

**SALARY COMMISSION
MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2020
Meeting Site: Online via Blue Jeans**

Present:

Kelly Swanson, Chair
Vernon Oato
Clark Abbott
Peter Martin
Stanford Lantias (joined at 9:13am)
Edwin Misaki

Excused:

Dawnalyn Fujiwara
Scott Parker

Staff:

Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Darlene Endrina, Community Liaison
Cynthia Razo-Porter
Stacy Takahashi

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swanson at 8:42 a.m. Roll call confirmed a quorum of five members in attendance (Chair Swanson, Commissioners Oato, Abbott, Misaki and Martin). Commissioners Fujiwara and Parker were absent.

2. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

3. Approval of the September 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Abbott moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2020, Commissioner Oato seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of salary for Mayor, Council Members, Directors, Deputy Directors, and Council Auditor.

Chair Swanson proposed to reverse the decision taken on March 13 to award a 2% increase to the Mayor and Council Members going into effect January 2, 2021.

Commissioner Martin agreed with that proposal. Commissioner Abbott think it's judicious and that we postpone any raises until this situation resolves itself and cools down. There's no money.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Murai said if the commission wants to entertain that motion, one of the members would need to make a motion, and a second motion and then be able to discuss the matter. Commissioner Misaki said it's the right thing to do and it's a good way to honor the Mayor's letter about deferring his salary.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Murai confirmed 2% salary increase to Mayor and Council Members.

Commissioner Abbott motioned to suspend the 2% salary increase awarded to the Mayor and County Council which was to go into effect on January 2, 2021 to defer it until December 1, 2021 or sooner depending salary commission decision. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss Salary Commission's plan for 2021

a. Review Charter Agriculture

I. County Manager

Chair Swanson asked as we wait out the duration of the economy here and in our past discussions with Director Yoshimura from the Budget Department, do we know what the budget outlook will be like for the County until we know how many people have paid their property taxes thru February? Unless anyone sees a reason to meet prior to the next meeting, her thought was to schedule the next meeting for March 2021 to discuss the salaries. The budget for the county won't be ready at that time, but we will have a better idea of what numbers are coming in the county for overall funding.

Commissioners Abbott and Martin agreed.

Commissioner Abbott asked will the new commission members be appointed or in place at that time?

Deputy Corporation Counsel Murai said the new members might not be on board by the March meeting. A new Chair and Vice Chair is decided in March. We won't know who the new members are until April. We should schedule an April meeting after the March meeting to meet the new Commission members and also to update them.

Commissioner Misaki asked Chair Swanson if she wants somebody from the budget department come and give us an outlook of the current income. Chair Swanson said that not necessarily someone needs to attend, but just getting the figures for the county on what did come in for property taxes and shortfall on the budget. A letter from the budget department to know where we're at.

Chair Swanson requested a letter from Budget Director Michele Yoshimura with a current update on the County income.

Commissioner Abbott eliminated County Manager on the agenda because it's no longer into consideration. Commissioners Martin and Chair Swanson agreed.

Department of Agriculture won't come into the Commissions review until 2021. (check date of Charter)

Commissioner Abbott talked about the new multi-tiered tax system, property tax system could greatly affect the amount of taxes collected. Until we have an idea if the tiered system designed to tax more equity, we should ask the budget department what they anticipate will be the revenue in the new tiered tax system.

6. Agenda setting for next meeting

1. Welcoming of new Commissioners and exiting Members
2. Elections of new officers
3. Budget review with Budget Director – letter or in-person
4. Discussion of Mayor & Council Member salaries
5. Department salary reviews

7. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2021 time and place to be determined.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.