

Ordinance No. 00605

[CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2, 2015](#)

Amended 3/2/2015

ORDINANCE NO. 605

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, creating Chapter 2.11 of the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to Independent Salary Commission.

WHEREAS, the City Council currently sets the salaries of the City Councilmembers and the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35.21.015, authorizes cities to create independent salary commissions to set elected official salaries; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to have separate, independent commission, rather than the City Council itself, establish the salaries of these elected officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN as follows:

Section 1: Chapter 2.11 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Independent Salary Commission" is created.

Section 2: Section 2.11.010 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Membership" is created to read as follows:

1. The independent salary commission shall consist of five voting members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.
2. The independent salary commission shall serve without compensation.

Section 3: Section 2.11.020 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Term" is created to read as follows:

1. The term of a salary commission member shall be for one salary review. The term shall commence upon City Council confirmation and shall terminate upon filing of the statement of salaries with the City Clerk.
2. For each salary review, conducted in 2015 and every fourth year subsequent, the Mayor shall appoint and the City Council shall confirm a salary commission.
3. A member of the salary commission shall not be an officer, official or employee of the City of an immediate family member of an officer, official or employee of the City. For purposes of this section, "immediate family member" means parents, spouse, siblings, children or dependent relatives of an officer, official or employee of the City, whether not living in the household of the officer, official or employee.

Section 4: Section 2.11.030 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Duties" is created to read as follows:

1. The salary commission shall convene and determine the salaries paid to the Mayor and the City Council within 45 days of confirmation by the City Council. The 45-day review and determination time may be extended upon request of the salary commission and approval by the city council.
2. All meetings of the salary commission shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act and shall be open to the public. The meetings shall be held in the same location as City Council regular meetings. The salary commission shall provide an opportunity for citizens of the City to comment on the salaries of the Mayor and City Council prior to taking a final vote on such salaries.
3. After determining the salaries of the Mayor and the City Council, the salary commission shall file a statement of the salaries with the City Clerk. A salary increase shall be effective on the next payday for City employees. A salary decrease shall be effective at the commencement of the next subsequent term of office.

4. Any increase or decrease in salary shall become effective without further action of the City Council, and shall supersede any salary set forth in a City ordinance related to the budget or the salaries of the Mayor and City Councilmembers.

Section 5: Section 2.11.040 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Support as Appointed by the City Manager" is created to read as follows:

1. The City Manager shall ensure staffing necessary to support the Salary Commission in performing its duties by designation of employees as necessary.

Section 6: Section 2.11.050 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Vacancies" is created to read as follows:

In the event of a vacancy in the office of salary commissioner, the Mayor shall appoint, subject to approval of the City Council, a person to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 7: Section 2.11.060 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Removal" is created to read as follows:

The City Council may remove a member of the salary commission from office for cause of incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

Section 8: Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 9: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take place thirty (30) days after its publication or publication of a summary of its intent and contents.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 2nd day of March, 2015.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

Don Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Alice M. Bush, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Heidi A. Wachter City Attorney