

More changes in store for council, lifeguard wages

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Two weeks after agreeing to raises for city council members and setting a new incentive-based pay schedule for Holyoke lifeguards, wages once again returned to the forefront at the Tuesday, Jan. 21 council meeting.

Council member raises were initially agreed upon by council members at the Jan. 7 meeting, passing with a close 4-3 vote. Soon after, it became clear that an ordinance would have to be in place for the proposed wage increases.

When council members met Jan. 21, the proposed wage increase was defeated 4-3 with Steve Moore, David Churchwell, Brian Akey and J.C. Peckham voting against the ordinance. Mayor Orville Tonsing, Kevin Scott and Scott Murray voted in favor of the ordinance. Moore had voted in favor of the wage increase during the Jan. 7 meeting before helping defeat the proposal Tuesday.

Holyoke Swimming Pool lifeguard pay was also reworked at the Jan. 7 meeting to create different pay grades based on the level of certification attained. During Tuesday night's meeting, it was determined that the earlier draft for the wages would not work.

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