



MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JIM BERGMAN, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
AGENDA ITEM 11.b. – NOVEMBER 12, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
– CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION REVIEW AND DIRECTION**

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Attached is correspondence received regarding the above referenced item.

cc: City Attorney
City Clerk
Public Review Binder

From: [Caren Ray Russom](#)
To: [Kelly Wetmore](#)
Subject: FW: Proposal for City Council Pay Increases
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:20:14 AM

Please send to the rest of the council.

Respectfully,

Caren Ray Russom
Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande
crayrussom@arroyogrande.org
Tel: 805-473-5400 | www.arroyogrande.org
300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

From: Jeanette Vierra
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2019 3:09 AM
To: Caren Ray Russom
Subject: Proposal for City Council Pay Increases

Ms Russom,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed salary increases for you and the city council members.

It is my understanding that the city of Arroyo Grande is facing a budget shortfall. In this shortfall you have approved the highest cost alternative for Brisco Road and now are proposing salary increases of up to 60%? This certainly can't be correct?

It is fiscally irresponsible to make such a proposal at this time. This burden will be passed on to the residents of Arroyo Grande and I can tell you we have had enough. Do you not see how bad this is to propose salary increases for yourselves while many residents struggle to afford to live here?

As a resident of Arroyo Grande I am asking that you do not approve this increase. I can assure you, while we may not be able to stop you from mismanaging our money now we certainly can upon re-election. It is time for our leaders to put our community first. Be a leader!

Jeanette Vierra

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Caren Ray Russom](#)
To: [Kelly Wetmore](#)
Subject: FW: Monthly Stipend increase
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:13:50 AM

Please add to the public record

Respectfully,

Caren Ray Russom
Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

crayrussom@arroyogrande.org
Tel: 805-473-5400 | www.arroyogrande.org
300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

From: Julie London
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 1:42 PM
To: Caren Ray Russom; Kristen Barneich; Keith Storton; Jimmy Paulding; Lan George
Subject: Monthly Stipend increase

It is our understanding that at the AG City Council meeting on Nov. 12th, the discussion of raising your monthly stipend by 60% will be addressed.

When you ran for this seat, you ran with the understanding of the tasks involved and the compensation. You represented yourself during the campaign that you were up to the task. Is that no longer true? We feel that elected officials should not be allowed to vote themselves pay increases during their term in office.

At the current time, we have been made aware of drastic shortcomings in the budget for Arroyo Grande. Staff has been laid off, office hours to the public has been cut. There is now talk of raising utility fees to the residents of Arroyo Grande to meet this shortcoming. All while there has been no improvement with the services provided by the city, in fact, there has been a decline in services.

We feel that if you think the position warrants more pay for the tasks required, then you discuss and possibly vote on this for the next incoming board, not for yourselves. That gives the community to opportunity to take the personalities out of the discussion and evaluate the job description for future councils.

If you are finding that the compensation is not adequate and you are unable to do your job due to this, then maybe you should consider stepping down and have someone willing to be appointed to your seat.

Mark & Julie London

Arroyo Grande

From: Art Madson [REDACTED]
Date: November 12, 2019 at 1:56:04 PM PST
To: Keith Storton <kstorton@arroyogrande.org>
Subject: Pay Increases

Council Member Storton

We are sending this e-mail as we are not able to attend tonight's city council meeting.

Recently we have heard of a proposal to increase the salaries of the council members. As this appears to be true, the first thought that comes to mind is how could they be thinking of this with all the budget issues the city of Arroyo Grande currently has. Not only budget issues, but the proposal to increase utility rates, Brisco Interchange cost, the never ending funds for the Fire Authority and now the city manager is suggesting to add a one cent sales tax increase to ease budget short falls. What about city staff that has been reduced as well as services. How can the council be thinking of proposing a salary increase with the tax burden the residents are and will be facing. It boggles a persons mind about this matter. Did not council members know before getting elected what the benefits were? Sure makes one wonder what the game plan was before and after getting on the council.

We also read where the council feels the increase is appropriate as there has not been an increase in several years and that council members of other cities in the county are getting more than Arroyo Grande. We can listen to the justification on no increase for several years, but just because some other city is getting more does not hold water with current budget and spending issues.

Additionally, for the life of us we can not understand why the tax payers should bear the burden of covering health care costs for city council members. But we guess this will be a discussion for another day.

In closing, we ask that you vote NO on the increase, do the fiscally responsible

thing. Act in a manner that considers the residents first and not the council first.
Do not add to the burden we as tax payers already have.

Respectfully,

Art and Nellie Madson
Arroyo Grande

Sent from my iPad