

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Council

4 **ORDINANCE 15-01**

5
6 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
7 AMENDING HOMER CITY CODE 2.08.040(M) REGARDING
8 COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL.
9

10 WHEREAS, The functioning of a vital, just, resilient and truly representative democracy
11 requires that all citizens have equitable and economically viable avenues to participate in
12 government and to hold elected office, if duly elected; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The median income of the current Mayor and Council Members probably is
15 markedly higher than the median income of their constituents; and
16

17 WHEREAS, The office of Mayor or Council Member is not attainable or tenable for a
18 person of limited or even moderate economic means without minimum levels of
19 compensation; and
20

21 WHEREAS, The Laws of the State of Alaska and the United States of America require
22 minimum levels of pay and compensation be paid for work or services performed; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Reasonable and thoughtful execution of the duties of the office of Mayor or
25 Council Member requires at least 6 to 9 hours of work per meeting in the form of participating
26 at City Council meetings, reading 250 to 600+ pages of City Council packets and other related
27 documents on a monthly or per meeting basis, being available to the public and City staff to
28 answer questions and listen to concerns, crafting legislation, reviewing legal briefs, serving
29 from time to time as a member of the Board of Adjustment, and all of the other duties and
30 obligations associated with the office of Mayor or Council Member; and
31

32 WHEREAS, Current levels of Mayor and Council Member compensation are 200% lower
33 than levels 8 years ago, and those levels were reduced in a time of severe economic recession
34 and dire budgetary constraints; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Compensation for the work performed by the Mayor and Council Members
37 ideally should be correlated with measurable time and personal resources invested in
38 executing the duties of office; and
39

40 WHEREAS, Socio-economic and political circumstances in which we live and govern
41 demand a continually increasing amount of time, energy, professional knowledge, and

42 expertise in order to effectively represent and safeguard the concerns and interests of the
43 Citizens of Homer; and

44
45 WHEREAS, AS 29.20.620 authorizes the Council by ordinance to provide a method of
46 determining the salaries of elected officials, provided that the salary **stipend** of the Mayor
47 may not be reduced during the term of office of the Mayor.

48
49 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:

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51 Section 1. Homer City Code 2.08.040(m) is amended to read as follows:

52
53 m. Salaries of Elected Officials.

54 1. The Mayor and each Council Member shall be paid a salary stipend of
55 \$75 for each council-meeting-day in which the person participates in person, or \$50
56 per council-meeting-day in which a majority of the person's participation time is
57 telephonic. A council-meeting-day is any calendar day in which the person
58 participates in any one or more of the following:

59 a. A scheduled and publically noticed meeting of the City Council,
60 including without limitation a regular meeting, special meeting, committee of
61 the whole meeting and meeting in executive session.

62 b. A scheduled and publically noticed meeting of the Board of
63 Adjustment, Board of Ethics, or other board or commission that is composed of
64 the Mayor and Council Members.

65 c. Training or continuing education programs, and work sessions,
66 that are required by law or commonly recognized best practice to perform the
67 duties of Mayor or Council Member.

68 ~~The Council may fix by ordinance the salaries of elected officials. The Council members will~~
69 ~~receive a \$50.00 nonwage stipend per month during their term of office as a reimbursement~~
70 ~~for expenses and the Mayor at \$75.00 per month. The City shall not spend any funds for~~
71 ~~elected officials' membership in the Public Employees Retirement System. An elected official~~
72 ~~may not receive any other compensation for service to the City municipality unless~~
73 ~~specifically authorized to do so by ordinance. Per diem payments or reimbursements for~~
74 ~~expenses are not compensation under this section.~~

75
76 Section 2. The compensation provided in Section 1 above applies to service as Mayor
77 or Council Member commencing the first day of the first calendar month following the
78 calendar month in which this ordinance is enacted, and as of that date replaces all forms of
79 compensation previously payable for service as Mayor or Council Member, other than
80 reimbursement for expenses incurred in performing official duties.

81
82 Section 3. Section 1 of this Ordinance is of a permanent and general character and
83 shall be included in the City Code.

84 ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMER, ALASKA, this _____ day of
85 January, 2015.

86

87

CITY OF HOMER

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90

91

MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

92

93 ATTEST:

94

95

96

97 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

98

99

100 AYES:

101 NOES:

102 ABSTAIN:

103 ABSENT:

104

105

106 First Reading:

107 Public Reading:

108 Second Reading:

109 Effective Date:

110

111 Reviewed and approved as to form:

112

113

114

115 Marvin Yoder, City Manager

116

117 Date: _____

Thomas F. Klinkner, City Attorney

Date: _____