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New manager on the job

By Glenda S. Jenkins,

City Manager Michael Czymbor began his first day on the job Monday.

And he had no trouble finding something to do.

His first day at work consisted of "a lot of listening, a lot of observing and meeting with people," Czymbor said.

Although he has a full list of projects to tackle, his most immediate concern will be hiring a new police chief.

"That will be my main priority," he said, noting that he has seven interviews for the job scheduled this week.

After sifting through the credentials of more than 100 applicants, a search committee including Interim City Manager Jerry Sinclair, City Attorney Debra Braga and Human Resources Director Robin Marley cut the list down to seven finalists.

Czymbor said the committee conducted "a very comprehensive and thorough (search) process" and he expects to name a new police chief next week.

"Any one of the candidates will probably do a good job," Czymbor said.

Sinclair, who has returned to his full-time duties as facilities maintenance director, recently received a proclamation and plaque thanking him for serving the city in the interim position.

"I would really be remiss if I didn't thank you, Jerry, for your service here," Commissioner Joe Gerrity told Sinclair. "I've worked with two interims and I've worked with two city managers. And your integrity, your calm, your common sense and your sense of fair play is just I think exactly what this city needed over the last four or five months."

"I'd just like to say thank you to the commission for giving me this opportunity," said Sinclair, who has been a city employee since 1974. "I'd also like to thank all

the city employees . . . And I'd like to thank my wife for her putting up with me the last five months."

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City Manager Michael Czymbor types a reply to one of several e-mails he found waiting for him Monday when he arrived for his first day at work. *Glenda S. Jenkins/News-Leader*