



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Todd Cusimano, City Manager
SUBJECT: Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.22, Section 2.22.030 of the Mill Valley Municipal Code to Increase City Council Compensation
DATE: April 20, 2026

Approved for Forwarding:

Handwritten signature of Todd Cusimano

Todd Cusimano, City Manager

1 Issue: Consideration of adoption of an Ordinance (Attachment No. 1) amending Section
2 2.22.030 of Chapter 2.22 ("Salary of City Council") of the Mill Valley Municipal Code that
3 would increase the compensation of City Councilmembers.
4

5 Recommendation: Adopt the Ordinance by title only and waive second reading.
6

7 Background: At the March 16, 2026, Regular City Council meeting, staff proposed an
8 Ordinance amending the Mill Valley Municipal Code to increase the City Council allowable
9 compensation. The Council voted in support of the draft ordinance.
10

11 In 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill 329 ("SB 329"), effective January 1, 2024, which
12 increases the allowable compensation for City Councilmembers, based on the population of
13 the municipality. The legislative findings of SB 329 explain the bill intends to "help City
14 Councils become more diverse because increased compensation can help individuals from
15 across different income levels receive sufficient income from their service to help ensure that
16 they can continue to serve the public and support their families." (2023 Cal. Stats. Ch. 27).
17 State law now authorizes City Councils to enact an ordinance setting Councilmember salaries
18 at up to \$950 per month, for cities with populations of 35,000 or less.
19

ITEM 7

**City Council Staff Report**  
**Council Stipend**  
**April 20, 2026**

20 SB 329 allows cities to approve subsequent salary adjustments by ordinance on a yearly basis  
21 by an amount not exceeding the greater of the following:

22 (A) An amount equal to 5 percent for each calendar year from the operative date of the  
23 last adjustment of the salary in effect when the ordinance or amendment is enacted; or

24 (B) An amount equal to inflation since January 1, 2024, based upon the California  
25 Consumer Price Index, which shall not exceed 10 percent for each calendar year. (Cal.  
26 Gov. Code § 36516(a)(4)).  
27

28 No ordinance may provide for automatic future increases in City Councilmember salaries.  
29 (Cal. Gov. Code § 36516(a)(5)).  
30

31 Finally, the Government Code specifies that a change in compensation does not apply to a  
32 Councilmember during the Councilmember's term of office. Any change in compensation  
33 would not take effect until at least one member of the City Council begins a new term of  
34 office. (Gov. Code, § 36516.5).  
35

36 **Fiscal Impact:** The current total annual compensation for City Council members is \$22,606.  
37 If the City Council increases the compensation from \$350 per month to \$950 per month, the  
38 total annual compensation will increase to \$57,361. Both annual totals include the City's  
39 portion of payroll and Medicare taxes.  
40

41 **Attachments:**

42 1. Draft Ordinance.  
43

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILL VALLEY  
AMENDING SECTION 2.22.030 OF CHAPTER 2.22 (“SALARY OF CITY COUNCIL”)  
TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, California Government Code Section 36516 provides that a City Council may enact an ordinance providing each member of the City Council a salary up to an amount based on the city’s population; and

**WHEREAS**, Mill Valley Municipal Code Section 2.22.030, which sets compensation amounts for City Councilmembers, was last amended in 2007 to set the salary for each member of the City Council at three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00) per month; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 29, 2023, the California Governor signed Senate Bill 329, which amended Government Code Section 36516 increasing the maximum salary for City Councilmembers that can be set by City Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Section 36516 now provides that for cities with populations of 35,000 or less, Councilmember salaries may be up to nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) per month; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the most recent U.S. Census data, as of July 1, 2022, the population estimate for the City of Mill Valley is 14,199; and

**WHEREAS**, the City finds that adjusting Councilmember salaries would account for inflation and help support diversity in the City Council because increased compensation can help individuals from across different income levels receive sufficient income for their service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILL VALLEY  
DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2. Amendment.** Section 2.22.030 of Chapter 2.22 (“Salary of City Council”) of the Mill Valley Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**2.22.030 Salaries.** Pursuant to Government Code Section 36516, each member of the City Council shall receive a salary in the sum of \$950.00 per month. The salary is payable at the same time and in the same manner as the salary is paid to each of the officers and employees of the City.

**Section 3. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause of phrase or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, unlawful or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions

**ATTACHMENT 1**

of this Ordinance. The City Council of the City of Mill Valley hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted this Ordinance and each and all sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases and words thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more of said sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases or words be declared unconstitutional, unlawful or otherwise invalid.

**Section 4. Effective Date and Certification of Publication.** This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from its adoption by City Council and shall be posted or published as required by state law. The effective date of the salary changes set forth herein shall be the date that any Council Member commences a new Council term following the adoption of this Ordinance, including any Council Member who is re-elected.

**INTRODUCED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Mill Valley on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, and

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Mill Valley on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Max Perrey, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Risa De Ferrari, City Clerk