



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City & Unions Agree to Cost Savings

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, July 28, 2010 – The City Council tonight accepted a proposal by the Police Guild, the union that represents City of Bainbridge Island Police Officers, and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO (IAM) that represents many other city employees, for one year agreements that will result in cost savings for the city.

“The extension agreements will be a great help to the city in many ways,” said Interim City Manager Brenda Bauer, who negotiated the extensions. Both bargaining units agreed to a zero percent cost of living provision, which is estimated to save about \$170,000 over the 2009 wage agreements. Additionally, IAM employees will move to new medical plans that will save about \$57,000 over 2009 costs. The new health care plans and a zero percent cost of living will also apply to unrepresented employees for additional savings of about \$78,000.

The city is entering the budget planning process for the next biennium. “By extending the existing agreements for one year, we will have a better understanding of our labor costs as we begin the development of our next biennial budget. This will allow the staff, administration and Council to focus on developing a balanced budget in a time of declining revenues. Once the budget is complete, the City and unions will have a better understanding of the city’s revenues and expenditures and this will guide the contract negotiations next summer,” stated Mayor Bob Scales.

Both unions approached the city with one year extension offers that would reduce labor costs. “I was very pleased when the Guild and IAM approached me with proposals. The City Council was seeking some meaningful savings in exchange for any contract extensions, and we were able to negotiate and meet many of council’s labor objectives for this next year. It’s a powerful symbolic statement of the commitment our city workers have to the city’s and the community’s well-being and a smart move by the council,” Bauer said.

“This is a significant achievement,” said City Councilmember Hilary Franz. “Importantly, this represents a very positive effort by the unions and the city to address the current financial challenges.”

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