

NITRO CITY EMPLOYEES GIVEN \$500 PAY RAISE

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Nitro City Council members are giving a \$500 dollar pay raise to all the city's full-time employees this year.

Treasurer John Young suggested that more than \$18,000 be allocated immediately out of the city's \$200,000 surplus to fund the raises.

Council members voted unanimously for the measure at a regular council meeting Tuesday night. The \$18,369.52 will be spread among the city's 51 full-time employees.

Young said that it was only fair that city's workers get a raise along the same lines as police and firefighters, who have a longevity program that gives raises based on years of service.

"We just have the best workers in the world," Recorder Rita Cox said after the meeting.

Also Tuesday, council members passed an ordinance that will allow the city to collect unpaid court costs and outstanding fines or fees from delinquent citizens through court-ordered garnishing of state income tax returns. The ordinance is effective immediately.

In other business, council members have revised the city's license tax code. Under the revised code, license fees and renewal fees for general contractors have been reduced from the \$150 flat rate to a one-time \$100 fee for the license and \$50 for the annual renewal fee. License fees for handymen have been reduced to \$25 for both the license fee and the renewal.

"I think this will be great for the small guy," Councilman Bill Javins said.

Before Tuesday night's meeting, council members honored Cub Scout Pack 188 for their fundraising efforts for fellow-scout John Davis, who sustained life-threatening injuries from an accident on June 28.

Davis, 8, who has since recovered from his injuries, was honored with his Cub Scout pack and said the Pledge of Allegiance before the council meeting Tuesday night.

The scouts, led by Todd Fouch, raised over \$4,000 dollars for Davis and his family since the accident. Members of the scout pack were nominated as **Nitro** Citizens of the Month and will be featured on the WSAZ "Hometown Heroes" segment on Friday at 6 p.m.