

SkiatookJournal.com

Website of the Skiatook Journal

Welcome back, PRO [Logout](#) | [My Dashboard](#)

Home [Digital Paper](#)



NEWS / Friday, August 1, 2014

Skiatook Journal **3**

Union leader makes case to council

By **Robert Smith**
News Editor
roberts@skiatookjournal.com

Chuck Williamson, leader of the Skiatook local of the International Association of Fire Fighters, tried to make a case this week that the city's firefighter/medic staff members are under-compensated.

IAFF Local 4067, of Skiatook, and city government remain involved in negotiations regarding contract terms. Williamson told the city council Tuesday that the local is scheduled to have a meeting this Saturday. He indicated the local had yet to make what it would consider its last, best contract offer to city government.

The discussion that developed Tuesday night between Williamson and councilors involved an apparent difference of opinion between the union leader and Mayor Randy Sien.

Williamson presented a comparison of overall compensation of firefighter/medic personnel in Skiatook, Collinsville, Owasso and Chickasha. He argued that the figures he collected show "how far we are behind" in Skiatook. He explained that he was presenting his figures in response to earlier comments by the mayor.

During his remarks, Williamson said most departments he had surveyed were looking at pay increases in the neighborhood of 3-4 percent.

Sien commented he thought it was reasonable for the city to offer a 3-percent wage hike — which it has — given that other departments are receiving something similar.

City officials said Tuesday that firefighters have been offered a three-percent wage increase, and that eligible firefighter/medic personnel can also expect another 2.5-percent "step increase." Additionally, there will be a 1-percent increase in pension, officials said.

The discussion Tuesday took place in context of a recent decision by the council to mandate a \$250 deductible for city employee health coverage. Williamson suggested that the employee deductible and a \$500 deductible for employee families effectively amounts to a reduction in compensation.

During the discussion, Councilor Kevin Paslay asked Williamson if he is interested in being considered for the city's open fire chief position.

City Attorney Jeff Stephens cautioned that the chief position and Williamson's interest or lack thereof probably shouldn't be part of the discussion.

TACO BELL, from 1

Additionally, the council voted Tuesday to formally designate a \$35,423 grant received from the Pearl M. and Julia J. Harmon Foundation to be spent on the completion of a restroom facilities project at the Skiatook Sports Park.

City officials noted that the youth baseball

program sought out the grant funds to complete the project.

Financing for youth sports facilities, including things as basic as restrooms, has been an issue in Skiatook recently, with voters in June narrowly defeating a ballot proposition that called for adding a half-cent to the local sales tax for five years to pay for substantial

improvements to the sports park.

"I'd like to commend the baseball group for going out on their own and seeking that grant," Councilor Patrick Young said Tuesday.

There has been no additional public debate about potential sources of revenue for youth sports since the defeat of the sales tax proposal.

WATER, from 1

The chloramine conversion is intended, in part, to make it possible for Skiatook to use Tulsa city water as an alternative source, when needed.

Tulsa has converted to the use of chloramines, which are disinfectants that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says provide longer-lasting water treatment as water moves through pipes to customers.

Tolar also talked with councilors Tuesday about the city's longer-run needs in terms of water supply and treatment. The discussion

included details about an increase in water treatment plant capacity of 0.7 million gallons per day. The capacity increase is currently expected to cost about \$936,000, and to include facilities such as a new 350,000-gallon clearwell and a disinfection building.

This improvement is needed to support continued population growth in Skiatook. The water-treatment capacity increase project will be cost-shared with Osage Rural Water District 15, with the city of Skiatook's portion having been estimated in the neighborhood of \$540,000, Tolar

said.

Other needed improvements include a new water storage tank and a new, 16-inch water transmission line, Tolar told the council.

Early, conceptual cost estimates for these projects are \$2.23 million, combined, for construction, and \$2.526 overall for construction.

Councilor Eugene Jones also talked with Tolar about his concerns that the city may face water-availability issues under the road.

Tolar pledged to study data to be able to give Jones an appropriate response to his questions.

White dice council update | City council library to offer another event

By Robert Smith
News Editor
roberts@skiatookjournal.com

Skiatook Public Works director Brad White gave a brief update to the city council this week on the health of two employees injured in an April 2014 crash in Tulsa in a sanitation truck.

There were three employees in the sanitation truck at the time of the single-vehicle accident April 23 along U.S. 75 in Tulsa. One of the three — Samuel Bench, 40 — died as a result of injuries he sustained.

White told councilors Tuesday that the Bench family is coping well, considering the circumstances.

"The kids are taking it day by day," he said of

Bench's three children.

White also gave updates on the status of injured employees George Ward and Glen Rush.

Ward has improved enough to move from a wheelchair to a walker to a cane, White said. He is home, and has lost a considerable amount of weight, and continues to receive physical rehabilitation services, White said.

White said he had not talked with Rush in a couple of weeks, but knew Rush had suffered partial vision loss in one eye, and was receiving physical rehabilitation services.

White briefed the council on the progress of the injured employees during a council session July 29.

TULSA — Spend an enjoyable evening after hours in the library with three favorite authors while helping raise money and awareness for Tulsa City-County Library's Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service.

In conjunction with National Literacy Awareness Month, Tulsa City-County Library and the Tulsa Library Trust are offering "Chapters: A Casual Evening of Books, Bards and Bites" on Friday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St. The cost is \$50 per person. Deadline for reservations is Aug. 28.

Attendees will get to enjoy food and wine



YADON

from some of the area's favorite restaurants while listening to authors David Berg, John Searles and Laurence J. Yadon. This year's event will honor Charles Faudree. A philanthropist and renowned interior

and a past presenter and ardent supporter of "Chapters."

Berg is the author of more than 100 political, legal, and personal essays and articles that have appeared in national publications such as The New York Times and Newsweek. He has written two books, including most recently "Run Brother Run: A Memoir of a Murder in My Family." Berg also is a trial lawyer who has tried virtually every kind of case from murder to patent infringement and at 28 became one of the youngest lawyers to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Searles is the author of the national best-sellers "Boy Still Missing" and "Strange but

critically acclaimed "Help for the Haunted." He appears as a book critic on NBC's Today Show, and his essays have been published in The New York Times and Washington Post. He has a master's degree in creative writing from New York University and lives in New York City.

Yadon is the author of "One Murder Too Many," "Old West Swindlers" and other works about America's crime history. He also is an attorney, mediator and arbitrator. A direct descendent of relatives of the Younger gang, Yadon became captivated with American history, specifically the Southwest, while pursuing his undergraduate degree.

View PDF

- 1) Click the download button
- 2) This will take you to our web page
- 3) Download the FREE product



SUBMIT YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE!

AdOWL

CLICK HERE

Sections

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Online Features
- Opinion
- Classifieds
- Place an Ad

Services

- About Us
- Privacy Policy
- Terms of Service
- Contact Us
- FAQ
- Advertise
- Rack Locations
- Subscription Services
- Submission Forms

Contact us

Skiatook Journal - Skiatook, Oklahoma
Phone number: (918) 396-1616
E-mail: news@skiatookjournal.com
Address: 500 W. Rogers Skiatook, OK 74070

Other Neighbor News Sites

- Broken Arrow Ledger
- Collinsville News
- Coweta American
- MannfordEagle.com
- Owasso Reporter
- Sand Springs Leader
- Tulsa Business & Legal News
- Wagoner Tribune