

Collective Bargaining Agreements to Appear on City Council's September 5th Agenda for Approval



September 5, 2017

CONTACT:

Dottie Perham-Whittier
Community Relations Coordinator

(207) 513-3000, X3205

(207) 513-3007 (TTY/TDD)

(207) 795-5069 (FAX)

dottie@lewistonmaine.gov

www.lewistonmaine.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Additional Information, Contact:

Ed Barrett, City Administrator, 513-3011, Denis D'Auteuil, Deputy Administrator, 577-9488; or Rick Cailler, Local 785 President, IAFF, 212-8185.

LEWISTON: Collective bargaining agreements have been reached between negotiators for the City of Lewiston and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF). The two entities have been in collective bargaining for over three years to develop new agreements to replace the one that expired on June 30, 2014.

At the September 5th Lewiston City Council meeting, the Council will be asked to ratify a 2014-2017 collective bargaining agreement covering the period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017. Following the ratification of the 2014-2017 agreement, the City Council will be requested to ratify a successor collective bargaining agreement for a term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. City Council approval is anticipated.

City Administrator Ed Barrett noted, **"I'm pleased that the City and the Association have reached the end of a long and difficult bargaining process. Throughout this process, both the City and the Association accepted certain compromises in an effort to reach agreement. With an agreement in place and a new Fire Chief on board, I look forward to developing a stronger relationship between the City and the Association and aggressively moving forward to strengthen and improve the services provided to our residents."**

IAFF President Rick Cailler was also pleased that the bargaining process has concluded, **"The men and women of the Lewiston Firefighters Association express their deepest appreciation to all the citizens of Lewiston for your overwhelming support and encouragement. On a daily basis you offered reinforcement, gestures of goodwill and most of all understanding. There is strength through adversity and solidarity. Ultimately, our promise to you will never change - we exist for all of you. Our ability to keep you safe will always be our number one priority. We now look forward and beyond the past 3 1/2 years of difficulties with the hope of a new era of cooperation. We are all stronger together. Thank you Lewiston."**

Deputy City Administrator Denis D'Auteuil, who assumed the role of City negotiator upon the retirement of Phil Nadeau, adds, **"We are happy to have reached an agreement with the International Firefighter Association, and I look forward to building on the positive working relationship**

that we've begun over the past few months. This agreement recognizes the important role that our Lewiston firefighters play in keeping our community safe."

Earlier this year, the City and the Association agreed to bring a mediator into the bargaining process. In addition, Councilors James Lysen, Timothy Lajoie, and Shane Bouchard became more active in the process, representing the City Council and sitting in on negotiating sessions.

###