

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA
AMENDING ORDINANCES NOS. 90-8, 86-6, 85-3, AND 79-12
TO REVISE THE COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

WHEREAS, the compensation for the mayor and city councilmembers was last increased over 34 years ago on September 4, 1990; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the cost of living alone has increased more than 300%; and

WHEREAS, as the city has grown in population and complexity, the hours required, and resources needed to prepare for and attend city council meetings and perform other functions of the city council have increased significantly; and

WHEREAS, the current salary for the mayor is set at \$250 per month and a city councilmember at \$200 per month; these salaries are some of the lowest in the Monterey County area; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature recognized the low compensation for members of city councils as a problem in 2023 and adopted Senate Bill 329 (Dodd) which authorized general law cities to enact an ordinance to increase compensation for each member of a city council based upon the population and authorized that amount to be increased by up to 5% for each calendar year from the operative date of the last adjustment; and

WHEREAS, although the City of Marina is not a general law city and thus SB 329 is not applicable, the goal of the bill was to address inflationary increases and economic realities and remove barriers to achieving more equitable representation in local government by making it easier for public servants to balance careers and personal obligations; and

WHEREAS, the intent of SB 329 was to assist city councils in become more diverse because increased compensation can help individuals from across different income levels receive sufficient income from their service to help ensure that they can continue to serve the public and support their families making it easier for members of marginalized communities to serve;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Marina finds that, consistent with the findings of SB 329, increasing the compensation for it councilmembers would facilitate equitable representation in local government by making it easier for public servants to balance careers and personal obligations, and increase the opportunity for individuals across different income levels, as well as those individuals in marginalized communities, to participate in public service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1. Ordinance Nos. 90-8, 86-6, 85-3, and 79-12 Amended. Ordinance No. 90-8, adopted on September 4, 1990, Ordinance No. 86-6, adopted on May 6, 1986, Ordinance No. 85-3, adopted on May 21, 1985, and Ordinance No. 79-12, adopted on September 26, 1979, all of which relate to the compensation for Mayor and Councilmembers, are hereby amended to read in their entirety as follows:

- a. Compensation. Each Councilmember shall receive compensation of \$2,000 per month, and the directly elected Mayor shall receive compensation of \$2,250 per month.
 - b. Cost of Living Adjustments. Compensation stipend shall be adjusted annually, according to the cost of living adjustment approved for the City's general bargaining unit employees..
 - c. Reimbursement. Mayor and Council members are eligible for reimbursement for official travel according to Resolution 97-38 and the policies and procedures set forth in the official travel policy.
 - d. Benefits. Mayor and Council members are eligible to enroll in current available plans offered by the City for Health, Dental and Vision at their own costs; no city contribution. Mayor and Council may divert their compensation stipend set forth in 1.a. to cover the costs of benefit elections.
 - e. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after adoption.
2. Posting of Ordinance. Within fifteen (15) days after the passage of this ordinance, the City Clerk shall cause it to be posted in the three public places designated by resolution of the City Council.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Marina duly held on February 19, 2025, and was passed and adopted at a regular meeting duly held on March 4, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: McAdams, McCarthy, Visscher

NOES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Delgado

ABSENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Biala

ABSTAIN, COUNCIL MEMBER: None

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk