

Item 24-1101: Approval of Alderperson Salaries

Common Council

Wed, Oct 02, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:10

All right, with that, we'll move on to HRIT. This is item 24-1101, approval of alderperson salaries. We have a motion and a second to approve. We'll open the floor for discussion. Alder Croatt.

Alderperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 1:17:38

Thank you, Mayor. Just to clarify for everyone's benefit, the motion out of committee was to approve a 0% increase in salary, and it's not our own salary; it's future salary, as Alder Hart—er, Alder Van Zeeland pointed out at committee. Good remind—

[The audio cut out for a second.]

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:17:57

Any discussion? Alder Smith.

Alderperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:18:01

Can I ask about—Alder Croatt, or anyone on the on the committee, is there future thinking about where Alder salaries go? Is this—so this is zero now, but are these essentially flat, or is there a sense of that over the years we want to raise this? I would just point out that Alder salaries in 2016 were \$5,921 it looks like, and if you just keep up bare with inflation, put it into one of the calculators online, that comes out \$7,700 so you know that has, in real—the amount of money declined. And do we have, do we have a plan to keep up with inflation in any way?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:18:46

All right, so for purposes of this discussion and to make sure we keep things germane, we'll just—we'll, we'll take your statement as rhetorical, and we'll continue with the discussion. Okay? All right, Alder Van Zeeland.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:19:01

At the HRIT Committee during the discussion about this item, my sentiment was, given the inflationary pressures on our taxpayers at this time, that we would not be looking for a small increase, which, given our recent history, might have occurred this year. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:19:25

Further discussion? All right, hearing none we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 10 to three, and Alder Smith we'll note your abstention.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:19:56

All right. With that, need a motion on the balance of the agenda. We have a motion and a second to approve. Is there any discussion on the balance. Hearing none, please cast your votes. Motion passes 14 to zero. The balance of the agenda has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:20:31

No consolidated action items. No items held—

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:20:36
...about the alderperson salary vote?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:20:38
Yes, Attorney Behrens, please.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:20:43
Just going back to the alderperson salary vote. Note that the vote was 10 to three to one. The recommendation was for a 0% increase. Statutorily, for aldermanic salaries to be improved, for an increase, you need a three quarters vote. So that vote doesn't meet that threshold, but the—in the end, it's the same result. If you don't have a vote that meets the threshold, there is no increase. So, while the vote didn't meet that statutory threshold, the vote total in this case, the end result is the same. I just wanted to point that out, because I know there's been some questions about that raised.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:21:20
Thank you.