



City Council

Approval of an Ordinance Establishing an Independent Salary Commission to Review City Council Compensation

Agenda Date: 7/18/2017
Agenda Item Number: 4.E
File Number: 17-0627

Type: ordinance **Version:** 3 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of an Ordinance Establishing an Independent Salary Commission to Review City Council Compensation

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

The Finance Committee reviewed this item on June 7, 2017 and unanimously recommends it to the City Council for action.

City Manager Recommendation:

Proceed with the Finance Committee recommendation to create an independent salary commission to review City Council compensation and approve the proposed ordinance on second reading.

Report

Issue:

Whether to direct City staff to develop an independent salary commission for consideration of Council compensation.

Staff Contact:

Steve Hall, City Manager, Executive Department, 360.753.8447
Mary Verner, Administrative Services Director, 360.753.8499
Mark Barber, City Attorney, 360.753.8223

Presenter(s):

Steve Hall, City Manager
Mary Verner, Administrative Services Director
Mark Barber, City Attorney

Background and Analysis:

Background and analysis has not changed from first to second reading.

Currently, Councilmembers receive a stipend to account for some of the costs and time related to service on the City Council. The amount of this stipend has not changed since 2008.

The City Council has the authority to change the amount of the stipend for newly elected Councilmembers or it can appoint a salary commission to review the stipend for all current and future Councilmembers. At its February 2, 2017 meeting, the City Council directed the Finance Committee to work with City staff on development of a proposed salary commission.

Staff prepared background on salary commissions and a draft ordinance for consideration by the Finance Committee at its June 7, 2017 meeting. The Committee endorsed the concept of a salary commission and recommended it unanimously to the City Council.

The Finance Committee suggested in addition to the comparative criteria for other cities of population, budget and number of employees, that the Commission look at the number of City Council assignments, interjurisdictional work, emails, phone calls and other workload indicators.

In addition, the Committee members felt the Commission should consider unique issues faced by Olympia by virtue of being the State Capitol, County seat and downtown for the region.

City staff have researched salary commissions in other cities. According to the Municipal Research and Services Center, 35 cities have ordinances to establish salary commissions. Of those, City staff inquired about the experience of those more recent cities, which have similar forms of government. Several appear to be dormant or the staff from those cities have not returned calls about the commission.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

N/A

Options:

1. Direct City staff to develop an independent salary commission for consideration of Council compensation.
2. Do not direct City staff to develop an independent salary commission for consideration of Council compensation.
3. Delay the development of an independent salary commission for consideration of Council compensation.

Financial Impact:

Unknown

Attachments:

Ordinance

List of Cities with Ordinances to Create Salary Commissions

Summary of Other Washington Cities with Salary Commissions History

2015 General Government Staff Report

June 7, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes