



July 1, 2024

Dear Citizens:

Over the past week, there has been a lot of talk around town about the search for a new City Manager. As you know, Corsicana has a Council-Manager form of government. In this type of government, the City Council Members are the policy makers elected to represent the community on policy issues. The City Manager is appointed by the Council to carry out these policies. Selecting a new City Manager is one of the most important decisions made by a City Council.

In late February, City Manager Connie Standridge announced her retirement, which was published in the Corsicana Daily Sun. With input from the City Council, a committee was formed from a cross-section of the community to review and evaluate the applicants for the City Manager position. The City posted the job opening in various sources such as the Texas Municipal League, Strategic Government Resources, the International City Manager Association, the City website, and the local newspapers. We received forty-four applications from across Texas and six other states. Twenty-eight applicants met or exceeded the qualifications for the position. Every member of the committee spent time vetting each of these. Subsequently, six candidates were chosen to be interviewed for the position. Each candidate was asked the same questions during their interview. At the completion of the process, John Boswell emerged as the top candidate for numerous reasons.

John has a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors. Notably, over the past five years, he has contributed to the development of the Highway 31 and I-45 Industrial Parks and played a significant role in recruiting the Audubon Metals, GAF, Academy Sports, Hobby Lobby, TJ Maxx, and Ulta into the old K-Mart building, and many other businesses. In his time here, John has been involved in adding more than \$1.5 billion in new taxable capital investments and over 1,500 jobs in Corsicana and Navarro County. John's track record and leadership abilities make him well-suited to lead Corsicana now and into the future.

As you can see, the City conducted a well-organized recruitment process to identify and select the next City Manager. The selection committee was singularly focused on finding the best person to fill the position.

Corsicana has been fortunate to have the same City Manager for the past 20 years. Connie Standridge has done a remarkable job. Under her leadership, Corsicana has developed a climate of responsible budgeting and a strong stable tax base. At the beginning of Connie's tenure, Corsicana was on the verge of bankruptcy. Today, we have more than \$6 million in our General

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Fund. This has resulted in Corsicana achieving a rating of AA- and A1+ from Standard and Poor's and Moody's, respectively. Future residents and businesses will benefit from Connie's leadership in the development of the New Central Fire Station, expansion of the landfill, support of our downtown, the local art scene, and much more.

Currently, Connie is serving as the City Manager until a replacement is named. She agreed to stay until the budget process is completed. After a replacement is found, she is available and willing to assist with the transition. The transition period is generally just a few months.

Please contact me if you would like to speak with me or learn more.

Sincerely,

Michael Fletcher, Mayor
City of Corsicana