

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SALARY COMMISSION AND TAKING OTHER NECESSARY ACTION WITH RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the City of Walla Walla passed Municipal Ordinance A-2405 on May 13, 1970 which classified the City of Walla Walla as a nonchartered code city under Title 35A of the Revised Code Washington (RCW); and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.11.020 provides in pertinent part that “[t]he legislative body of each code city shall have all powers possible for a city or town to have under the Constitution of this state, and not specifically denied to code cities by law;” and

WHEREAS, Walla Walla has “all of the powers which any city of any class may have and shall be governed in matters of state concern by statutes applicable to such cities in connection with such powers to the extent to which such laws are appropriate and are not in conflict with the provisions specifically applicable to code cities” pursuant to RCW 35A.21.160; and

WHEREAS, Councilmembers receive a salary of four hundred dollars (\$400) per month and the Mayor receives a salary of five hundred dollars (\$500) per month in accordance with Walla Walla Municipal Code section 2.05.060; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember compensation was last reviewed in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Walla Walla City Council has determined that the compensation paid to Councilmembers should be periodically reviewed; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.015 authorizes cities to establish salary commissions by ordinance to set the salaries of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Walla Walla City Council has considered this matter during a regularly and duly called public meeting of said Council, and finds that the best interests of the City of Walla Walla will be served by passage of this resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Walla Walla do resolve as follows:

Section 1: Section 2.05.060 of the Walla Walla Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows (added terms are bolded and italicized and removed terms are stricken):

2.05.060 Compensation.

~~The mayor shall receive as compensation a salary of five hundred dollars per month. All other members of the city council shall receive as compensation a salary of four hundred dollars per month.~~

The salaries of the mayor and members of the city council shall be set by a salary commission in accordance with this section.

A. There is hereby established a five (5) member salary commission.

1. The members of the salary commission shall be appointed by the mayor subject to approval by the city council.

2. Members of the salary commission must reside in the City of Walla Walla.

3. No officer, official, or employee of the City of Walla Walla may be a member of the salary commission.

4. No immediate family member of an officer, official, or employee of the City of Walla Walla may be a member of the salary commission. "Immediate family member" means the parents, spouse, siblings, children, or dependent relatives of the officer, official, or employee, whether or not living in the household of the officer official, or employee.

B. Members of the salary commission shall serve a three (3) year term, and may be reappointed for only one (1) additional three (3) year term. No member of the salary commission may serve more than two terms.

1. If a position on the salary commission becomes vacant during a term of office, the mayor shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term subject to approval by the city council. A member appointed to serve the remainder of a term may be reappointed for only one (1) additional three (3) year term.

2. Members of the salary commission may be removed by the city council only for incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, malfeasance in office, or for disqualifying change of residence.

C. The salary commission shall review the compensation paid to the mayor and members of the city council periodically. Such review must take place at least every three years. After review, the commission may change the salary of the mayor and/or members of the city council; provided, however, that the salaries of council members other than the mayor shall be the same.

1. Any change in salary shall be filed by the commission with the city clerk and shall become effective and incorporated into the city budget without further action of the city council or the salary commission. A change in salary may become effective no sooner than thirty (30) days after a salary change is filed by the commission with the city clerk.

a. Salary increases established by the commission shall be effective as to all elected officials, regardless of their terms of office.

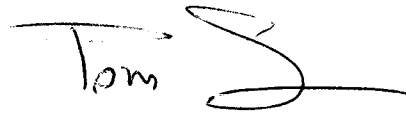
b. Salary decreases established by the commission shall become effective as to incumbent elected officials at the commencement of their next

subsequent terms of office.

2. Salary increases and decreases shall be subject to referendum petition in accordance with chapter 1.19 of this code in the same manner as a city ordinance. A referendum petition must be filed within thirty (30) days after a salary change is filed by the commission with the city clerk. In the event of the filing of a valid referendum petition, the salary increase or decrease shall not go into effect until approved by a vote of the people.

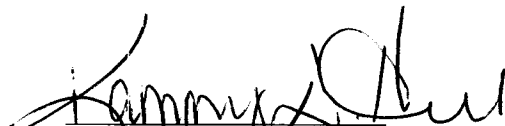
Section 2: Until such time that their salaries are changed in accordance with section 1 herein, the mayor shall receive as compensation a salary of five hundred dollars per month, and all other members of the city council shall receive as compensation a salary of four hundred dollars per month.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Walla Walla, Washington, on June 9, 2021.




Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk

Approved as to form:



City Attorney