

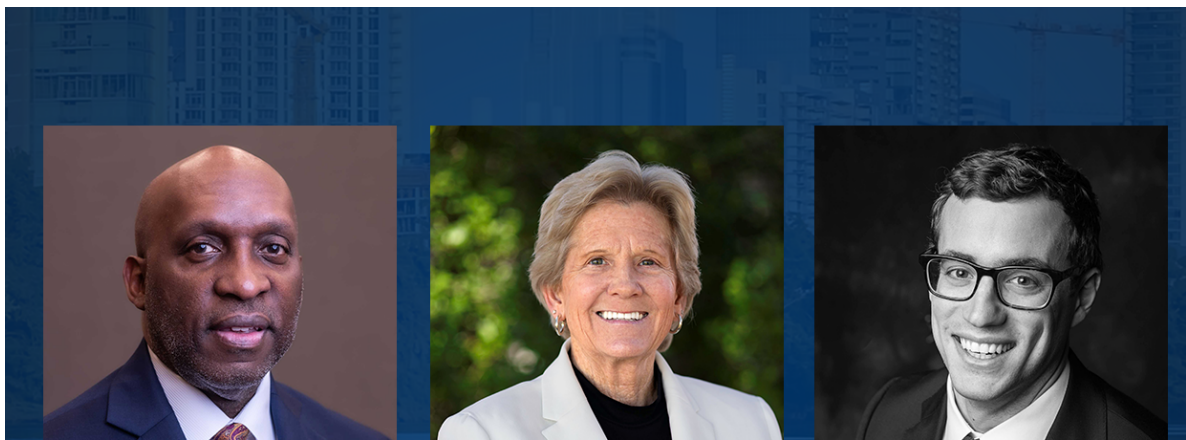
From: Mayor Kirk Watson WatsonWire@mc.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov
Subject: Watson Wire: Searching for a City Manager
Date: March 5, 2024 at 5:31 PM
To: ken@theaustinbulldog.org

MW



I ran for mayor saying we needed to stabilize City operations and better set up our City for success. A year ago, the Austin City Council brought in Jesús Garza as our interim City Manager to run the day-to-day operations of Austin.

While we knew from the beginning that Jesús wouldn't be our long-term City Manager, we took our time in the search because we wanted him to focus on fixing the problems of the past so that the new City Manager would be able to focus on the future of Austin. Jesús has done extraordinary work under trying circumstances and has made a difference at City Hall helping to make local government work better, less chaotic, and with a focus on results.





T.C. BROADNAX

SARA HENSLEY

BRIAN PLATT

We had 39 people apply for the permanent job, and we will be moving forward to the next phase with three people who will come to Austin for interviews and other evaluation activities. They are (in alphabetical order):

- T.C. Broadnax, the City Manager of Dallas, Texas
- Sara Hensley, the City Manager of Denton, Texas
- Brian Platt, the City Manager of Kansas City, Missouri

On Monday, March 25th, they will participate in meetings with members of the professional city staff. That evening, we'll conduct a community townhall. The location for the community town hall is being finalized. I'll provide the details when available.

On Tuesday, March 26th, the Council and I will interview the three candidates. The interviews will be conducted at City Hall in the Executive Session Room.

We will ask one, two or all three candidates to return for additional discussion on April 1st, and I anticipate we'll be voting to direct our search firm to negotiate a contract with a specific person on April 2nd.

Of course, we reserve the right to take more time in making this very important decision.

From the beginning, our goal has been to make this process as open and transparent as possible. The Mosaic Public Partners team has been conducting community engagement efforts. A community stakeholder survey was conducted. Mosaic also met with many community leaders and stakeholders, and [the findings are available here.](#)

With this timeline, I feel confident that we can have our new City Manager identified in April.

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