

To: Mayor and City Council
Through: Ryan Schroeder, City Manager
From: Shirley Buecksler, City Clerk
Date: July 27, 2020

Final Reading of Charter Amendment; Council Stipends

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At their July 13, 2020 meeting, the City Council held the first reading of a proposed Charter and City Code ordinance amendment to increase the Mayor and Council salaries as recommended by the Charter Commission. Recommended is 2.75% percent increases in each of the Mayoral and Council Stipends in each of 2021 and 2022.

The Charter Commission recommended the increase in stipend in that the last adopted change occurred in 2018 for a 2019 and 2020 adjustment. Further, that 2.75% closely followed increases in City labor contracts over the past two years. Further, resulting stipends would compare reasonably to a survey of sixteen similarly sized metro area communities. The resulting Mayoral stipend would reside at 4% below the mean stipend in these neighboring communities while Council salaries would be 2% above the mean (assuming there were no upward adjustments in other communities over the next two years).

For consideration, Council will have to hold a Public Hearing that is noticed between 2 weeks and 30 days prior to the Public Hearing. The entire text of the Charter amendment (not the City Code amendment) must be included in the publication. Then, in order to pass, it requires unanimous vote of the entire Council, including the Mayor. Unlike other amendments, it does not become effective until 90 days after publication. Moreover, in any case, any change in Council stipends would not take effect until the next Council is seated.

The Public Hearing notice was published in the July 12, 2020 edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$1,493 in 2021 and \$1,543 in 2022.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the recommendation of the Charter Commission and any input during the Public Hearing followed by consideration of the enclosed Ordinance No. 20-011 Amending West St. Paul City Charter Section 2.07 Subd. 1 and City Code Section 30.04 Regarding Mayor and Council Salaries.