

Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

The Legislative Committee (the "Committee") met on, Monday, June 5, 2017, in the conference room at the Lyndhurst Municipal Center. Present at the meeting were Legislative Committee Members Price and LoPresti. Chairman Schlessel was excused. Also present were Councilmen Frey, Gambatese, Grushetsky, and Marko, Law Director Murphy, Finance Director Kovalchik and Mayor Ward. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Council Member salaries.

The Committee was provided information regarding the salaries of Council members serving in our surrounding municipalities for reference. It was noted that Lyndhurst Council salaries are much lower than most of the cities referenced. It was also discussed that our Council salaries have remained the same since they were last changed. Specifically, since January 1, 2006 for Ward Councilmen who have received \$8,500 annually, and since January 1, 2008 for at Large Councilmen who have received \$8,700 per year.

In an effort to address the internal and external disparity, to account for the cost of living, and to ensure that future Councils will continue to attract and retain qualified and empowered candidates, a discussion ensued about raising Council salaries for all Members of Council for the terms beginning January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2020. Councilman Frey was in favor of a modest increase to \$10,000, other Members present thought that \$12,000 might be more in keeping with those surrounding cities. It was stated that the amount could be amended on Council floor should members deem necessary. It was highlighted that this increase would not take effect until January 1, 2018 for Ward Councilmen and not until January 1, 2020 for At Large Councilmen and suggested that the legislation include language to provide for the terms beginning in both those years. Some surrounding municipalities are already at or close to the \$12,000 number, and some cities have built in, automatic, annual increases, which we have not done before. A motion was made by Committee Member Price and seconded by Committee Member LoPresti to recommend to Council that Legislation be drawn up to provide for the salaries of Council members in each of the next four years be set at \$12,000. Mr. Price and Mr. LoPresti both voted yes.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully,

Charles A. LoPresti
Legislative Committee Member