



MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: 7/02/2013

REGULAR

ITEM #: 20

RESOLUTION 2013-55

AGENDA ITEM: Council Workshop Stipend
SUBMITTED BY: Adam Bell, City Clerk
THROUGH: Dean A. Zuleger, City Administrator
REVIEWED BY: Beckie Gumatz, Program Assistant

SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS

- Introduction of ItemStaff
- Report/Presentation.....Staff
- Questions from Council to Staff..... Mayor Facilitates
- Public Input, if Appropriate Mayor Facilitates
- Call for Motion Mayor & City Council
- Discussion..... Mayor & City Council
- Action on Motion..... Mayor Facilitates

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:

The City Council is respectfully requested to consider granting an additional monetary stipend for council members attending council workshops and for planning commissioners attending planning commission meetings. If Council chooses to grant this stipend, it is recommended to make the following motion:

“Move to approve Resolution 2013-55, granting additional stipend of \$100.00 dollars per meeting for Council Members’ attendance at a workshop or special meeting in excess of the meetings required by the Lake Elmo City Code; and approving a stipend of \$40.00 dollars per meeting for Planning Commissioners attendance at Planning Commission meetings.”

BACKGROUND:

Council Members Smith and Park have requested that the City Council consider granting council members an additional monetary stipend for attendance at council workshops and special meetings in excess of the regular city council meetings prescribed by city code. Currently, city code § 31.01(A) requires two regular meetings per month, specifically on the first and third Tuesday. There is no required number of special or emergency meetings or workshops. The code only prescribes the procedure for holding those additional types of meetings.

City code § 31.08 governs council salaries. Staff deems the payment of a stipend as outside the definition of a salary and therefore not subject to the requirements of § 31.08. The most recent

Council action on Council salaries took place on July 3, 2012. The 4-1 vote, with then Council Member Pearson voting in opposition, granted a raise to the Mayor and Council, effective January 1, 2013.

During her May 21st Council report, Council Member Smith suggested that the Council look at an additional stipend for workshop attendance due to the high number of extra meetings the Council is currently holding. Ms. Smith stated that the increasing number of meetings is becoming more demanding, especially for members with families.

In addition, Council Member Smith suggested that the Council look at approving stipends for Planning Commissioners' attendance at Planning Commission meetings. Commissioners are currently not compensated for meeting attendance or service in general. Staff research has found that almost all municipal boards and commissions in the state are unpaid volunteer positions. However, there is much discussion statewide among cities about the prevalent difficulty in recruiting commissioners and whether paying commissioners would aide in that challenge.

Staff research has not been able to find instances of City Councils granting additional monetary stipends to members for work shops or special meetings in excess of the regular meeting pay. Staff has found instances where some council members are paid per meeting regardless of what type of meeting is held instead of a set annual salary. If the council were to desire to move to this format, it would require amending the ordinance governing salaries. Also, this change would not take effect until January 1, 2015, following the next regular city election scheduled for November 4, 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council is respectfully requested to consider granting an additional monetary stipend for council members attending council workshops and for planning commissioners attending planning commission meetings. If Council chooses to grant this stipend, it is recommended to make the following motion:

“Move to approve Resolution 2013-55, granting additional stipend of \$100.00 dollars per meeting for Council Members’ attendance at a workshop or special meeting in excess of the meetings required by the Lake Elmo City Code; and approving a stipend of \$40.00 dollars per meeting for Planning Commissioners attendance at Planning Commission meetings.”

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Resolution 2013-55*