorhees and Associates, a public management consulting firm. In October she interviewed council members and City staff for input. The list of candidates was presented to council at a December council meeting. After the Jan. 3 council meeting, the list was made official. The five finalists included Cheatham; Elizabeth Grindstaff, assistant city manager,

San Angelo; James Earp, assistant city manager, Kyle; Charles Ewings, assistant city manager, Longview; and John Godwin, town manager, Fairview.

City council members narrowed the list from five to two on Jan. 26. Cheatham and Grindstaff were interviewed by a community panel and City employee panel Feb. 1 then went through a second interview with council on Feb. 2.

“After an exhaustive search that began with over 80 applicants, I can say with confidence Burleson has found the right person for the job,” Burleson Mayor Ken Shetter said. “Dale brings a great track record of outstanding employee and community relations. Throughout the search process the city council was impressed with his breadth of knowledge and his professionalism. I think I speak for the entire council when I say we are excited to work with Dale and look forward to welcoming him and his family to our great city.”