

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

7/15/2024

Item #7: Resolution Adopting the City's Expense Reimbursement Policy for City Councilmembers Pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code § 53232 through § 53232.4 and training pursuant to AB 1234 and Repealing and Replacing Resolution No. 2003-045 N.C.S.

- **Question:** Can the City Council Expense form be converted or upgraded to an app?
 - **Response:** Currently, the City uses a City Council Expense form in PDF format. The PDF document can be uploaded to the City of Petaluma's website for convenient online submission.
- **Question:** Is there a max on how much a councilmember or Mayor can receive per year? What is the total amount per Councilmember/Mayor per year on average?
 - **Response:** The proposed policy requires reimbursements to Council to be part of the annual budget. So, there is no cap, besides the budget that Council approves. The current policy placed a limit of \$1,500 per year per Councilmember to attend conferences and meetings. Staff feel that this number is low, accounting for inflation, since it is from 2003. Providing for the reimbursement limit to be part of the budget will allow greater flexibility in the future. It is difficult to estimate an average since the payments are purely on a reimbursement basis, and are totally dependent on which Councilmembers attend conferences / training in a given year.