



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	3/24/2026
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business
SUBJECT:	Ordinance No. 1366 - An Ordinance of the City of Folsom Amending Section 2.06.010 of the Folsom Municipal Code Regarding City Council Salaries (Introduction and First Reading) and Determination that the Project is Exempt from CEQA
FROM:	City Manager's Office

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Introduce and conduct first reading of Ordinance No. 1366 - An Ordinance of the City of Folsom Amending Section 2.06.010 of the Folsom Municipal Code Regarding City Council Salaries; and
2. Determine that the Project is Exempt from CEQA.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The Folsom Municipal Code was initially adopted by the City of Folsom in 1973 consistent with and incorporating reference to several State Government Code sections governing local authority, police powers, and procedures. Over the last 52 years, the Folsom Municipal Code has been amended numerous times annually to reflect legislative changes, policy changes, administrative changes and local preferences. Many sections of the Folsom Municipal Code are very old. With that in mind, City staff has started an effort to update a variety of sections of the Folsom Municipal Code. At the February 24, 2026, City Council meeting the Folsom City Council considered sixteen municipal code modifications. We expect additional code adjustments to be presented to the City Council at future meetings.

In 1990, Folsom City Council adopted Ordinance 700 establishing City Council salaries of \$400 per month with an additional \$100 for the Mayor. City Council Ordinance 775 was adopted in 1993 clarifying that the City Council, by resolution, may set a monthly salary amount up to the maximum set forth in Folsom Municipal Code Section 2.06.010 (Salaries). In 2018, City Council adopted Ordinance 775 amending City Council salaries to the current

rates of \$600/month with an additional \$100/month for the Mayor. Over the 35 year period (1990 to 2026), City Council compensation has remained relatively flat while resident population of Folsom has more than tripled (from 29,802 residents in 1990 to 92,577 residents today), increasing the role and responsibilities of the City Council. This report provides a comparison of city council compensation in the region and provides information about recent State law establishing salary caps by population tier for general law cities.

POLICY / RULE

Pursuant to Section 1.01.021 (Adoption), the Folsom Municipal Code (FMC) was adopted by Ordinance 297 in 1973. Any subsequent amendment to the Folsom Municipal Code must also be adopted by Ordinance. Proposed Amendment to Title 2 does not require public hearing.

Pursuant to Section 2.06 of the City Charter, the City Council may determine the annual salary of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers by ordinance, but no ordinance increasing such salary shall become effective until the date of commencement of the terms of Councilmembers elected at the next regular election.

ANALYSIS

As outlined in the background section of this report, Folsom City Council compensation was initially established in 1990 at a rate of \$400/month and an additional \$100/month for the Mayor. That rate was amended 28 years later in 2018 to \$600/month and an additional \$100/month for the Mayor. Specifically, Folsom Municipal Code Section 2.06.010 Salaries language is as follows:

Except as hereafter provided, each member of the city council shall receive a maximum salary of \$600 per month. An additional maximum \$100 per month shall be paid to the mayor. If, in any calendar month, any member of the city council fails to attend both regular meetings without his or her absence having been excused by the city council, no compensation shall be paid to such councilmember for such month. The council, by resolution, may set a monthly salary amount up to the maximum set forth in this section. (Ord. 1284 § 2, 2018: Ord. 775, 1993: Ord. 700 § 1, 1990)

The role and responsibilities of the Folsom City Council in governing a community of more than 92,000 residents are comparable to a part-time job. Responsibilities include preparing for and attending regular City Council meetings, special meetings, and workshops; participating in regional representative assignments; and engaging in meetings with local stakeholders and community interest groups. Councilmembers also attend community and regional events, collaborate with partner agencies, and advocate on behalf of Folsom with state and federal elected officials. Equally important is communicating with and meeting constituents to discuss community opportunities, concerns, and challenges.

Increasingly, larger municipalities throughout California are recognizing the significant time commitment required of local elected officials and are establishing compensation structures

that more closely reflect the responsibilities and workload associated with a part-time public service role.

Effective January 1, 2024, new California legislation (SB 329) increased the maximum compensation levels for City Councilmembers in general law cities based on population. The law replaced the previous limitation from the year 2000, which allowed only a 5 percent annual salary increase, with updated maximum monthly compensation amounts tied to population tiers, as shown below:

- Up to 35,000 residents: up to \$950 per month (\$11,400 annually)
- 35,001–50,000 residents: up to \$1,275 per month (\$15,300 annually)
- 50,001–75,000 residents: up to \$1,600 per month (\$19,200 annually)
- **75,001–150,000 residents: up to \$1,900 per month (\$22,800 annually)**
- 150,001–250,000 residents: up to \$2,550 per month (\$30,600 annually)
- Over 250,000 residents: up to \$3,200 per month (\$38,400 annually)

While Folsom is a charter city and therefore not bound by SB 329, several nearby cities have recently updated their City Council compensation to align with the law’s limits. For example, Citrus Heights and Elk Grove adjusted their Council salaries in 2024 consistent with SB 329. In Roseville, the charter requires voter approval for Council raises; a proposed increase from \$7,200 to \$30,600 annually will appear on the ballot this November to align with SB 329. The table below summarizes City Council compensation in other incorporated cities in the region. Notably, Sacramento is a charter city not subject to the salary cap and is the only jurisdiction in the region that considers the Council position full-time. Conversely, Rancho Cordova’s City Council has declined compensation.

Comparable Cities (year last amended)	Population	Annual Compensation	Monthly Compensation
Citrus Heights (2024)	86,000	\$22,800	\$1,900
Elk Grove (2024)	182,000	\$30,600	\$2,550
Folsom (2018)	92,000	\$7,200	\$600/\$700 Mayor
Rancho Cordova	No compensation		
Roseville (2000)*	158,000	\$7,200	\$600
Rocklin	77,000	\$8,220	\$885
Sacramento (2025)	525,000	\$111,324	\$9,277
* Roseville has an increase on the November Ballot consistent with SB329 (\$30,600/year)			

Based on this comparison and the updated salary tiers established by SB 329, staff recommends that Folsom amend City Council compensation to align with the higher salary floor for cities with populations between 75,000 and 150,000 residents. This would establish a monthly compensation of \$1,900 and an annual compensation of \$22,800.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funds for City Council salary will be absorbed within the FY 2026-2027 General Fund budget for the increased expense. The total annual cost would increase from \$37,200 annually to \$114,000 annually for a net increase of \$76,800 annually.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed City Council action to adopt Ordinance No. 1366 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b)(4) “Project” and Section 15061(b)(3) “ Common Sense Exemption”. Under Section 15378, the action does not constitute a “project” under CEQA, as it pertains solely to administrative or procedural matters that do not result in direct physical environmental changes. Furthermore, Section 15061(b)(3) - the “common sense exemption” -applies because it can be determined with certainty that the adoption of this updated document will not lead to significant effects on the environment.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance No. 1366 - An Ordinance of the City of Folsom Amending Section 2.06.010 of the Folsom Municipal Code to Adjust City Council Salaries.

Submitted,

Bryan Whitemyer, City Manager

Attachment 1

ORDINANCE NO. 1366

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FOLSOM
AMENDING SECTION 2.06.010 OF THE FOLSOM MUNICIPAL CODE
REGARDING CITY COUNCIL SALARIES**

The City Council of the City of Folsom does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the amount of City Council salaries in Section 2.06.010 of the Folsom Municipal Code.

SECTION 2 AMENDMENT TO CODE

Section 2.06.010 of the Folsom Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.06.010 Salaries.

Except as hereafter provided, each member of the City Council shall receive a maximum salary of \$1,900 per month. The maximum salary may be adjusted in compliance with maximum compensation levels allowed by State law. An additional maximum \$100 per month shall be paid to the Mayor. If, in any calendar month, any member of the City Council fails to attend both regular meetings without their absence having been excused by the City Council, no compensation shall be paid to such councilmember for such month. The Council, by resolution, may set a monthly salary amount up to the maximum set forth in this section.

SECTION 3 SCOPE

Except as set forth in this ordinance, all other provisions of the Folsom Municipal Code shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4 SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court or competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, clauses, phrases or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5 EFFECTIVE DATE

As required by Section 2.06 of the City Charter, this Ordinance, after its passage and adoption, shall become effective on the date of commencement of the terms of Councilmembers

elected at the November 3, 2026 municipal election, provided it is published in full or in summary within twenty (20) days after its adoption in a newspaper of general circulation.

This ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council on March 24, 2026, and the second reading occurred at the regular meeting of the City Council on April 14, 2026.

On a motion by XX, seconded by XX, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Folsom, State of California, this 14th day of April 2026, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmember:

NOES: Councilmember:

ABSENT: Councilmember:

ABSTAIN: Councilmember:

Justin Raithel, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

Effective: December 7, 2026

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and minimize paper use.*



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE