

## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



**DATE:** January 21, 2020

**TITLE:** Consideration of an Ordinance Increasing the Salary of City Councilmembers and Mayor

**Prepared by:** Luke Rainey, Deputy City Manager  
Jerryl Soriano, City Clerk

### RECOMMENDATION

Consider introducing for First Reading and read by title only, "An Ordinance of the City Council Amending Section 2.04.020 of Chapter 2.04 "City Council" of the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code Increasing the Salary of City Councilmembers and Mayor."

### BACKGROUND

Salaries for the City Council and Mayor should be reviewed periodically to provide reasonable compensation for council and mayoral duties, as provided by law. Compensation amounts were last increased in 2002. Currently, the City Council and Mayor receive the following salaries and allowances each month:

	Base Salary	Auto Allowance	Phone Allowance	Total
Mayor	\$650	\$600	\$72	\$1,322
Councilmember	\$550	\$600	\$72	\$1,222

The City of Desert Hot Springs is a Charter City, organized pursuant to Article XI of the California Constitution. Because the City is not a general law city, it is not subject to the state requirements under California Government Code Section 36516, which establishes salaries for councilmembers based upon population.

### DISCUSSION

Staff conducted a compensation survey of Coachella Valley cities that included totals of base rates and allowances (Exhibit 1). This survey shows an average total monthly compensation for councilmembers to be \$1,783.62 and for mayors to be \$2,101.28.

It is recommended that the City Council consider adopting an ordinance amending the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code to increase the base salary of the City Councilmembers and Mayor to be comparable to the average total compensation of other Coachella Valley cities. The proposed compensation totals (with base rate increases) are:

	Base Salary	Auto Allowance	Phone Allowance	Total
Mayor	\$1,429.28	\$600	\$72	\$2,101.28
Councilmember	\$1,111.62	\$600	\$72	\$1,783.62

### FISCAL IMPACT

Adoption of the proposed Ordinance will increase the FY 2019-20 budgeted expenditures by an amount of \$12,103.04 in General Fund account #001-41-11-4101 (City Council/Salaries). This increase will be funded via salary savings from temporarily vacated positions. Future budget fiscal year expenses will increase by an amount of \$36,309.12 in General Fund account #001-41-11-4101.

### EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Compensation Survey
- 2) Proposed Ordinance

**Mayor and Councilmember Compensation Survey  
of Coachella Valley Cities**

<b>PALM SPRINGS</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 3,650.00	None	None	\$ 3,650.00
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 2,433.00	None	None	\$ 2,433.00

<b>CATHEDRAL CITY</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 1,167.48	\$500	\$150	\$ 1,817.48
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 1,167.48	\$500	\$150	\$ 1,817.48

<b>RANCHO MIRAGE</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 2,843.00	None	None	\$ 2,843.00
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 2,593.00	None	None	\$ 2,593.00

<b>PALM DESERT</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 2,029.56	None	\$ 40.00 (or City issued phone)	\$ 2,069.56
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 2,029.56	None	\$ 40.00 (or City issued phone)	\$ 2,069.56

<b>LA QUINTA</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 2,500.00	None	\$40.00	\$ 2,540.00
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 2,000.00	None	\$40.00	\$ 2,040.00

<b>INDIAN WELLS</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 1,720.29	None	\$100.00	\$ 1,820.29
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 1,146.00	None	\$100.00	\$ 1,246.00

<b>INDIO</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 1,058.88	None	\$100.00	\$ 1,158.88
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 1,058.88	None	\$100.00	\$ 1,158.88

<b>COACHELLA</b>	<b>Monthly BASE</b>	<b>Car Allowance</b>	<b>Phone Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mayor</b>	\$ 711.05	None (Use of City vehicle available)	\$200.00	\$ 911.05
<b>City Council</b>	\$ 711.05	None (Use of City vehicle available)	\$200.00	\$ 911.05

**Mayor Average \$ 2,101.28**  
**Councilmember Average \$ 1,783.62**

<b>Proposed Increases to DHS Totals</b>	<i>Mayor Total</i>	\$ 2,101.28
	<i>Councilmember Total</i>	\$ 1,783.62
	<i>Mayor (new base)</i>	\$ 1,429.28
	<i>Councilmember (new base)</i>	\$ 1,111.62