

OPERATION

FIND A BETTER BOSS

Anatomy of the next city manager

COMPILED BY THE *EW* STAFF

With the July 26 resignation of Eugene City Manager Dennis Taylor, Eugene is looking for a new boss.

Selecting that boss is one of the most important decisions local elected officials make. Eugene's system of government gives the manager king-like powers. The manager hires and fires a staff of 1,500 and controls a half-billion-dollar budget. He or she is supposed to follow council policy direction, but a string of past managers has been criticized for ignoring or subverting that direction, controlling all city information and setting rather than following city policy.

The City Council needs to act soon to find a replacement. Last time the council delayed a city manager search, critics say the unsupervised police department ran wild, resulting in officers Roger Magaña and Juan Lara out sexually abusing and/or raping women. The selection operation should also be public so the voters can hold councilors accountable for any malpractice.

Winning the city manager selection game will be a tricky operation. To aid the effort, *EW* dissected the city manager position for a subjective, head-to-toe exposé of what kind of a manager the city should be looking for.

RECENT MANAGER HISTORY



Mike Gleason. 1981-1996, 15 years. Resigned after widespread criticism that he was ignoring council direction, providing biased or inadequate information and pursuing his own pro-development agenda, especially in giving huge tax breaks to Hynix.

Linda Norris. 1996, less than a year. The interim manager left for a management job at Hynix.

Warren Wong. 1996-1997, one year. The interim manager also went on to a manager stint at Hynix. He now manages the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Vicki Elmer. 1997-1998, one year. Elmer was fired after she angered the



police union, city executives and developer interests by cutting budgets and trying to reform city management, the police, outside attorney and environmental practices.

Jim Johnson. 1998-2002, four years. Councilors said they wanted someone the bureaucracy liked after the tumultuous tenure of Vicki Elmer. But under Johnson, two Eugene police officers spent years sexually abusing more than a dozen women without the city putting a stop to it.

Jim Carlson. 2002, less than a year. Interim manager Carlson was criticized for giving more tax breaks to Hynix and failing to stop officer sex abuse.

Dennis Taylor. 2003-2007, four years. Resigned amid mixed council reviews including friction with elected officials over his control of information, making policy rather than following council direction, opposition to an independent police auditor and failure to investigate police failings in the officer sex abuse scandal.



Angel Jones. 2007-? Appointed interim city manager by mayor Kitty Piercy, Jones, a former Army captain, once headed the city's Library, Recreation and Culture department and served as assistant manager.



Cavity Sam/antha. 2008-? New city manager with operation game nickname reforms Eugene into new era of enlightenment based on slanted *EW* cover story.