

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 12, 2021

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## Call to Order

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Council Vice-Chairman Ken Smith, Committee Chair, called the hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that included Council Chairman Chip Henderson and Council members Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Raquetta Dotley, Anthony Byrd and Demetrus Coonrod. Councilwoman Jenny Hill was not present at this meeting. Others present were Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Nicole Gwyn, Council Clerk.

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## Other Present

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Mayor's Office: Brent Goldberg, Chief of Staff

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## Approval of Minutes

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**On motion of Councilman Ledford** and seconded by Councilwoman Coonrod, the minutes of the last meeting (May 18, 2021) were approved as published.

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## Judges' Salary Ordinance

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Vice-Chairman Smith opened the floor for a discussion regarding the following ordinance sponsored by Councilwoman Coonrod:

### **AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE SALARY OF CITY COURT JUDGE**

Councilwoman Coonrod spoke on why she sponsored this legislation. She also proposed \$90,000.00 as a base pay. Discussion ensued on the following:

- Market value, research on base salaries, pay in other municipalities, and hired versus elected (Councilman Ledford)
- Determining what pay should be, HR pay study, pay scale, and establishing when increases are due (Chairman Henderson)
- Stewardship of taxpayer dollars, workload impact on pay, reason for current pay (Councilman Byrd)
- Research on base salaries, definition of "special judge" (Councilman Ledford)
- Need to re-evaluate salary and need to be competitive (Councilman Hester)
- Council's role in setting the pay, magistrate pay in other municipalities, city judge pay in other municipalities, and credentials not affecting pay (Councilwoman Coonrod)

Attorney O'Donnell discussed the current City Code section 12-50 [Ordinance 10150] that set the city judge salary the same as General Session judges. She informed the Council that the current pay for the sitting Judge Paty would not be affected during her current elected term.

Vice-Chairman Smith asked Mr. Goldberg if HR could perform a pay study. Mr. Goldberg agreed that a benchmark could be done, but not recommendations. Vice-Chairman Smith garnered a consensus from the Council to authorize Administration to perform a benchmark study. Mr. Goldberg agreed and suggested that the study would take at least two weeks. The Council also requested information on the judges' salary prior to changing it to the General Sessions judge salary. Ms. O'Donnell agreed to research that information.

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## **Adjournment**

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There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.