



Legislation Text

File #: 16-526, **Version:** 1

A resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of the Fire Chief

Presenter:

John Suthers, Mayor

Summary:

City Charter § 4-40(f)(4) and City Code § 8.2.102(A) provide that the Mayor shall appoint a Fire Chief to serve at his pleasure, subject to confirmation by the concurring vote of a majority of the members of City Council. The duties of the Fire Chief are outlined in City Code § 8.2.104, which includes supervision and control of all members and employees assigned to the Colorado Springs Fire Department.

Previous Council Action:

There has been no prior City Council action on the proposed confirmation of Chief Ted Collas.

Background:

Colorado Springs Fire Chief Christopher P. Riley retired effective March 4, 2016. Colorado Springs Deputy Fire Chief Ted Collas was selected to serve as the Acting Chief while the City undertook a nationwide search for a Fire Chief. Forty-five candidates applied for the position. After a telephone interview process, seven candidates were selected for formal interviews by several groups, including fire department personnel. Mayor Suthers, City Council President Merv Bennett, and City Councilmember Larry Bagley interviewed the three finalists, from which Chief Collas was selected.

Chief Collas has served the Colorado Springs Fire Department since 1985. Chief Collas has extensive leadership, training, and operational experience, which serve as a vital asset to the Colorado Springs community. During his 31 years with the department, Chief Collas has served in the Operations Division, Training Division, and Medical Division. Chief Collas holds an associate's degree in Fire Science, a bachelor's degree in Management, and a master's degree in Organizational Leadership.

Financial Implications:

If confirmed as Fire Chief, Ted Collas' initial salary will be set at \$160,235 annually. Such salary is within the salary range for Fire Chief established by City Ordinance No. 15-88, regarding the 2016 salary structure for civilian and sworn municipal employees.

Board/Commission Recommendation:

N/A

Stakeholder Process:

Stakeholders, including Fire Department personnel and representatives of City Council, have been involved in the review of candidates for the position of Fire Chief and concur with the recommendation for confirmation of Ted Collas as Fire Chief.

Alternatives:

Do not approve the proposed resolution.

Proposed Motion:

Move for approval of the proposed resolution confirming appointment of Ted Collas as the Colorado Springs Fire Chief.

N/A