

ORDINANCE NO. 1159

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 1, CHAPTER 1-II OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE BY ADDING SECTION 1-46 ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 4 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 4 of the Charter of the City of Athens, Tennessee, as amended by Private Chapter No. 46 of the Private Acts of 2026, provides that the compensation of the Mayor and Councilmembers shall be established from time to time by ordinance duly adopted by the City Council, subject to any limitations imposed by Tennessee law; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 4 of the Charter further provides that no change in compensation shall take effect during the term for which the Mayor or any Councilmember was elected, but that such changes may take effect for subsequent terms of office; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Athens City Code to establish compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers in accordance with the Charter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

That Title 1, Chapter 1-II of the Athens City Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 1-46 to read as follows:

1-46 Compensation of Mayor and Councilmembers

- (1) The Mayor shall receive compensation in the amount of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per month for service as Mayor.
- (2) Each Councilmember shall receive compensation in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month for service as a member of the City Council.
- (3) The compensation established by this section shall be paid in accordance with the City's regular payroll procedures and shall be subject to all applicable federal and state withholding, reporting, and tax requirements.
- (4) Pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the Charter of the City of Athens, no change in compensation shall become effective during the term for which the Mayor or any Councilmember was elected. Therefore, the compensation established by this section shall apply only upon the commencement of a new term of office for the Mayor or an individual Councilmember. Accordingly, the compensation established herein shall first apply to the three Councilmembers elected in the November 2026 municipal election upon taking office. The compensation established herein shall not apply to the remainder of the terms of office for the two Councilmembers whose terms expire in 2028, but shall apply to the Councilmembers elected in the 2028 election."
- (5) Reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, when authorized by law, ordinance, policy, or approved budget appropriation, shall not be considered compensation for purposes of this section.

SECTION 2.

CODIFICATION AUTHORITY.

The City Manager or designee is authorized to make ministerial, non-substantive corrections necessary to codify this ordinance, including formatting, numbering, lettering, internal sequencing, typographical, citation, and cross-reference corrections, and to update internal references affected by renumbering, provided that no change is made to the substantive meaning, effect, or legislative intent of this ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 1159

REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect on **August 18, 2026**, the public welfare requiring it.

First Reading:	July 21, 2026	PASSED
Public Hearing Notice:	July 29, 2026	Daily Post-Athenian
Second Reading:	August 18, 2026	PASSED
Date of Public Hearing	August 18, 2026	6:00 PM

ATTEST:



Bridget Roberts, Interim City Manager


Larry Eaton, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Christopher Caldwell, City Attorney