

Elected Officials Compensation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Madison Heights, Michigan  
November 17, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Elected Officials Compensation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Municipal Building at 300 West 13 Mile Road, Madison Heights, Michigan.

Present: Commissioners: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Geraldts, Marentette, McKenzie and Wright.

Also Present: City Manager Marsh, City Clerk Rottmann

In the absence of a Chairman or Vice-Chairman, City Manager Marsh opened the meeting and the City Clerk called the roll.

**21-1. Election of Chairperson.**

City Manager Marsh called for nominations for the Chair of the Commission for 2021.

Motion by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Geraldts, to nominate Commissioner Brunke for Chair of the Commission. There being no further nominations, the vote for Chair was called.

Yeas: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Geraldts, Marentette, McKenzie, Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Angela Brunke was elected as Chair of the Commission.

**22-2. Election of Vice-Chairperson.**

Chair Brunke called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Commission for 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie, to nominate Commissioner Geraldts as Vice-Chair of the Commission. There being no further nominations, the vote for Vice-Chair was called.

Yeas: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Geraldts, Marentette, McKenzie, Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried

Commissioner Laurie Geraldts was elected as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

**21-3. Appointment of Secretary.**

Chair Brunke called for nominations for Secretary of the Commission for 2021.

Motion by Vice-Chair Geraldts, seconded by Commissioner Fortune-Heiligh, to appoint Commissioner Wright as Secretary of the Commission.

Yeas: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Geraldts, Marentette, McKenzie,  
Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried

Commissioner Kevin Wright was appointed as Secretary of the Commission for 2021.

**21-4. Minutes.**

Motion by Vice-Chair Geraldts, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie, to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 2, 2019, as printed.

Yeas: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Geraldts, Marentette, McKenzie,  
Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried

**21-5. Discussion of Salary for Mayor and City Council.**

City Manager Marsh briefly reviewed the informational packets mailed to the Commission members.

City Manager Marsh explained that the Compensation Commission can only make a recommendation pertaining to Council salaries, not benefits. The recommendation is then presented to Council, which has thirty (30) days to consider or else the resolution automatically goes into effect. Council can approve or reject the Salary Order in whole or in part. She also reviewed where the City currently stands financially in relation to the budget, the rate of inflation, and other communities as surveyed by the Michigan Municipal League. She outlined the terms of the agreements with the City's bargaining groups, noting that all contracts have been extended through June 2021.

City Manager Marsh indicated that any actions taken by the Compensation Commission would cover a two-year period because the Commission meets only in odd years, traditionally following the City's General Election.

**21-6. Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and Council Salary Order.**

Motion by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Vice-Chair Gerald, to freeze the current Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem and the Councilmembers' salaries, as indicated by the following Salary Order:

**ORDER OF THE  
ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Elected Officials Compensation Commission met on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in the Madison Heights Municipal Building, pursuant to Ordinance 454 of 1972 consisting of seven members; Commissioners present: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Gerald, Marentette, McKenzie, and Wright.

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 454 of 1972, Section 2-214 provides as follows:

"The Commission shall determine the salaries of elected officials in the City; which determination shall be the salaries unless the Mayor and Council by resolution adopted by 2/3rds of the members elected to and serving shall reject them. The determinations of the Commission shall be effective 30 days following the filing with the City Clerk of such determination unless rejected by the legislative body. In case of rejection, the existing salary shall prevail."

**WHEREAS**, after due consideration by the members of said Board, having been furnished with current salary statistics and after full and complete discussion of all pertinent matters, the recommended decision of the Commission is as follows:

**RESOLVED, IT IS ORDERED**, that the salary of the Mayor shall be frozen at \$9,498 for two years; and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the salary of the Mayor Pro Tem shall be frozen at \$7,321 for two years; and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the salary of the City Council members shall be frozen at \$6,653 for two years effective through January 1, 2023.

Secretary Wright stated that he believed that in the interest of fiscal responsibility as well as the current uncertainty in the economy, it would be prudent to recommend no increase.

In response to Commissioner McKenzie's question, City Manager Marsh reviewed the current budget revenues and expenditures. The current budget forecasts a \$995,000 use of Fund Balance.

Discussion followed on the rate and history of the internet stipend for City Council. Ms. Marsh explained that the reimbursement is a City policy to compensate Council for the requirement to have internet to conduct City business.

Commissioner McKenzie stated that it appears the Madison Heights Council is compensated fairly; it is higher than some comparable communities and lower than others.

Commissioner Fortune-Heiligh stated that she was not comfortable with a complete freeze and that Council continues to provide a service for the community.

Substitute motion:

Motion by Fortune-Heiligh, seconded by Marentette, to increase the current Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem and the Councilmembers' salaries by 1% per annum through January 1, 2023.

Vote on Substitute Motion:

Yays: Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Marentette

Nays: Bessler, Geraldts, McKenzie, Wright

Substitute Motion Failed 3-4.

Vote on Original Motion:

Yays: Bessler, Geraldts, McKenzie, Wright

Nays: Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Marentette

Original Motion Carried 4-3.

**21-7. Adjournment.**

Motion by Bessler, seconded by Geraldts to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Yeas: Bessler, Brunke, Fortune-Heiligh, Geraldts, Marentette, McKenzie, Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried

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Cheryl E. Rottmann  
City Clerk