

City of Rock Springs)
County of Sweetwater)
State of Wyoming)

City Council met in special session on March 7, 2019. Mayor Timothy A. Kaumo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present included Councilors Keaton West, David Tate, Jeannie Demas, Glennise Wendorf, Billy Shalata, Rob Zotti, and Tim Savage. Councilor David Halter was absent from the meeting. IAFF Local 1499 representatives present included Amy Warne, Seth Lancaster, Luke Geffre, Van Welsh, Rob Miller, and Jake Hunt. Department heads present included Richard Beckwith and Matt McBurnett. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

NEGOTIATION MEETING

Members of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1499 and the Governing Body of the City of Rock Springs to continue the negotiation process for the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the IAFF Local 1499 and the City of Rock Springs

Councilor Shalata stated that wages and compensation are being discussed. Mayor Kaumo asked about the 5% cost of living adjustment, whether it was a starting point, because the Social Security index lists a cost of living adjustment as 1.8%. Luke Geffre, IAFF Local 1499 President specified that with insurance and pension increases, that their request is taking those increases into consideration. Amy Warne asked the Governing Body if they had any questions before moving into Executive Session. Councilor Shalata asked regarding the City absorbing the pension costs. Matthew McBurnett, Director of Administrative Services, stated that the City pays 6% of the employee share and the employee pays 3.345% of the employee share.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Councilor Tate, seconded by Councilor Demas to move into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE

Moved by Councilor Tate, seconded by Councilor Wendorf to reconvene at 5:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Shalata stated that Proposals were reviewed and discussed. Wildland fires were discussed, including generated revenue from wildland firefighting. Health insurance and pension increases were discussed. Southwest index for cost of living was mutually agreed upon at 1.8% for the second quarter, with an anticipation of the fourth quarter numbers being published. Moving the fire inspector position back into the Fire Department from the Building Inspection Department was discussed. Proposed 3% lateral movement was addressed, with economic factors being positive, it has been done recently and will continue to happen, if funds are available. It may not be addressed this year. Training opportunities have been provided through a new source, TargetSolutions. ALS certifications versus Paramedic certifications were clarified. Mayor Kaumo stated that the cost of living adjustment is the main focus of the IAFF Local 1499 proposal, but range movement is more important to balance employee wages. Mayor Kaumo asked about adjustments. Mr. Geffre stated that the language changes were not necessarily accepted at the last negotiation, but that the IAFF Local 1499 agrees to change the proposed language in Article 7, Section 1. A counter-offer was presented at 3.5% cost of living adjustment, and a 3% lateral range movement. Mr. Beckwith stated that the financial position of the City has not changed and that a 3% lateral increase would not be feasible and that everyone acknowledge that the kind of range movement hoped for is difficult to justify, with no change in financial position.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Councilor Zotti, Seconded by Councilor Demas to move into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE

Moved by Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Zotti to reconvene at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Shalata announced that there is a counter-offer by the City on the table, with a 1.8% cost of living adjustment and a 1.5% range movement to take back to IAFF Local 1499 membership, which what can be justified with the City’s financial position being what it is.

The next negotiation meeting was set for March 14, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

By: _____
Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor