

**CITY OF MONROE
ORDINANCE NO. 001/2015**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.24 OF THE MONROE MUNICIPAL CODE, COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT SALARY COMMISSION IN ORDER TO SET THE SALARIES OF THE CITY'S ELECTED OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the salaries for the City of Monroe Mayor and City Council have been adjusted, from time to time, by Council ordinance as provided in RCW 35A.12.070; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.015 allows cities to establish an independent salary commission, by ordinance, in order to set the salaries of elected officials, subject to certain terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe City Council desires to create such a commission for the purpose of setting the salaries of the City of Monroe Mayor and City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 2.24 MMC. Monroe Municipal Code Chapter 2.24, Compensation for Mayor and Council, is hereby amended to provide in its entirety as follows:

**Chapter 2.24
COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Sections:

- 2.24.040 Salaries of councilpersons and mayor – Statement of purpose.
- 2.24.050 Salaries of councilpersons and mayor.
- 2.24.060 Salary Commission~~[OF MAYOR]~~.
- 2.24.070 Expenses.

2.24.040 Salaries of councilpersons and mayor – Statement of purpose.

The purpose of MMC 2.24.050 through 2.24.070 is to fix the salaries and provide for reimbursement of expenses as provided for by applicable Washington law, including without limitation RCW 35A.12.070.

2.24.050 Salaries of councilpersons and mayor.

~~[Councilpersons who are first elected, re-elected, or appointed to a term commencing on or after January 1, 2014, shall be compensated at the rate of six hundred dollars per~~

month. All other councilpersons shall be compensated at the rate of one hundred dollars per meeting with a quorum present, for a maximum of eight such meetings per month.] The salaries for elected officials shall be as established by the salary commission as set forth in MMC 2.24.060.

2.24.060 Salary Commission[~~OF MAYOR~~].

~~[THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR SHALL BE A FIXED RATE OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER MONTH, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005.]~~

A. Established.

There is created and established an independent salary commission.

B. Purpose – Function.

The salary commission shall review and establish the salaries of the mayor and the councilpersons and shall exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth by RCW 35.21.015, as now existing or hereafter amended.

C. Membership, Appointment, Compensation, Term.

1. The commission shall consist of five members, to be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council.
2. A member of the commission shall serve for a three-year term without compensation, and shall be a resident of the city. Initial terms shall be staggered with two members appointed for terms beginning upon their appointment in 2015 and ending December 31, 2017, two members appointed for terms beginning upon their appointment and ending December 31, 2016, and one member appointed for a term beginning upon his or her appointment and ending December 31, 2015.
3. No member of the commission shall be appointed to more than two terms, whether consecutive or otherwise.
4. A member of the commission shall not be an officer, official, or employee of the city or an immediate family member of an officer, official, or employee of the city. For purposes of this section, “immediate family member” means the parents, spouse, siblings, children, or dependent relatives of an officer, official, or employee of the city, whether or not living in the household of the officer, official, or employee.

D. Vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of commissioner, the mayor shall appoint, subject to approval of the city council, a person to serve the unexpired portion of the term of the expired position.

E. Removal.

A member of the commission shall only be removed from office for cause of incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, or for a disqualifying change of residence.

F. Duties - Adjustment of Salaries.

1. The commission shall have the duty to review the salaries paid by the city to the mayor and city council. If after such review the commission

determines that the salary paid to the mayor or city council should be increased or decreased, the commission shall file a written salary schedule with the city clerk indicating the increase or decrease in salary.

2. The commission shall convene and complete its first review of the salaries paid to the mayor and city council within ninety days of the appointment of the commission. Should the commission determine that the salary paid to the mayor or city council should be increased or decreased, the commission shall file its initial schedule of salaries for the mayor and city council with the city clerk no later than the ninety-first day following the appointment of the commission.
3. For subsequent years, the commission shall meet no less than one time per year, during the month of August.
4. All meetings of the commission shall be governed by the Open Public Meetings Act and shall be open to the public except as otherwise allowed under that Act. Members of the public shall have an opportunity to comment or submit comments in writing prior to a commission vote to increase or decrease salaries.
5. Any increase or decrease in salary shall become effective and incorporated into the city budget without further action of the city council or the commission.
6. Salary increases established by the commission shall be effective as to the mayor and all councilpersons, regardless of their terms of office.
7. Salary decreases established by the commission shall not be effective as to an incumbent mayor and councilpersons until the commencement of their next term of office.
8. Any adjustment of salary by the commission shall supersede any city ordinance related to the budget or fixing of salaries, but only to the extent there is a conflict.
9. The commission shall adopt rules of procedure to govern its meetings. Such rules shall make provision for the taking of minutes and keeping of commission records, and shall provide for the election of such officers as are deemed necessary by the commission for the conduct of its business.

G. Referendum Measures.

1. Salary increases and decreases shall be subject to referendum petition by the people of the city in the same manner as a city ordinance upon filing of such petition with the city clerk within thirty days after filing of the salary schedule. In the event of the filing of a valid referendum petition, the salary increase or decrease shall not go into effect until approved by vote of the people.
2. Referendum measures under this section shall be submitted to the voters of the city at the next following general or municipal election occurring thirty days or more after the petition is filed, and shall be otherwise governed by the provisions of the state Constitution, or city charter, or laws generally applicable to referendum measures.

2.24.070 Expenses.

The mayor, members of the city council, city officials and city employees may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the discharge of their official or authorized duties upon presentation of a claim therefor and after allowance and approval thereof by the city council.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

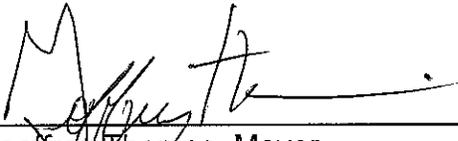
Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in force and effect five days from and after its passage by the Monroe City Council and publication, as required by law.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Monroe, at a regular meeting held this 27th day of January, 2014.

1st Reading January 20, 2015
Final Reading: January 27, 2015
Published: February 3, 2015
Effective: February 8, 2015

(SEAL)

CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON:



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Elizabeth M. Smoot, CMC, City Clerk



J. Zachary Lell, City Attorney