

City of Breckenridge

PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 2010

The City of Breckenridge announced today that they have narrowed the field for the next City Manager to 14 semi finalists, from a field of 49 candidates brought to them by Ron Holifield, CEO of SGR Executive Search, who is assisting in the recruitment of the next City Manager.

Mayor Jimmy McKay said that the City Commission had an incredibly strong field from which they chose the 14 semi finalists. 28 were from Texas, while three were from Arizona, two each were from Florida, Michigan and Oklahoma, with candidates also from California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and Utah. Mayor McKay said "We are both pleased and surprised at how strong the field of contenders is. The next City Manager has a tremendous challenge to live up to the reputation of retiring City Manager Gary G. Ernest. We have been very deliberate in conducting a thorough national search to find the very best person to carry on our tradition of excellent city management in Breckenridge, and based on how strong the field is, the entire City Commission is very enthusiastic about our ability to find the right person to continue to do so."

Ron Holifield, CEO of SGR Executive Search told the Commission that it was unusual to have such a strong national field of contenders from so many larger cities for a city the size of Breckenridge. He attributed the exceptional field of contenders to "the political health and stability of the community, the reputation of the Mayor and Commission as working very well together as a team and being strongly committed to the Council-Manager form of government, the wonderful quality of life in Breckenridge, and the excellent reputation and stability of Gary G. Ernest".

The Commission will meet next week to narrow the field once again to approximately a half dozen finalists who will be invited in for an interview. Once finalists are selected, then names will be released. Mayor McKay described the candidate selection process as "very rigorous" for the candidates, and although it is also a lot of hard work for the Commission, it is "helping prepare us to make a great decision at the end".

Of the 14 semi finalists, 11 are from Texas, with one from Arizona, one from Illinois, and one from Kansas. Nine have experience as a City Manager, while two have experience as an Assistant City Manager in much larger cities than Breckenridge, and three have experience as Department Heads in cities ranging from 22,000 to 38,000.