

Introduced by: Councilmember Grimes

First Reading: October 12, 2015

Second Reading: October 29, 2015

Effective Date: November 19, 2015

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-51

Amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.04 to Provide for Adjustments to the Salary and Compensation of the Mayor and Councilmembers

WHEREAS, the Municipal Charter of the City of Takoma Park provides that the Mayor and each Councilmember may receive an annual salary as set from time to time by an ordinance passed by the Council in the regular course of business, provided, however, that no change may be made in the salary of the Mayor and each Councilmember during the term for which they are elected; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Charter further provides that any change in the salary paid to the Mayor and each Councilmember, either by way of increase or decrease, shall be adopted prior to the next municipal election and shall take effect only as to the next succeeding Mayor and Councilmembers; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 2003-3, the Council established a process for periodic review of Council compensation and adopted the following Principles of Compensation, which are codified as Section 2.04.110.B of the *Takoma Park Code*:

1. The positions of Mayor and Councilmember are part-time and should be treated that way;
2. Full monetary compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers is not appropriate;
3. It is appropriate to monetarily compensate the Mayor and Councilmembers to some extent for their work;
4. Monetary compensation creates an obligation for the Mayor and Councilmembers to perform their jobs;
5. Monetary compensation provides status to the Mayor and Councilmembers;
6. The Mayor's salary should be greater than that of Councilmembers; and
7. Compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers should be comparable to Maryland municipalities of similar size and complexity.

WHEREAS, the Mayor currently receives an annual salary of \$13,000; and

WHEREAS, each Councilmember currently receives an annual salary of \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers were last increased following the November 2007 municipal election; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2011-65, the Council appointed the 2011 Council Compensation Committee to review the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers and provide a recommendation to the Council as to whether or not any adjustments should be made; and

WHEREAS, the Council Compensation Committee reported its findings to the Council on June 11, 2012 and made the following recommendations:

“1. The Mayor and Councilmembers should have access to all of the health benefits available to city employees at 50 percent of cost (i.e., the city covers half of the premium and the councilmember covers half of the premium). . . .

2. The Compensation Committee recommends no increase in salary for the Mayor and Councilmembers. Instead, the committee recommends the City Council follow the lead of other municipalities, and the recommendation of the 2007 Council Compensation Committee, and set an annual increase mechanism to begin in the 2013 election year, set to a measure of the rate of inflation.”

WHEREAS, in its recommendations, the Council Compensation Committee identified access to health benefits as one way to facilitate participation from groups outside of those who have typically served on the Council or sought office; and

WHEREAS, the Council accepts the basic recommendations of the Council Compensation Committee, but has made adjustments to ensure that the annual wage adjustments are tied to the same index as that used to calculate staff wage adjustments – the twelve (12) month percent of change in the annual Wage and Salaries Employment Cost Index for State and Local Government as of each December, or 0.0%, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, Charter Sections 302c and 304c provide that the salary paid to the Mayor and to Councilmembers cannot be increased or diminished during his or her term of office and that any salary adjustment ordinance can be effective only as to the members of the next succeeding Council; and

WHEREAS, the annual salary adjustment and health insurance benefit would take effect for the Council elected in the municipal election to be held in November 2013; and

WHEREAS, any annual adjustment would become effective on the July 1 that follows the December which ends the 12 month percent of change index; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that due to financial constraints, it may suspend the use of this wage adjustment for staff; and

WHEREAS, in the event that staff does not receive a wage adjustment due to such financial constraints, the Council would automatically forego the adjustment as well.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

Section 1. *Takoma Park Code*, Chapter 2.04, is amended as follows:

2.04.100 Salary of Mayor and Councilmembers.

- A. The Mayor shall receive an annual salary of \$8,000.00, payable biweekly. Effective for the members of the Council who take office following the November 2007 election, the Mayor shall receive an annual salary of \$13,000.00 through the date on which the Mayor elected in November 2013 is sworn in. For the period from the day following the swearing in of November 2013 until June 30, 2014, the salary shall be \$13,000 as adjusted according to the twelve (12) month percent of change in the annual Wage and Salaries Employment Cost Index for State and Local Government calculated as of December 2012, or 0.0%, whichever is greater. Thereafter, the Mayor's salary shall be adjusted on July 1 of each year pursuant to the above index, or 0.0%, whichever is greater.
- B. Each Councilmember shall receive an annual salary of \$6,000.00, payable biweekly. Effective for the members of the Council who take office following the November 2007 election, each Councilmember shall receive an annual salary of \$10,000.00 through the date on which the Councilmembers elected in November 2013 are sworn in. For the period from the day following the swearing in of November 2013 until June 30, 2014, the salary shall be \$10,000 as adjusted according to the twelve (12) month percent of change in the annual Wage and Salaries Employment Cost Index for State and Local Government calculated as of December 2012, or 0.0%, whichever is greater. Thereafter, the salary of each Councilmember shall be adjusted on July 1 of each year pursuant to the above index, or 0.0%, whichever is greater.
- C. In the event that a staff wage adjustment is suspended due to financial constraints, adjustments to the salaries of the Mayor and each Councilmember shall also be suspended.
- D. The Mayor and Councilmembers shall be paid biweekly in accordance with the City's regular payroll schedule.

2.04.105 Health Insurance Benefits of Mayor and Councilmembers.

- A. Effective the day after the Mayor and Councilmembers are sworn in following the November 2013 election, the Mayor and each Councilmember may participate in the City's health insurance program on a cost sharing basis, with the City paying 50% of the lowest cost base premium rate for individual coverage.

Section 2. The next review of the salary and compensation of the Mayor and members of the Council shall be conducted in 2015.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THIS
29TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015 BY ROLL-CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Aye: Williams, Grimes, Male, Stewart, Seamens
Nay: Smith, Schultz
Abstained: None
Absent: None

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Additions to the existing language of the *Takoma Park Code* are shown by underlining.

~~Deletions~~ to the existing language of the *Takoma Park Code* are shown by ~~strikeout~~.

*** indicates sections of the Chapter that remain unchanged but have been omitted from the ordinance.