

City employees up for raises

BY EMILY MIBACH

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The Menlo Park City Council will vote Tuesday whether to approve a 2% raise for most city employees.

The raise, which would go into affect July 1, and be in addition to the 3% raise that city employees received in November. These raises were negotiated between the city and two unions, Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU) and

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 829 (AFSCME).

More raises are coming as well. A total of 27 jobs are being brought to "market standards" with these raises, among them the fleet, parks, streets and facilities supervisors. For instance, city arborist Christian Bonner, will be going from a yearly wage of \$90,006 to \$108,490, a 12.4% raise.

A communications training offi-

cer who received a yearly salary of \$83,102 in 2014, according to these new wage increases, would receive \$91,087. A senior planner who earned \$98,994 in 2014 would now earn a maximum of \$118,475.

These higher than 2% wage increases come out after Menlo Park hired Koff and Associates to survey other city officials' wages in cities such as Redwood City, Palo Alto and

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Burlingame. The total amount of the wage hikes will cost the city \$430,400.

The report released by staff yesterday states that the city is planning these raises to keep up with inflation and to "align the city as a competitive employer in the increasingly robust job market of the Silicon Valley."

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