

TOWN COUNCIL
Ordinance Committee
January 18, 2005

Present: Paul Leary, Chairperson, Michael Smart, Colin McPherson, Arthur Mathews

Also Present: T.J. Lacey
Susan Kay
Gregory Shanahan
Richard Swanson, Auditor
Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairperson Leary called the meeting to order at 7pm.

04 240 – Compensation Increase – Town Council
04 241 – Compensation Increase – Office of the Mayor
04 242 – Compensation Increase – School Committee

Councilor Leary noted that these items will require public hearings. He passed out a document that the Mass. Municipal Association had developed for Councilmen and Aldermen. Mr. Swanson did a survey of surrounding towns.

It was noted that Councilor Lacey recommended these items and he was recognized by Chairman Leary. Councilor Lacey referenced Section 9 of the charter in regards to salaries of the Mayor, the Council members, and the School Committee members. This is under the transition section of the charter. In 2-4 section A, it is stated that an increase is allowed by ordinance within 18 months of the Council's election, but is not to be enacted until the organization of the next elected Council. He also noted that the Council has not received a pay increase since the new form of government. It was considered in the first term, but was put aside due to financial difficulties of the town at that time. Councilor Lacey passed out a document that had an overview of similar sized towns with a similar form of government.

The suggested compensation changes are as follows:

- Mayor's salary to be increased to \$110,000
 - It was noted that the Mayor's salary was \$94,565 in 2000, \$91,565 in 2002, and \$94,565 in 2003
 - The Mayor's salary would be approximately \$110,000 if he had received all raises since 2000.

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- Town Council increase to \$7,500 for Councilors, \$8,500 for Chairperson of Budget/Management, and \$9,500 for the Town Council President
- School Committee increase to \$3,000 for Members, \$4,000 for Chairperson

A survey done by the Town's Auditor, Richard Swanson noted the following Towns' compensation:

- Quincy – Mayor = \$101,000, Councilors = \$18,195 (plus \$4000 for expenses), and School Committee = \$7200
- Medford – Mayor = \$106,000, Councilors = \$17,000, and School Committee \$10,800
- Malden – Mayor = \$90,000, Councilors = \$15,000, and School Committee = \$6000
- Waltham – Mayor = \$100,000, Councilors = \$14,000, and School Committee = \$7500, Chairperson = \$8000

He also noted that these towns' have a city form of government and a population over 50,000.

Councilor Leary stated that he would like to discuss the measures together. He noted that they would ultimately be voted on separately.

Councilor DiFazio asked if people might not run for an elected office because the salary is too low. It is not clear if this would be the case.

Councilor McPherson noted that it is not clear what the responsibilities are for the elected officials of the towns' noted. Weymouth has a strong mayor form of government. It is possible that these town officials have more responsibilities. He stated that he is in favor of an increase for Councilors to keep pace with inflation. Councilor McPherson also stated that he is not in favor of a large salary difference for the chairperson.

Councilor Lacey noted that the reasoning for having a salary differential for the chairperson of the Budget Management Committee is because this chairperson puts in a tremendous amount of time preparing items for the full Council.

Councilor DiFazio asked if an item has been sent for public hearing for discussion without a vote. It was noted that this has happened before with the circus measure. It was also noted that items have been voted on pending a public hearing.

It was noted that these measures are for a new ordinance.

Councilor Kay stated that the intent of the measures needs to be clear prior to advertising.

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A MOTION was made by Councilor Smart to set the Public Hearings for Item #04 240, #04 241, and #04 242 and was seconded by Arthur Mathews and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Councilor Mathews stated that he thinks that there should be another meeting to discuss the exact amounts of the increases before it is sent out to Public Hearings. Councilor Smart WITHDREW his previous MOTION.

Councilor McPherson stated that an actual ordinance is presented that states the specifics of the salary increases.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Smart to CONTINUE to a later date Items #04 240, #04 241, and #04 243 and was seconded by Arthur Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30pm there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Smart to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Kay and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson