

To: **Chair Mark Tessmer and Members of the Charter Commission**  
 Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**  
 From: **Kori Land, City Attorney**  
 Date: **May 3, 2018**

## **Council Salaries**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Charter requires the Charter Commission to review Council salaries prior to June of every even-numbered year. (City Charter §2.07 subd. 2) State law requires Council salaries to be adopted by ordinance. (Minn. Stat. §415.11 subd. 1)

West St. Paul is unique in that Council salaries are identified in both West St. Paul City Charter §2.07 and City Code §30.04. Having the salaries in both locations allows for checks and balances. A Charter amendment requires a recommendation from the Charter Commission and unanimous vote by the Council. City Code amendments, on the other hand, only require a majority vote by the Council. Therefore, having the Council salaries in both the Charter and the City Code provides extra protection for the citizens.

Salaries must be in an amount the Council deems “reasonable.” (Minn. Stat. §415.11 subd. 1) It is important to note that an increase would not take effect until after the next municipal election, in other words, January 2019.

We reviewed Council salaries of similarly sized cities for comparison purposes and offer that information for your consideration.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

		<b>Amount</b>
<b>Fund:</b>	<b>Charter</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Administration</b>	
<b>Account:</b>		

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- City Council Salaries Survey
- Charter §2.07
- City Code §30.04

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and consider amending the Council salaries