

Atherton OKs 11.5% raises for police



Agreement shifts some retirement fund obligation to employees



Erica Johnson photo More than 200 citizens and about 10 officers attended Atherton's third annual National Night Out on Aug. 2, 2016, including, from left, Officer Bryan Robbins, Sgt. Brad Mills and Comm. Joe Wade. Wade is acting chief of police. Sworn police officers on Oct. 1, 2016, received a pay raise, their first in three years.

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The Atherton City Council on Sept. 21 accepted a memo of understanding with the Atherton Police Officers Association that will give sworn officers an 11.5 percent pay raise spread over three years.

Sworn police officers had gone three years without a raise.

Included in the deal, which was reached in negotiations between City Manager George Rodericks and the police officers' union, is a change in how much each employee pays into his or her own CalPERS retirement program. In the long haul, that change is expected to save the town money by reducing its share contributions to the retirement funds.

As of Oct. 1, salaries of sworn officers went up 4 percent, with 1 percent of that raise going into their retirement accounts.

On July 1, 2017, their salaries will rise 3.75 percent, with 1 percent of that going to their retirement plans.

On July 1, 2018, salaries for both sworn and nonsworn police personnel will rise 3.75 percent, again with 1 percent of that amount going into their retirement plans.

“At the end of the day,” explained City Manager George Rodericks last week, “the town saves money (with the retirement plan change) because our (CalPERS) obligation is less. But on the flip side, the employee’s pension goes up, and they make more in retirement.”

Nonsworn employees of the town outside the Police Officers Association got a 2.5 percent raise on July 1. On Oct. 1, they received another raise of half of 1 percent.

Yearly salary ranges for members of the Police Officers Association, old deal to new deal:

- Community service officer, range of \$59,215.09 to \$68,548.80; changes to \$68,870.17 to \$79,725.83.
- Dispatcher/records assistant, range of \$68,456.64 to \$83,209.52; changes to \$75,792.67 to \$94,325.21.
- Sworn police officer, range of \$85,704.48 to \$105,737.04; changes to \$91,373.57 to \$133,108.68
1.04
- Sworn police sergeant, range of \$102,713.76 to \$126,721.92; changes to \$109,501.18 to \$133,108.68.

The City Council also approved a raise of half of a 1 percent for Rodericks and voted to decouple his salary from the cost-of-living increases given to other town employees.

Rodericks' salary increased to \$209,750 per year on Oct. 1.

Tags: [Atherton Police Department](#)



John Orr John Orr edits and writes for Daily News feature pages, including arts and entertainment. He also reports on the Town of Atherton and some other cities, Previously, he was mysteries and thrillers books columnist for the Mercury News, and also wrote about movies and blues music.

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