



CITY OF MERCED

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

Meeting Agenda

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission

Thursday, April 30, 2026

5:30 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor,

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

WELCOME

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.gov or at the City Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relation to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CITIZENS' STIPEND SETTING COMMISSION CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the back of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins.

Material may be emailed to cityclerk@cityofmerced.gov no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Public Hearing item # or Public Comment. Your comments will be presented to the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission and retained for the official record.

To view video (if available) or listen to the City Council meeting live, go to the City's website www.cityofmerced.gov, YouTube, or Comcast Public Access Channel 96.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. State law prohibits the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made by one motion of the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission, provided that any Member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately.

E.1. [26-356](#) **SUBJECT:** Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Minutes of April 16, 2026

REPORT IN BRIEF

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission minutes of April 16, 2026.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F.1. [26-357](#) **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

Continued discussion of the current stipend and any suggested changes and review of process.

RECOMMENDATION

Citizen's Stipend Setting Commission - Adopt a motion adopting **Resolution 2026-19**, a Resolution of the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission of the City of Merced, California, providing a written recommendation to the City Council regarding the recommended monthly stipend it deems appropriate for the City Council and the Mayor pursuant to section 402 of the City of Merced Charter.

G. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF MERCED

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 26-356

Meeting Date: 4/30/2026

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Parsley, Assistant City Clerk

SUBJECT: Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Minutes of April 16, 2026

REPORT IN BRIEF

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission Minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission - Adopt a motion approving and filing the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission minutes of April 16, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission minutes of April 16, 2026



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



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 26-357

Meeting Date: 4/30/2026

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

Continued discussion of the current stipend and any suggested changes and review of process.

RECOMMENDATION

Citizen's Stipend Setting Commission - Adopt a motion adopting **Resolution 2026-19**, a Resolution of the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission of the City of Merced, California, providing a written recommendation to the City Council regarding the recommended monthly stipend it deems appropriate for the City Council and the Mayor pursuant to section 402 of the City of Merced Charter.

DISCUSSION

During the April 16, 2026, Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission, Commissioners, and staff discussed the City Council's stipend and suggested to increase the Council stipend to \$1,000 and the Mayor's Stipend to \$1,250.

Staff is recommending the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission to approve a written recommendation to the City Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 2026-19

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITIZENS' STIPEND SETTING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, PROVIDING A WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE RECOMMENDED MONTHLY STIPEND IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 402 OF THE CITY OF MERCED CHARTER

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, Section 402 of the City of Merced Charter was amended by the voters to provide for a monthly stipend for the Mayor and City Council;

WHEREAS, Section 402, as amended, provides for the establishment of a Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission ("Commission") who shall recommend, by majority vote and in writing, the amount of the monthly stipend which it deems appropriate for the members of the City Council and the Mayor;

WHEREAS, the Commission ultimately held two (2) public hearings, one on April 16, 2026 and April 30, 2026;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2026, the Commission determined that the recommended monthly stipend it deemed appropriate for members of the City Council is one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per month for the two (2) year period beginning January 1, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2026, the Commission determined that the recommended monthly stipend it deemed appropriate for the Mayor is one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,250.00) per month for the entire term beginning January 1, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITIZENS' STIPEND SETTING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1. That the monthly stipend for members of the City Council is one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per month for the two (2) year period beginning January 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. That the monthly stipend for the Mayor is one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,250.00) per month for his/her entire term beginning January 1, 2027.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Citizens' Stipend Setting Commission of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Commission Members:

NOES: Commission Members:

ABSENT: Commission Members:

ABSTAIN: Commission Members:

APPROVED:

Commission Chair

ATTEST:
D. SCOTT MCBRIDE, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CRAIG J. CORNWELL, CITY ATTORNEY

Craig Cornwell 4/22/2026
City Attorney Date