

## **City negotiating with administrator finalist**

**By Jeanne Davant**

Negotiations are in progress with one of the five final candidates for Manitou Springs city administrator.

City officials declined to name the candidate chosen for the job by City Council. Council members interviewed the five finalists Saturday and held an executive session to further discuss the applicants Tuesday night. Council tabled an agenda item following the executive sessions that called for approving a city administrator.

Interim City Administrator Mike Leslie said Council members had offered the job to one of the candidates and that negotiations were taking place. He did not indicate when an announcement about the new administrator might be made.

Leslie has been acting city administrator since former City Administrator Verne Witham resigned because of health issues. The position has been vacant for nearly two years.

Council hired KRW Associates in October to conduct an executive search for a city administrator and chose the finalists in February from a large pool of applicants.

More than 50 people met the five finalists Friday at City Hall. The finalists are:

- Jack Benson, manager of Summit County's E-911 Emergency Communications Center and former town manager of Dillon
- Ike Holland, former town administrator of Orchard City and assistant county manager of Montrose County
- Chris LaMay, town administrator of Elizabeth and former budget analyst for Adams County
- William Powell, business services manager for Longmont's Public Works and Natural Resources Department
- Ronald Stock, city manager of Lamar and former city manager of Craig.
- Maryann Ustick, acting city manager of North Las Vegas, Nev., also was selected as a finalist but withdrew after accepting another job.

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