



City of Gainesville Agenda Report

File #: 2022-745

Agenda Date: November 17, 2022

Department: City Clerk

Title: Updating to State Formula for Commission Salaries – Commissioner Hayes-Santos 2022-745 (B)

Description: A population-based formula is a fairer way to calculate a salary as it more closely effects the amount of work needed to be commissioner. Cities with larger populations need more attention from city commissioners than commissioners in smaller communities. The city of Gainesville should use a similar population-based formula based on Florida sate law.

Explanation:

As the city has grown substantially in population over the years and offers more types of services than the vast majority of cities, including a full-service utility, we should look towards having a city commission that is compensated closer to a salary that would allow commissioners to focus more on the city and constituent services. There is an increased demand for community engagement from our neighbors, but that can't be met with commissioners who must hold other jobs. There are also many highly qualified people in our community who want to run for office and serve on the city commission but are not able to under the current salary.

Under Florida law, a population-based formula is used for county elected positions. This is the same formula that is used to calculate the salary for Alachua County Commissioners. A population-based formula is a fairer way to calculate a salary as it more closely effects the amount of work needed to be commissioner. Cities with larger populations need more attention from city commissioners than commissioners in smaller communities. The city of Gainesville should use a similar population-based formula based on Florida sate law.

Recommendation:

The City Commission direct staff to 1) Draft ordinance that comes back for first reading on December 1, and second reading on December 15. 2) Change to the salary would take effect October 1, 2023. 3) Ordinance shall reflect the state population-based formula used for county commissioners. 4) Mayor shall receive a salary that is 25% higher than the city commissioner salary to compensate for increased workload and demand.