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New leader gathering his forces

Times Tribune staff

Fred Howell, who began duties as city manager of East Palo Alto March 1, already is taking steps to promote the economic development of the city, a task he said is one of his top priorities.

Howell is accepting applications for two advisory committees "to help the City Council strengthen and expand the tax base in the community," he said.

One committee, to be called the Economic Development Task Force, will be open to any citizens interested in the

East Palo Alto

subject. The second, called the Technical Advisory Committee, will be comprised of professionals in the area of business and economic development, he said.

Howell said he expects to choose the committees in April or May.

Another step in Howell's economic development program is an application for a grant to the city from the Federal Office of Community Services.

"Their grants go to alleviate the causes of poverty in an economically distressed area," said Howell, the city's first manager. "It is a complicated application procedure. We are competing with other proposals and may or may not receive funding, depending where we rank. We may receive a grant, but less than what we are asking for."

Howell said his proposal will request \$300,000.



Fred Howell
... wants to strengthen tax base.

Howell has commissioned Naphtali H. Knox and Associates, an urban planning consultant in Palo Alto, to write a grant proposal under his direction. Naphtali Knox is a former director of planning for the city of Palo Alto.

Included in the grant proposal is budget funding for market research to determine specific types of business that might prosper in the city, Howell said. The application for the grant is due Thursday. Howell said he expects the city to be notified in June.

Howell said he has "been involved in the preparation and administration of grants in a number of previous instances." He is the former director of community development for the city of Davis.