



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Kari Mendoza, Administrative Services Director  
**DATE:** November 21, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Second Reading to Amend Sections 2.08.100 and 2.08.150 of the Beaumont Municipal Code Pertaining to Compensation of the City Council, City Treasurer and City Clerk Following the Adoption of Senate Bill 329

---

**Description** Staff was directed by City Council on October 3, 2023, to prepare a draft ordinance amending the salaries of members of the City Council, the City Treasurer and the City Clerk aligning with Senate Bill 329 and applicable law.

### **Background and Analysis:**

#### ***City Council Members Salary***

On August 16, 2011, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 999 which set the salary for members of the Council. As set forth in Beaumont Municipal Code section 2.08.100, members of the Council shall receive a salary of \$400.00 per month. Further, the salary of Council members may be increased by ordinance or by an amendment in an amount up to 5% for each calendar year from the operative date of the last salary adjustment in effect. Council compensation was last adjusted on September 16, 2011, and the current monthly salary is \$400.

On June 29, 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 329 ("SB 329"). SB 329 allows cities an opportunity to adjust City Council salaries to take into account inflation, the work performed as well as the time dedicated by local government officials, and the need to ensure that people are not discouraged from seeking city office due to the low pay and high demands of that office.

On October 3, 2023, the City Council received a report on SB 329 and relevant California law and impacts on compensation of Council members. At the conclusion of the City Council's discussion, staff was directed by consensus to bring back an ordinance to codify the SB 329 compensation changes to effectuate the purposes of the bill and relevant State law.

Government Code section 36516(a), as adopted in 1984, set certain defined salary limits for City Council members in general law cities depending on the size of a city's residential population. Pursuant to SB 329, the new base salary amount for Council members in Beaumont and all other cities of 50,000 to 75,000 population may be up to \$1,600 per month. A full analysis of SB 329 is in the October 3, 2023, staff report attached hereto as Attachment "B".

State Senator Bill Dodd, the author of SB 329, issued a statement that the new salary limits of Government Code section 36516(a) would reflect the important work done by City Council members, take into account the impacts of inflation and economic realities on those who serve as City Council members, and encourage more persons to consider service as Council members by making the compensation more reflective of the time and work being performed. In light of this and recognizing that under Government Code section 36516.5 no increase will go into effect until after the next City Council election, the City Council deemed it appropriate to bring forth an ordinance to increase City Council salaries to comport with new statewide limits. Staff will return every two years for consideration of any future adjustments bound by the existing formula set forth in Government Code section 36516, as allowed by state law and at the discretion of City Council.

### ***City Clerk and City Treasurer Salary***

On August 21, 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1102 which set the salary for the City Treasurer and City Clerk. As set forth in Beaumont Municipal Code section 2.08.150, the City Treasurer and City Clerk shall receive a salary of \$140.00 per month.

As stated on October 3, 2023, in the report received by the City Council, based on the duties of the City Treasurer and City Clerk as set forth in Beaumont Municipal Code sections 2.08.120 and 2.08.160, respectively, and the work performed and time dedicated by these elected officials, it is proper for City Council to consider a monthly salary up to the amount considered/set for Council members. The city attorney's office has advised staff that it is fair and reasonable to consider a proportional increase to the City Clerk and City Treasures salaries to a competent level that a reasonable and qualified person would accept and therefore encourage participation.

In compliance with Government Code section 36516.5, the increase would go into effect upon the seating of those persons elected in the 2024 general election.

City Council held a Public Hearing on November 7, 2023, in which City Council unanimously voted to approve the first reading with a correction to the ordinance to reflect the salaries of the Treasurer and City Clerk to \$560.00 per month.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Future budgets will reflect the increase in City Council, City Treasurer and City Clerk salaries. The cost to prepare this staff report was \$1,050.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Current Monthly Salary</b>	<b>Proposed Monthly Salary</b>
City Council	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,600.00
City Treasurer	\$ 140.00	\$ 560.00
City Clerk	\$ 140.00	\$ 560.00

**Recommended Action:**

Waive the full second reading and adopt by title only, “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Beaumont, California, Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.08, Section 2.08.100 – ‘City Council—Salaries’ and Section 2.08.150 – ‘City Treasurer and City Clerk—Salaries’ of the Beaumont Municipal Code”.

**Attachments:**

- A. Ordinance
- B. October 3, 2023 Staff Report
- C. Senate Bill 329 Text
- D. Senate Bill 329 Floor Analysis
- E. California Attorney General Opinion, 84 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 13, January 24, 2001