



CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Minutes

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission

Thursday, April 16, 2026

5:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair ESTRADA called the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Member Belinda Burnett, Member Amanda Estrada, Member Jeremy Jenkins, Member Lee Pevsner, and Member Cynthia Kelly

Excused: 1 - Member Steve Kuykendall

Absent: 0

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the audience that wanted to leave a public comment.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

E.1. **SUBJECT:** Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Minutes of April 2, 2026

REPORT IN BRIEF

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Minutes from the meeting of April 2, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission minutes of April 2, 2026.

A motion was made by Member Pevsner, seconded by Member Jenkins, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Burnett, Member Estrada, Member Jenkins, Member Pevsner, and Member Kelly

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Member Kuykendall

Absent: 0

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F.1. **SUBJECT:** Review and Discussion of the Current Stipend for the Mayor and City Council Members and Discussion and Recommendations, if any, Regarding the Appropriate Stipend for the Mayor and City Council Members

REPORT IN BRIEF

Discussion of the current stipend and any suggested changes and review of process.

RECOMMENDATION

Continue the discussion of the Council stipend to the next Public Hearing meeting.

Assistant City Clerk Jennifer PARSLEY gave a slide show presentation providing information to the Commission to help facilitate the discussion on the amount of stipend for the Council and Mayor.

Commissioner's, Mrs. PARSLEY, and Finance Officer Venus RODRIGUEZ discussed payroll taxes, resources that Council has access to, Council budget, travel expenses, travel and training policies, how the previous stipend came about, differentiation of a Charter City and a General Law City, City of Manteca comparison, time Council spends in the community and doing city business, and the financial impact on the budget. They also discussed the total cost of the current stipend, challenges with the budget, requested comparable data, time Council spends, importance of volunteering, the history of Council stipend, and to start the stipend at \$1,000 and negotiate from there.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:02 PM and subsequently closed at 6:02 PM due to a lack of public comment.

Commissioner's, Mrs. PARSLEY, and Mrs. RODRIGUEZ continued to discuss the notice of the meeting, the Government Code regarding Council stipend for General Law Cities, what the City can afford, and the Commissioner's decision to be made prior to the adoption of the budget.

Clerk's Note: Commissioner PEVSNER made a motion to increase the Council stipend to \$700 and the Mayor's to \$800. The motion failed for a lack of second.

A motion was made by Member Kelly, seconded by Member Estrada, to increase

Council's stipend to \$1,000 and the Mayor's to \$1,250. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Member Estrada, Member Jenkins, and Member Kelly

No: 2 - Member Burnett, and Member Pevsner

Excused: 1 - Member Kuykendall

Absent: 0

Clerk's Note: Staff stated that they will bring back a resolution to the April 30th meeting to solidify the written recommendation that will go to Council for final decision.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Clerk's Note: The Citizen's Stipend Setting Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

A motion was made by Member Jenkins, seconded by Member Pevsner, to adjourn the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Burnett, Member Estrada, Member Jenkins, Member Pevsner, and Member Kelly

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Member Kuykendall

Absent: 0

By:

Approved:

Jennifer Parsley
Assistant City Clerk



Steve Kuykendall
Chair

Amanda Estrada
Vice-Chair

