



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 9, 2023

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

7224 GA HIGHWAY 21
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
2. **PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**
 - A. Port Wentworth Police Command
 - B. Port Wentworth Fire Department- "C" Shift
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS**
7. **ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**
8. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2023
9. **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**
 - A. St. Patricks Day Update
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
11. **CONSENT AGENDA**
12. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
13. **NEW BUSINESS**
14. **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS**
 - A. Mount Moriah- Pastor Proclamation
 - B. Elected Officials Compensation – 2nd Reading
15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - A. Personnel
16. **ADJOURNMENT**



City Council
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Meeting: 03/09/23 07:00 PM
Department: All
Category: Ordinance
Prepared By: Zahnay Smoak
Department Head: Steve Davis

SCHEDULED

AGENDA ITEM (ID # 2805)

DOC ID: 2805

Elected Officials Compensation – 2nd Reading

Issue/Item: Elected officials' compensation rates.

Background: Port Wentworth is one of the fastest growing cities in Georgia, growing from 3,000 to almost 13,000 over the last 20 years. The elected officials compensation has not changed during this time but the amount of time invested, training and preparation to sit on this legislative body has greatly increased.

Facts and Findings:

Due to rapid inflation, rapid growth, and comparison with other cities the city wishes to increase the compensation rates. Below is the ranges of salaries for comparable cities.
Council (high \$20,256/low \$2,400)
Mayor (high \$24,990/low \$3,300)

**New compensation rates will not go into effect until January 2024.*

Funding:

Proposed compensation rates:
Council \$14,400 (\$1,200 monthly)
Mayor \$14,400 (\$1,200 monthly)

Recommendation: Approve

ATTACHMENTS:

- 23.02.23 - Elected Pay Ord (DOCX)

ORDINANCE NO. 23-02-XX

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPENSATION
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, it is necessary from time to time to modify the City’s ordinances; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council is tasked with the authority to adopt and provide for such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations which it deems necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity, and well-being of the inhabitants of the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Charter Sec. 2.33 the City is authorized to set the compensation of Mayor and City Council for their service in such amounts as may be approved by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4 the City is authorized to fix the salary, compensation, and expenses of its municipal governing authority; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4 this Ordinance follows the requirements of subsections (a)(1) through (a)(3); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Georgia Attorney General Opinion 1980 Op. Att’y Gen. No. U-80-27 the City is permitted to amend the municipal governing authority’s compensation with such amendment to become effective for the entire Mayor and City Council after the taking of office of only a portion of the Council, when the municipality has staggered terms; and

WHEREAS, this proposed Ordinance is intended to fully comply with each and every relevant provision of the City Ordinances, City Charter, Georgia State Law, and Georgia Constitution, and Mayor and Council desire and intent this Ordinance to be implemented and implemented to so comply; and

NOW, THEREFORE, that while in regular session THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH HEREBY ORDAIN as follows:

- I. There is created a new Chapter in the City’s Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.20 – Compensation of Mayor and City Council, to read as follows:

Sec. 2.20 – Compensation of Mayor and City Council

- (a) The monthly monetary compensation shall be set at \$1,200 each for the Mayor and each member of City Council during their term in office.
 - (b) The monetary compensation of subsection (a) of the section shall not prohibit or limit the City from providing other benefits to the Mayor and City Council, as permitted by the City and state law, such as but not limited to insurance, retirement, or pension benefits.
- II. The City’s Code of Ordinances Sections 2.21 through 2.28 shall remain “Reserved.”
 - III. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.
 - IV. This Ordinance shall become effective upon the swearing in of members of the Council immediately following the election in November 2023.

SO ORDAINED this the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Approved:

Gary Norton, Mayor

Attest:

Zahnay Smoak, City Clerk

First reading: _____ (date)

Second reading: _____ (date)

Attachment: 23.02.23 - Elected Pay Ord (2805 : Elected Officials Compensation – 2nd Reading)