

CHARTER RESOLUTION NO. 175

A CHARTER RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO AMEND ARTICLE 300 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF LAUREL ENTITLED "GOVERNMENT" BY AMENDING SECTION 311, "SALARY OF COUNCILMEMBERS" TO PROVIDE THE METHOD OF CALCULATION FOR, AND THE TIMING OF ANY SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS.

Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have determined that the amounts of any salary adjustments for the City Councilmembers, and the manner in which they are to be determined, should be clarified; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have also determined that any salary adjustments for the City Councilmembers may be considered every two years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that Article 300 City Charter, Section. 311 entitled "Salary of councilmembers" be repealed and replaced as set forth in this legislation.

Current Section to be repealed:

~~[Sec. 311. — Salary of councilmembers. —~~

~~(a) Each councilmember shall receive an annual salary that shall be equal for all councilmembers and shall be as specified from time to time by an ordinance passed by the council in the regular course of its business; provided, however, that the salary specified at the time any councilmember takes office shall not be changed during the period for which that councilmember was elected. An ordinance making any change in the salary paid to councilmembers, either by way of increase or decrease, shall be finally ordained prior to the municipal election for the members of the next succeeding council and shall take effect only as to the members of the next succeeding council, and provided further that such ordinance shall take effect only upon approval by the majority of the qualified voters voting therein at the next regular or special election. (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) above, effective the second regular meeting after the November, 2015 election, all councilmembers shall receive an annual salary adjustment in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Further, commencing July 1, 2016 and each July 1 thereafter, for each fiscal year in which city employees receive a market adjustment, all councilmembers shall receive a salary adjustment equal to the lesser of one (1) market adjustment or five hundred dollars (\$500.00) on the date of the second regular meeting after the election next succeeding the date on which any market adjustment becomes effective. (c) The members of the city council shall be entitled to the same health benefits to which employees are entitled while serving on the city council.]~~

Replaced with:

[Brackets w/Strikethrough]: Indicate matter deleted from existing City Charter.

Underlining: Indicates matter added to existing City Charter.

Sec. 311. Salary of Councilmembers.

- (a) Each Councilmember shall receive an annual salary that shall be equal for all Councilmembers, and shall be as set forth herein, by an ordinance passed by the Council in the regular course of its business. Effective December 1, 2023, each Councilmember shall receive a salary adjustment equal to the percentage salary adjustment approved for the City of Laurel employees in the General Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Every two years thereafter, effective December 1 of each such year, the salary of each Councilmember shall be adjusted in like manner, being the same adjustment approved for the City of Laurel employees in the General Operating Budget for that fiscal year. Each such ordinance adjusting the salary of Councilmembers shall be finally ordained prior to the municipal election for the Members of the next succeeding Council and shall take effect only as to the Members of the next succeeding Council.
- (b) The Members of the City Council shall be entitled to the same health benefits to which employees are entitled while serving on the City Council.
- (c) City Councilmembers may decline all or any portion of the annual salary and benefits to which they are otherwise entitled.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any provision of the City Charter that is inconsistent with the amendments contained in this Charter Resolution are hereby repealed.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date of adoption for this Charter Resolution is the ____ day of _____, 2022, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on the ____ day of _____, 2022, unless on or before the ____ day of _____, 2022, a Petition for Referendum on this Charter Resolution meeting the requirements of Section 4-304 of the MD Local Government Code Ann. Is filed in writing with the Mayor or City Administrator by 5:00 p.m. on the ____ day of _____, 2022.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a complete and exact copy of this Resolution shall be posted at the City of Laurel Municipal Center for a period of at least forty (40) days following its adoption.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a fair summary of the proposed Charter Amendment contained in this Resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Laurel not less than four (4) times, at weekly intervals, within a period of at least forty (40) days after adoption of this Resolution.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as soon as the Charter Amendment hereby enacted shall become effective, either as herein provided or following a Referendum, the Mayor shall promptly deposit with the Maryland Department of Legislative Services a complete copy of this Resolution, including:

1. The date of the Referendum election, if any;

[Brackets w/Strikethrough]: Indicate matter deleted from existing City Charter.

Underlining: Indicates matter added to existing City Charter.

2. The number of votes cast for or against this Resolution, whether by City Council or in referendum; and
3. The effective date of the Charter Amendment contained herein.

The transmittal to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-109 and Division II, Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and any other applicable law.

ATTEST:

KIMBERLEY A. RAU, MMC
Clerk to the City Council

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

CRAIG A. MOE
Mayor