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MEMORANDUM

City Manager's Office

Date: July 8, 2026

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council
From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager
Subject: City Council Stipend

I. INTRODUCTION

The City has historically provided a monthly stipend to the Mayor and City Council members in recognition of the time and responsibilities associated with serving in elected office. Over the years, the stipend amounts have been adjusted periodically by the City Council.

During the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Committee meeting on April 30, 2024, the Council made a motion to discontinue City Council stipends. The Council indicated that, because non-represented employees were being asked to forgo a cost-of-living adjustment due to budget constraints, they wished to demonstrate leadership by voluntarily discontinuing their own stipends. The motion did not establish a date for reinstatement but rather indicated the stipends would be reviewed after the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

At the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Committee meeting on May 6, 2025, the Budget Committee revisited the topic. Following discussion, the Committee reached consensus to reinstate the Mayor's stipend at \$500 per month to help offset expenses associated with serving as Mayor. The Committee also agreed that reinstatement of Council member stipends would be revisited during the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

II. CURRENT REPORT

Although the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget includes appropriations for City Council stipends, the inclusion of funding in the budget does not, by itself, reinstate the stipends. Because the stipends were previously discontinued by action of the City Council, Council action is necessary to authorize their reinstatement and establish the amount and effective date, if the Council chooses to do so.

Because this agenda item concerns compensation received by City Council members, each Council member should announce an actual conflict of interest before participating in discussion or voting, pursuant to ORS 244.120. A suggested announcement is:

"I am declaring an actual conflict of interest because this agenda item concerns City Council stipends, and I receive compensation as a member of the City Council. I am making this announcement pursuant to ORS 244.120 and Oregon Government Ethics Law."

III. RECOMMENDATION

Staff presents this item for Council discussion and direction and makes no recommendation regarding reinstatement of City Council stipends.

If the Council chooses to reinstate Council member stipends, the Council should do so by motion establishing the monthly stipend amount and the effective date.