



CITY OF CLEARLAKE

City Council

STAFF REPORT	
SUBJECT: Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance No. 278-2025, Adjustment to Councilmember Compensation	MEETING DATE: January 16, 2025
SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Swanson, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk	
PURPOSE OF REPORT: <input type="checkbox"/> Information only <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Item	

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL/BOARD:

The City Council is being asked to hold the second reading of Ordinance No. 278-2025, read it by title only, waive further reading and adopt the ordinance.

From the December 5, 2024 staff report:

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

(Former) Mayor Claffey has proposed an ordinance to increase the compensation of City Council members. This report provides the legal framework and current status of Council compensation.

Current Compensation and Legal Authority:

- **Current Salary:** Clearlake City Council members currently receive \$500 per month, as established by Municipal Code section 2-1.2 and last amended in 2020 (Ordinance No. 245-2020).
- **State Law:** Government Code section 36516 allows cities to set Council member salaries.
 - Clearlake may set monthly salaries up to \$1,050 per month. This is because cities with populations under 35,000 (like Clearlake) automatically can set salaries up to \$950 per month. Additionally, such amount may be increased by up to 5% per year since the last salary adjustment. Because four calendar years have elapsed since the salaries were last adjusted in 2020, an additional increase of 20% of the existing salary is allowed. Because 20% of \$500 is \$100, this accounts for the extra \$100 above \$950.
 - Benefits (retirement, health insurance, etc.) are not included in the salary calculation.

Effective Date:

- The municipal code would be changed upon the effective date of the ordinance. However, Government Code section 36516.5 establishes that salary changes may take effect only when at least one member of the Council commences a new term. Because this ordinance would be adopted at the earliest in January 2025, and the new council will be in place, the salary changes could not go into effect until after one person on the new five-person city council commences a new term or at the next general election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None Yes Budgeted Item? Yes No Budget Adjustment Needed? Yes
 No If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): General Fund Measure P Fund Measure V Fund Other:

Comments: No immediate impact.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

- Goal #1: Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City
- Goal #2: Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City
- Goal #3: Improve the Quality of Life in Clearlake with Improved Public Facilities
- Goal #4: Improve the Image of Clearlake
- Goal #5: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of City
- Goal #6: Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards
- Goal #7: Support Economic Development

Attachments: 1) Ordinance No. 278-2025