



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Special Meeting

Item -1

City Administrator Finalist Interview (Mary Lou Brown)

"Any organization is only as good as its people and that's why I'm proud to recommend Mary Lou Brown as a finalist to best serve the people of Grand Island as its City Administrator today and in the future," said Grand Island Mayor Jay Vavricek.

The nationwide search for city administrator generated more than 50 applicants from 20 states.

Vavricek said, "When it's all said and done, one person stood out from the rest in so many ways from this talent pool, one who is already right here in our fold. She is already part of our community and has demonstrated that she cares about success in service to our people. There is no need to bring in someone who is unknown when we have somebody right here who is very capably doing the job."

Vavricek went on to say, "In order to accomplish our goal of hiring the best person for the job, we had hoped for a larger pool of finalists, however, through the process it became very clear that the right person is already here."

Brown began her employment on July 27, 2009, as City Finance Director. Her background prior to joining the City included serving as the Director of Bankruptcy Claims for the Adelpia Bankruptcy Team in Englewood, Colo., as well as serving in various senior management positions with Dex Media, Qwest Communications, and US West. She held the positions of Senior Director of Human Resources and Senior Director of Financial Planning and Analysis to name just a few. Brown's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Business and French from Gustavas Adolphus College in Peter, Minn., and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

"Since Mary Lou volunteered to take on the responsibilities as Interim City Administrator, I have personally seen her capabilities, her work ethic, and her ability to work well with staff as well as the City Council and taxpayers. She has a strong understanding of each City department and her unique skills in guiding future City budgets under stressful financial times are a great asset, as well as her direct knowledge of the program prioritization process," commented Vavricek.

"While I've seen Mary Lou's leadership on stage in so many ways, I believe it's important for the citizens and the Council to have the ability to appreciate what I and City staff members know and appreciate," said Vavricek.

Citizens are welcome to attend and observe the City Administrator public interview process on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 100 E. 1st St. The process can also be seen live on Grand Island Television on Charter Communications channel 6 and analog 56.

The City Council may vote to go into Executive Session as required by State law.

Staff Contact: Mayor Vavricek