

# Editorial: Manager crop goes on display

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Perfection almost always is impossible to achieve and there can be no perfect method of selecting a chief executive for a city such as Amarillo.

Still, the method being employed by the City Commission in its search for a new city manager has taken many positive steps toward that elusive goal of perfection.

Tonight, beginning at 7 in the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts, across the street from the Civic Center, the five men left seeking the city manager's appointment are going to meet Amarillo residents in a public reception.

One might wonder whether it would be awkward for all five finalists to be gathered in the same room. But the expense of conducting a single public reception - as opposed to conducting five such receptions that include just one of the finalists at a time - would seem to be considerably more in line with what the city can afford.

The goal, of course, is to acquaint residents - who are the ultimate bosses of whomever the commission selects - to size up these gentlemen for themselves. City officials are hoping for a large turnout of "regular folks," and not just city employees, who will visit with the candidates individually.

There will be no formal question-and-answer session with the finalists, according to City Hall officials. The session, expected to last about 90 minutes, is intended to introduce each of the men to those members of the community interested enough in city government to attend.

One of the goals of the city manager selection process is to provide transparency. City officials have declared their intention to be as open about the process as state law requires.

The reception planned for this evening helps the city keep that important promise to the taxpayers to whom everyone at City Hall must answer.