



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Board of Commissioners

VIA: Robin Gomez, City Manager

FROM: Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk

DATE: 07/28/2023

RE: **Ordinance 2023-23, Board of Commissioners Compensation and Health Insurance – 1st Reading & Public Hearing**

Background

The Board of Commissioners last adopted an ordinance increasing the annual salary of Commissioners in July 2015 through Ordinance 2015-08, which was amended by Ordinance 2019-04 to correct a scrivener's error in the annual salary of the District Commissioners.

At the October 27, 2021, BOC Regular Workshop Meeting, the Board of Commissioners discussed an annual salary increase, health insurance, and benefits for Commissioners. City Attorney Trask explained at the December 8, 2021, BOC Regular Meeting that according to an AGO, an Attorney General Opinion, health insurance must be treated as compensation. He would need to draft an ordinance providing for it. The Board of Commissioners consented to the City Attorney holding off on preparing an ordinance at that time.

The item was considered again at the July 26, 2023 BOC Workshop Meeting. The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was for the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance for first reading at the August 9, 2023 BOC Regular Meeting to provide an option for the Board of Commissioners to waive their annual salary to obtain the same health insurance as City employees at the same rate that City employees enjoy. This item was prepared for that purpose.

No ordinance increasing the salary of Commissioners shall become effective until the date of commencement of the terms of Commissioners elected at the next regular election, provided that such election follows the adoption of such ordinance by at least six (6) months (City Charter, Section 4.11).

City Charter, Section 4.11 Compensation; expenses.

The Board of Commissioners may determine the annual salary of Commissioners by Ordinance, but no Ordinance increasing such salary shall become effective until the date of commencement of the terms of Commissioners

elected at the next regular election, provided that such election follows the adoption of such ordinance by at least six (6) months.

All members of the Board of Commissioners, may be reimbursed for any ordinary travel and other expenses incurred in connection with their official duties inside and outside the limits of Pinellas County and shall account therefore in accordance with Florida Statutes.

Salary rates of six hundred (\$600.00) dollars per month for the Mayor and four hundred (\$400.00) dollars per month for District Commissioners shall be paid until amended by ordinance as hereinabove provided.

Changes in the salaries of the Board of Commission members shall be established by Ordinance.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of advertising ordinances for public hearings is budgeted in each Fiscal Year Budget.

Recommendation

The recommendation is for the Board of Commissioners to approve, after first reading and public hearing, Ordinance 2023-23, providing an option for the Board of Commissioners to waive their annual salary to obtain the same health insurance as City employees at the same rate that City employees enjoy.

Attachments:

- Ordinance 2023-23, BOC Compensation and Health Insurance
- City Charter, Section 4.11, Compensation; Expenses