

TO: City Council
FROM: James L. App, City Manager
SUBJECT: City Council Monthly Stipend
DATE: June 6, 2006

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider amending Council Member monthly stipends.

- FACTS:**
1. City Council Member monthly stipends were last adjusted in 1986 to their current level of \$300.
 2. In 2000, the voters authorized the Mayor's monthly stipend at \$200 above the City Council's.
 3. The State Government Code provides that Council Member stipends may be adjusted at a rate of 5% annually, but that implementation may only occur following a Council member general election.
 4. At 5% annually since 1986, Council Member monthly stipends may be adjusted to \$750; the Mayor's stipend would be \$200 higher.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The City Council and Mayor serve primarily as volunteers. The extent of service is significant - it is not uncommon for Council Members and the Mayor to invest 20-40 hours weekly on City business. Additionally, there are frequent invitations to represent the City at functions that include spouses - however, spousal expenses cannot be reimbursed. This constitutes an expense to offer what is fundamentally volunteer service.

It has been 20 years since Council Member stipends were adjusted. The time commitment and expense of Office has increased significantly. Adjustment as provided by the Government Code is overdue.

POLICY

REFERENCE: California Government Code Section 36516; Municipal Code Chapter 2.40.030.D.; FY 06-09 Budget/Financial Plan.

FISCAL

IMPACT: \$27,000 annually as provided in the adopted FY 06-09 budget/financial plan.

- OPTIONS:**
- A. Introduce Ordinance No.____ Adjusting Council Compensation Effective December 6, 2006.
 - B. Amend, Modify or Reject the Option Above.

ORDINANCE NO. XXX N.S.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
AMENDING SECTION 2.40.030.D OF THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL CODE (CITY
COUNCIL MEMBER COMPENSATION)**

WHEREAS, Government Code section 36516 provides that a City Council may enact an ordinance setting the salary for each member of the City Council, the amount of which shall be based upon population; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 514 N.S. on March 18, 1986, setting City Council compensation at \$300 per month; and

WHEREAS, Paso Robles Municipal Code section 2.40.030.D, "Salary -- Amounts" provides that each City Councilmember shall receive a salary of \$300 per month; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2000, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 00-72, which recited the fact of the General Municipal Election held on March 7, 2000 and declared the election result that, among other things, a majority of voters voted in favor of the Mayor receiving compensation of \$200 a month in addition to what he receives as a Council Member, as permitted by Government Code section 36516.1; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 36516(c) provides that City Council salaries may increase by up to five (5) percent for each calendar year from the operative date of the last adjustment of the salary in effect; and

WHEREAS, the time, commitment and expense of serving on the Council has increased significantly, but the monthly compensation for Council Members has not been adjusted since 1986; and

WHEREAS, increasing the Council Member compensation from \$300 per month to \$750 per month and increasing the Mayor's compensation from \$500 per month to \$950 per month amounts to an increase of less than five percent compounded biennially since 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has concluded that the "effective date of an adjustment in the salaries of city council members is delayed pursuant to California Government Code section 36516.5 until one council member commences a new term of office" (54 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen 112, 6-30-71); and

WHEREAS, the next general municipal election is to be held on November 7, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 2.40.030.D, "Salary -- Amounts" of the Paso Robles Municipal Code, is amended to read as follows:

"City Council members shall receive seven-hundred and fifty dollars per month and the Mayor shall receive nine-hundred and fifty dollars per month."

Section 2. Effective Date. The compensation rates shall go into effect for all City Council members, pursuant to Government Code section 36516.5, when one or more members of the City Council become eligible for a salary increase by virtue of that member beginning a new term of office following the November 7, 2006 general municipal election.

Section 3. Publication. This ordinance shall be published once fifteen (15) days after its passage in a newspaper of general circulation, printed, published and circulated in the City in accordance with Government Code section 36933.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on June 6, 2006, and passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles on the 5th day of July 2006 by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Mayor Frank R. Mecham

ATTEST:

[City Clerk]