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MEMBER Texas Press Association

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City manager can be pivot point for future benefit

By JOHN FEARING
(Second in a Series)

What would happen if the city and school district decided to become an active player in the future of this community, instead of a passive reactor?

Such an operation could be a stimulus toward future improvement. Should that improvement be handed to us on a platter? Certainly not.

In the past five years we have seen the economy falter. All of us have seen various activities designed to help the community put its best foot forward. For the most part, the result has been a few steps forward before tripping.

Revitalize Eagle Lake was the most visible, and its successes continue, in spite of some negativism. But, where does it stand today? It practically stands alone without much voice.

Two offshoots of the organization, the Civic Garden Club and the Prairie Edge Museum are going for-

ward. We can see the results. The recent Waterfowl Festival also is a Revitalize Eagle Lake offshoot, but the local support is too slim to insure its success.

And, the First National Bank, at the urging of Revitalize, made available low-interest loans so downtown buildings could be refurbished at lower cost. To my knowledge, very few ever applied for the use of those funds.

The Industrial Foundation has been doing some work, though without major success. It too practically is working alone.

The Chamber of Commerce has continued with its Retail Merchant Promotions, and has taught us all a lesson. I'm not sure how, but it encourages us to work harder to keep our businesses afloat, and have less time to devote to other pursuits, even though those pursuits are beneficial.

One suggestion is that the city not only hire someone for City Manager who can serve as superintendent of city activities, but who has the ability to serve as coordinator for those projects which need to be done in town.

EAGLE LAKE AT THE CROSSROADS

But, what would happen if all groups worked together? United we stand and divided we fall? Should we ever applied for the use of those funds?

Back to the city
The reason many of these organizations are not as active as they once were or could be is that all of the volunteers also have their own businesses to run. When the economy goes down, we each have to work harder to keep our businesses afloat, and have less time to devote to other pursuits, even though those pursuits are beneficial.

One suggestion is that the city not only hire someone for City Manager who can serve as superintendent of city activities, but who has the ability to serve as coordinator for those projects which need to be done in town.

The city can't pay for a landscaping project somewhere, but it could urge it forward and coordinate the work and see that it progresses on a schedule.

Can the city afford someone of that caliber? It depends on the person, but the current level of funding the city makes it too small.

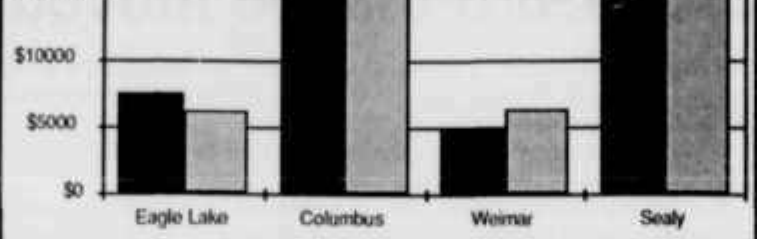
Can local organizations provide funding to supplement a city manager salary? I don't see why not. If we can "purchase" a chair at a university, then we can buy part of a city manager's chair.

point, and it would be up to businesses to pay for the fast track.

School role
The reason I mentioned the school district is that while it serves us well, it has to be one of the best ten districts in the state if a new business here is to be impressed. I would like the school district to become more active in considering its role in the future of the community. It is an independent board, but its fortunes are closely tied to the future of our part of the county.

What do you think?

Monthly Sales Tax Comparison



City

Year-To-Date

City

Year-To-Date

City

Year-To-Date

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Year-To-Date

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Year-To-Date

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Sweeney's challengers in Eagle Lake

Two politicians — one an announced candidate for Congress and the other considering his candidacy — were in Eagle Lake last Thursday at the weekly meeting of the Lions Club.

Joe Dial of Victoria was the meeting speaker. The rancher said he would decide by the end of November whether he would challenge fellow Republican Mac Sweeney for the 14th district congressional seat that Sweeney has held for the past two terms.

Paul Pomeroy of Brenham, a Democrat, was at the meeting as a guest of John Fearing. Pomeroy announced earlier this year that he would try to unseat Sweeney. He was in Eagle Lake as part of a tour of

newspaper and radio stations in surrounding counties.

Dial said he was considering entering the campaign process because of his experience in ranching associated with doing business in foreign countries. He said he would "encourage" you to become more active in the democratic process.

While sounding like a candidate, he said that Congress is using bait and switch tactics when it says taxes are being raised to reduce the deficit. He said that does not happen.

Also, he said that agriculture is not getting a fair shake in international trade. "The American farmer and rancher is getting the short end of the stick," he said.

In another matter that concerns all Americans, Dial said there is a need for a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget. He suggested that federal spending increases be limited to three percent. "There are ways the deficit can be reduced but we have to put pressure on Congress."

Dial also touched on social reform, endorsing some type of "workfare" program.

Pomeroy, after the meeting, commented that agricultural programs are among his top concerns, but that agriculture is the low percentage of community development funds available to cities in this congressional district.

In a previous statement, the Brenham businessman said Sweeney's

voting record shows he puts "foreign made first."

He said Sweeney voted no to a resolution that required the pentagon to buy U.S. built goods rather than foreign-built goods if the price of the American items was no more than five percent higher. Also, Pomeroy said the next day Sweeney skipped the vote when the House passed an amendment to the Highway Bill to exclude foreign cement material and finished cement from any projects funded by the bill.

This Saturday, Oct. 24, Pomeroy is opening his campaign headquarters in Brenham. He will be held on the Washington County Square from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Party is demonstrating unprecedented strength and unity, as exemplified by the Bush team.

In contrast, Texas Democrats appear more interested in fighting amongst themselves, and driving up the spoils of the 1990 election, despite the number of Democratic presidential aspirants who come to Texas seeking votes and contributions.

Since no Texas Democrat is running for president, it is understandable why Democrats cannot put together a majority of two to elect a chairman.

The diverse views are represented by Jim Nugent, a conservative, old-school Democrat; John Sharp, an up-and-comer from the new generation of Democrats; and Kent Hance, newly appointed Republican who could be the kind-maker, if he so chooses.

One would think that Sharp and Nugent would band together to elect one or the other, if only by the flip of a coin, but their feud is deep and stubborn.

As a result, Hance has been able to claim himself a one-third share of the chairmans gavel.

More Mark White
Amidst the disunity, enter Mark White, ready to pay off a campaign debt and unite the Democrats.

White warned Texas Democrats to forget about divvying up the 1990 spoils until after the '88 election, because it can lead to disaster.

In particular, he ripped Attorney Gen. Al Jim Mattox and Treasurer Ann Richards for talking about running for governor so soon.

White's critics point out that he started running for vice president soon after his inauguration in 1982.

One possible candidate, Land Commissioner Gary Mauro, has taken himself out of the 1990 gubernatorial runoff. Mauro says he wants to concentrate on being the best commissioner in Texas history.

Other highlights
Houston State District Judge William Hatten, 74, filed suit seeking to overturn the mandatory retirement provision in the Texas Constitution.

State Rep. Gerald Gerstweide, R-Mason, won't run for re-election, ending a 10-year career which elevated him to a key House player. He cited the overtime in special sessions as financially draining.

"Word is making the rounds that Dallas Cong. John Bryant is gearing up to run for atty. general in 1990."

Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire and Comptroller Lance Lott, are mentioned as possible candidates for Texas Comptroller in 1990, now that Bob Bullock is preparing to run for it.

The top 4 Texas teachers' groups are opposing Proposition One on the Nov. 3 ballot, supporting a return to an elected State Board of Education.

Sales tax report shows more of the same

The latest information from Austin shows retail sales in Eagle Lake still are in bad shape. The current report, which covers sales for August, indicates taxable retail sales here declined 16.37 percent this August, compared to August of 1986. The July decline reported last month was minimal.

For the monthly report, Columbus retail sales increased 3.47 percent while Weimar sales skyrocketed 28 percent. Seely sales declined.

So far this year, all four cities watched by The Headlight are showing sales declines.

Lets Look Back... 24 Years Ago

(September 19, 1963)
Hurricane Cindy struck the Texas coast between Galveston and Port Arthur Tuesday morning, bringing winds up to 80 miles per hour and heavy rain to that area. Cindy's effects were barely felt in the Eagle Lake area and the hurricane failed to dent the prolonged drought in the immediate area. Five persons were hospitalized when two vehicles collided west of Lissie on Hwy. 90A during a heavy rainstorm at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

W.M. Thomas Sr., of Eagle Lake, has been elected to membership in the American Angus Association at St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Thomas was one of 65 breeders of registered Aberdeen Angus in Texas elected to membership during the past month.

Miss Dolly Stiles and several classmates from a nursing school in Houston flew to New York recently to visit with another classmate and tour points of interest in the area.

Misses Elizabeth and Helen Dider were here from Temple during the past week for a visit with their brother, the Rev. A.W. Dider, Jr., Mrs. Lizzie Wesvonen, returned home last week from a pleasant visit with relatives in Australia. Mrs. John Beseda and Pat are visiting their daughter and sister, C., to Kingsville Wednesday where she enrolled in A&I. They visited with their son and brother, John Beseda Jr., and Mrs. Beseda in Bishop around Thursday. Officer ... did to hold office

for the coming year in the Eagle Lake Garden Club include: Mrs. L.C. Lee, Mrs. Barbara M. Bran, 7505 acres, S.M. Williams Survey; 9-29-87.

Deed, Edwin and Clara Gold and Ronald Gold to Albert Gold, 30 acres, Conrad Gargens League; 9-29-87.

Deed, Edwin Gold to Edward, undivided interest in 60 acres, Conrad Gargens League; 9-30-87.

Deed, Willie Bauer Estate to Walter Lee and Virginia Mill Bauer, two tracts in block 6, P. Reels Survey, Eagle Lake; 9-30-87.

Deed, James L. and Elva Enright, trustees, to Elva Enright, trustee, undivided mineral and royalty interests, Colorado County; 9-30-87.

Deed, William A. Green to Ronald J. and Majorie B. Naquin, lot 19, Memorial Oaks, Subdivision, Section 1, W.B. Dewees Survey, Columbus; 9-30-87.

Deed, Frances Hruzek to Beverly Hruzek Behlen, 29 acres, I&GNRR Co. Survey No. 35; 10-1-87.

Gift Deed, Donna Mae Reimers to Randall Reimers, undivided interest in 34.796 acres, W.B. Dewees Survey; 10-1-87.

Deed, Beanie Keyser to Dennis Simpson, 2 acres, BBB&CRR Co. Survey; 10-5-87.

Deed, Frank Weselski Jr. and Leona Weselski to Edward H. and Kim L. Gold, 15.255 acres, HT&BRR Co. No. 1 Survey; 10-6-87.

Gift Deed, Carl E. Evans to Broker Memorial Temple Church of God of Christ Church, three tracts in Columbus; 10-6-87.

Deed, William E. Brock to University State Bank, overriding royalty interest; 10-6-87.

Deed, Glascock 2 G Mineral Corp to C. Gu Glascock Jr., three tracts known as 2 G Ranch; 10-6-87.

Deed, Victor H. Wanjara Jr. and Linda Low Burrette to Kiny Lovelady Jay, part of lots 1, 2 and 3, blk 6, Weimar; 10-6-87.

Deed, Ernest L. and Jo Alice Wehner to Sky Properties, Inc., in 20.201 acres, F.A. Zimmermann Survey; 10-6-87.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

DIVORCES FILED
Larry Henry Tietze and Theresa Tietze.

Wardline Brown Garner and William Douglas Garner.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS
Deed, Madeline Elliott to James D. and Marilyn Easley, 12 acres, E. Corbett Survey; 9-17-87.

Deed, Leyce Enterprises Inc. to Abraham Abdalla Jr., tract 6, Winslow Hills Subd.; 9-17-87.

Deed, Arthur Ray and Karen Beiken to Gerald and Donna Kosler, 10 acres, Mich Andrews Survey; 9-17-87.

Deed, Lanie F. Sanchez, Mark A. Holbeck, et al, to Truman A. Bruce and Oliver L. Gilmore, 1.091 acres; 9-18-87.

Deed, Arthur J. and Denise A. Delgado to Art and Rita J. Janacka, part of lots 3, block 56, Weimar; 9-18-87.

Deed, Raymond F. Ray and Laura Ann Ray to H. Lee Davis, part of lots 27 and 28, Range No. 1, Smith and Jones Addition, Columbus; 9-18-87.

Deed, Veterans' Land Board of Texas to Arthur Mark Canon, 50 acre, Joseph Grant Survey; 9-18-87.

Gift Deed, Raymond and Josephine Wind to Mark Wind, Norbert Wind, Rose Ann Mitchell, et al, lots 19, 20 and 21, block 29, Garwood; 9-21-87.

Deed, Oscar and Evelyn Miller to Raymond Lee and Dorothy Kohlfelt, 0.68 acre in block 5, P. Reels Survey, Eagle Lake; 9-22-87.

Deed, Henry David McDowell to Charles D. and Sandra McDowell, 13.525 acres, William Allen Survey, et al; 9-22-87.

Deed, Laura M. Hodde, estate, to James Russell Hodde and Lawrence Hodde, interest in 51 acres, H. Austin Survey; 9-23-87.

Deed, Laura M. Hodde, estate, to Joyce Loessin and John Naumann, 196 acre, W.B. Dewees Survey; 9-23-87.

Deed, Laura M. Hodde, estate, to Joyce Loessin, 4.431 acres, W.B. Dewees Survey; 9-23-87.

Deed, Laura M. Hodde, estate, to Frances Dungen, 4.627 acres, W.B. Dewees Survey; 9-23-87.

Deed, Laura M. Hodde, estate, to James Russell, undivided interest in 405.09 acres, G.E. Looney Survey, et al; 9-23-87.

Deed, Veatch and Amanda Dixon to Lavan Dixon Schmidt, 2 acres, M.E. Conley Survey; 9-24-87.

Deed, Eva Lee Millett to Rock Island Full Gospel Church, lots 1 through 6, block 11, Eagle Lake; 9-24-87.

Deed, David W. Wenne to Howard Wieser, 2.62 acres, GH&HRR Co. Survey No. 7; 9-25-87.

Deed, Mary Wessels to Lillie Reimers Brown, lot 10, range 4, Colum; 9-28-87.

Deed, Thomas E. and Nancy J. Sherick to Dennis R. and Sophia Smith, lots 23 and 24, block 6, Highland Park Addition, Eagle Lake; 9-28-87.

Deed, Nancy Lea Alligayer, Lloyd G. Criswell, et al, to Frank A. Fails, lots 1, 2, 3, 14 and part of lots 15 and 16, block 59, Sheridan; 9-28-87.

Deed, Hugh M. and Teresa Alchier to Gary L. and Barbara M. Bran, 7505 acres, S.M. Williams Survey; 9-29-87.

Deed, Edwin and Clara Gold and Ronald Gold to Albert Gold, 30 acres, Conrad Gargens League; 9-29-87.

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Deed, Glascock 2 G Mineral Corp to C. Gu Glascock Jr., three tracts known as 2 G Ranch; 10-6-87.

Land Board of Texas, 12.888 acres, John H. Dabney League; 10-9-87.

OIL GAS LEASES
Dan W. Jackson Jr. to EP Operating Co., 100 acres, BSA&RR Co. Survey Section No. 7; 9-25-87.

Lillie J. Cruise to Lee Reese, 9 acres, Thomas Cartwright Survey; 9-30-87.

Agnes Mae Tyler Richardson and Claude Tyler to Lee Reese, 1 acre, Thomas Cartwright Survey; 9-30-87.

Lorraine Thorne Boole to Lee Reese, 4.05 acres, Thomas Cartwright Survey; 9-30-87.

Hattie Cunningham to Lee Reese, 1 acre, Thomas Cartwright Survey; 9-30-87.

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