



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Councilmember Scott Miller
MEETING DATE: May 3, 2006
SUBJECT: CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE
MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER PAY

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss Ordinance to Reduce or Eliminate Mayor/Council Member Pay and Take Appropriate Action.

DISCUSSION:

The Mayor of Pacific Grove currently receives \$700 per month as pay for serving as mayor. Each Council member receives \$420 per month for serving as a council person. This salary is authorized and regulated by State law, the City Charter, and set by the City Council by way of municipal ordinance. Upper limits of council salaries are established by state law; however, there is no lower limit on such pay. The Mayor and Council can set a reduced amount of monthly pay, or eliminate the pay altogether.

I recognize the many hours of work conducted each month by each council member and the mayor on behalf of the City of Pacific Grove, including Council meetings, subcommittee meetings, advisory board membership, preparing for meetings, and responding to citizens who contact us regarding issues of mutual concern. It has often been said that the stipend we receive as Council pay amounts to only pennies per hour of time spent going about the City's business. This is likely the situation in most of our cases. On the other hand, we also consider City service to be an honorable expression of our interest and concern for our City, and consider it an honor to have been elected to represent our town. Simply stated, while we are likely underpaid for our actual time and effort, we are also overpaid for the privilege of serving our community.

As we continue through our uncertain budgetary times, and as we look for ways to cut expenses and raise revenues, we certainly will be asking our employees, businesses and residents to make sacrifices to preserve our ability to provide necessary services. I believe the time has come to set an example of economic sacrifice by foregoing our Council and Mayoral salaries completely. If for some reason a minimal salary is necessary to retain rights to things like worker's compensation coverage while performing official City duties, we should roll salaries back to the lowest level possible to do so, perhaps to one dollar a month.

We should maintain our existing policy of reimbursement to the Mayor and Council members for actual expenses incurred during the normal course of City service, such as mileage, hotel costs, and registration fees, as currently allowed under existing Council policy. Certain Council policies governing salaries and expense reimbursement (Council Policies 000-2 and 000-11) may need to be reviewed for possible alignment with the reduced or eliminated compensation plan proposed here, as reimbursement for expenses incurred within Monterey County may be limited under those extant policies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City will realize an annual savings of approximately \$38,640 if salaries of the Mayor and Council are eliminated entirely. There may be a modest rise in reimbursement claims for expenses previously covered by the compensation.

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Scott Miller
COUNCILMEMBER