

In City Council February 16, 1995.
Voted unanimously to carry out the
intent of the report.

Judith Sweeney
Deputy City Clerk

3A9

City of Keene
New Hampshire

13 February 1995

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Finance Committee

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION - PAYROLL PROCEDURE FOR MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCILORS - COUNCILOR LOVEJOY

On a vote of 3 - 1, the Finance Committee recommends keeping the current procedures in place. Councilor Blastos was the dissenting vote.

Regis Jenks

Chairman/Designee

Background Notes:

Councilor Lovejoy addressed the Committee explaining that his concern was with the City Charter, Section 23, which pointed out that City Councilors should be paid based on their attendance at Council meetings. He further pointed out that the way the practice is currently, the annual \$1000 pay is divided by 20, making the value of each Council meeting \$50. He pointed out that this creates a situation where Councilors can actually miss four meetings over the course of the year and still receive the \$1000 payment at the end of the year for not being in attendance for four meetings. He pointed out that if the \$1000 was divided equally among the 24 council meetings it would make it equitable, and the money that was not paid to Councilors could be returned to the budget. He concluded by stating that based on last year's attendance, \$1200 could have been

returned. The City Attorney addressed the Committee explaining that he has done research on this item and that in his opinion, it would be very difficult to come to the determination that our practice is deviating from the City Charter. He pointed out that the City Charter in one section refers to the Councilors regular meetings and yet in another session, for compensation purposes, only refers to meetings. He went on to explain that Councilors were not required to meet twice a month in 1949, when some of the City code was written, or were there committee meetings. Mr. Carney pointed out that base on the research he has done on this matter, it is impossible to come to a determination as to the intent of the City Charter.

City of Keene
NEW HAMPSHIRE

January 26, 1995

TO: Gerald J. Carney, City Attorney

FROM: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Compensation for City Councilors

Compensation of City Councilors has been based upon their attendance at regular meetings since 1949. At that point, the City Charter provided they would receive \$10.00 per meeting not to exceed \$200.00 per year. The 1949 City Charter also provided that the meetings would be held on such day of each month as the Council would direct.

Upon reviewing the minutes from 1949 to 1955 it is evident that the City Council was not on a strict meeting schedule and they actually held as many "special" meetings as "regular" meetings. For example, during the months of July and August in 1949 the City Council did not hold any "regular" meetings. I was unable to locate any year, during that span, where 24 meetings were held until 1955 when the Council started meeting twice a month.

Although I am not certain as to why the maximum salary was calculated at 20 regular meetings and not 24 meetings per year, in 1985 which was the last time Councilors' compensation was addressed in an Ordinance, the minutes reflect that the City Clerk informed the Council that the attendance would continue to be based upon 20 regular meetings. The minutes reflect no objection being raised. I've attached that Ordinance as well as the minutes for your information.

If a City Councilor wishes to change this practice and base the formula on 24 meetings per year, I would recommend that they bring the issue to the Finance Committee.

COUNCIL PAYROLL POLICY AS OF 3/23/2005

The recommendation on the procedure for figuring City Council payroll is as follows:

The council payroll will be figured quarterly based on the City of Keene's Fiscal calendar at the rate of \$83.33 per meeting for the first three quarters of each fiscal year. The last quarter of each year shall be the difference between the annual salary of \$2,000.00 and the "year-to-date" figure based on \$83.33 per meeting providing the councilor has attended up to 20 meetings through the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. If a councilor attends 19 meetings or fewer his payroll shall be figured on the \$83.33 rate per meeting through the end of the fourth quarter.