

**City of Kalamazoo**  
**Local Officers' Compensation Commission**  
**Minutes from the Meeting of October 16, 2007**

A meeting of the Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC) was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room in City Hall.

Members Present: Leslie Decker, Edgar Gordon, James Heaton, Natalie Patchell, and Creed Stegall

Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Clerk Scott Borling

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Stegall, moved to approve the minutes of the LOCC meeting on October 4, 2007. With a voice vote, the motion passed.

Discussion of Compensation Levels

Commissioner Decker emphasized that the LOCC should use the word stipend when discussing the compensation afforded Kalamazoo's elected officials.

Discussion followed regarding the funds available for City Commissioners to attend conferences, seminars, and other educational events. By consensus the Election Commission agreed that education and training funds were not pertinent to the compensation discussion.

Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Heaton, moved increase the stipends of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners by 4% due to increases in the cost of living. The new salary levels would be as follows:

Mayor – \$9,899.00 per annum  
Vice Mayor - \$8,336.00 per annum  
City Commissioners - \$7,294.00 per annum

Prior to a vote on the motion Commissioner Gordon noted the proposed stipend increase was in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index and the salary increases given to the City's Non-Bargaining Unit (NBU) employees in 2006 and 2007. Commissioner Gordon stated that giving Kalamazoo's elected officials incremental stipend increases every two years would eliminate the need for larger increases every seven to ten years.

Commissioner Patchell expressed opposition to increasing Commissioners' stipends because of reductions to City services over the past few years. Commissioner Patchell stated reinstating City services was a higher priority than increasing the stipends for elected officials. Commissioner Patchell also expressed opposition to calling the proposed increases "cost-of living" increases, as the LOCC was considering the compensation for elected officials a "stipend" and not a "salary."

Commissioner Heaton expressed support for the motion and indicated it was important to maintain the purchasing power of Commissioners' stipends in order to attract Commission candidates from a variety of economic backgrounds.

With a roll call vote, the motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1.

YEAS: Commissioners Decker, Gordon, Heaton, Stegall

NEAS: Commissioner Patchell

#### Presentation to City Commission

By unanimous consent, Commissioners selected Commissioner Stegall to present the LOCC's determination to the City Commission.

#### Citizen Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for citizen comments, but there were no citizens in attendance.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

Approved by the Local Officers' Compensation Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_