

3. COMPENSATION

The City of Orting values its employees as a vital resource in meeting the organizational mission and providing service to the community. Within the fiscal resources available and in compliance with all applicable rules and laws the City of Orting strives to pay its employees' salaries and wages that are internally equitable and comparable to the pay scales of similar cities. The Mayor is responsible for recommendation to the City Council of adoption of a Salary Plan for the City of Orting. The Plan will include salaries for non-bargaining unit personnel as well as salary grades negotiated by employee representatives. Changes to employee salaries and wages are approved by the City Council as part of the budget process. Through the Employee Salary and Wage Plan, the City seeks to facilitate recruitment, retention, development, and productivity of employees through a total compensation philosophy which is driven by the following principles:

Consistency:

- I. To establish up-to-date classification specifications and nomenclature that are standardized across the organization.
- II. To establish compensation levels for positions based on internal parity (utilizing a job evaluation system) and external parity (comparing jobs within relevant labor markets). When examining the market, the City will aim to place position salary range maximums within 10% above or below the median (50th percentile) of the determined sample market peer salary range maximums.
- III. To use a representative sample of comparator agencies that are similar to the City in relevant demographics, including population, assessed value and/or total budget. The market sample is consistent through multiple years and applies to all classes of positions within applicable employee group. Comparison agencies should include both organizations within geographic proximity and outside of the regional market, using regional price parity adjustments when necessary.
- IV. To maintain a system that provides for uniform increases and to administer the compensation program fairly and consistently.
 - (i) To apply the compensation program equally among all classes of employee positions and throughout the employment life cycle, except where precluded by collective bargaining agreements or other contractual documents.
- V. To maintain high expectations of performance and reward employees that exceed expectations with annual step increases identified within the pay plan which recognize an employee's knowledge, skills, longevity and performance. Conversely, employees who perform below established expectations will participate in a performance improvement plan before receiving an annual step increase.

Transparency

- VI. City compensation decisions and information are clearly communicated to the public, elected officials, and employees.
- VII. Compensation decisions, including comparable agencies used in market studies and inflation adjustments, are based on up-to-date information, and objective and reasonable criteria.
- VIII. Regularly-updated market studies are the primary data points for setting City salary and wage ranges; variations from market data should be clearly and logically explained and brought to the City Council for approval.

Fiscal Responsibility

- IX. Compensation decisions are cognizant of both the market and the City's available resources to compensate employees.
- X. Compensation decisions are made within the context of total compensation, including salaries, benefits, paid leave, retirement, etc. Each component is evaluated in relation to the defined market and its individual needs so that the total compensation package is fair for its employees.
- XI. Decisions are made in conjunction with the regular budget process.

3.01 Your Paycheck.

Pay periods are from the first through the fifteenth (15th) day of the month, and the sixteenth (16th) day through the last day of the month. You will receive your paycheck by the fifth (5th) day following each pay period. You shall sign up for automatic deposit of your paycheck by contacting the City Treasurer.

All employees must complete an individual time record showing daily hours worked in order to be paid properly. In the case of exempt employees, this timesheet will account for daily attendance.

Deductions from your paycheck are those required by law (*e.g.*, Medicare, workers' compensation premiums, court-ordered garnishments) and those approved by you in writing (*e.g.*, Union dues as applicable, insurance premiums, etc.).

Complaints or Concerns.

If you believe there are any errors in your pay, including that you have been overpaid or underpaid, that improper deductions have been taken from your pay or that your pay does not accurately reflect all hours worked, including overtime, report your concerns to the City Treasurer immediately. The City will promptly investigate all reported complaints and, if appropriate, take

corrective action.

The City prohibits and will not tolerate retaliation against any employee because that employee filed a good faith complaint under this policy. Specifically, no one will be disciplined, intimidated or otherwise retaliated against because that person exercised rights under this policy or applicable law.

Qualified Payroll Period

When an employee has been in pay status fifteen or more calendar days, including holidays in any given calendar month, the payroll period will be considered qualified to accrue benefits, serve out probation, and for computation of merit increase dates. A new employee may be credited with the first payroll period if employed prior to the 16th of the month.

An employee will become eligible for Health and Medical benefits the first (1st) of the month following fifteen (15) calendar days of employment, including holidays.

3.03 Employee Salary and Wage Plan.

Exempt and Non-Exempt Positions

All City positions are governed by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Washington Minimum Wage Act and are classified as either "exempt" or "non-exempt." Non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime pay; exempt employees are not. Most positions covered by the FLSA are non-exempt; thus, entitled to overtime. Anytime a position changes from non-exempt to exempt status, the incumbent shall be cashed out for any compensatory time that they have accrued up to the time of the change.

Exempt Employee

An employee who does not receive overtime pay for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week as provided in the FLSA because the employee works in a bona fide executive, administrative, professional, or other exempt capacity covered by the FLSA and Washington Minimum Wage Act.

Non-Exempt Employee

An employee who receives overtime pay for hours worked beyond forty (40) hours in a standard work week in accordance with the FLSA and Washington Minimum Wage Act. The amount of overtime pay is one and one-half (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for actual hours worked.

NON-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEE SALARY AND WAGE PLAN

It is the policy of the City of Orting to provide a compensation program which enables the City to employ staff who possess the necessary skills and abilities to effectively:

- a) Manage the delivery of existing City services and the provision of essential municipal government support functions;
- b) Evaluate and plan future service needs;
- c) Advise and support the policy-making activities of the City's elected officials; and
- d) Implement policy changes enacted by the elected representatives of the citizens of Orting.

It is also the policy of the City of Orting to structure the classification and compensation program for management and professional staff in a manner which assures that:

- a) The actual duties assigned to a classification are appropriate to the assigned level of responsibility.
- b) Compensation levels are consistent with the level of responsibilities assumed by staff and appropriate to the city's financial circumstances.;
- c) Individual salary rates appropriately reflect each person's performance and experience at the responsibility level assumed with the City of Orting.

Applicability

The provisions of the program adopted by this chapter shall only apply to non-represented appointive positions designated as such and authorized in the City's annual budget.

Salary Plan

A salary plan for management and professional staff shall be established and salaries set for covered employees as follows:

- a) Each position included in the City's Job Classification and Pay Range document shall be assigned to a salary range. Assignment of positions to ranges shall be based upon general salary levels paid by municipal governments of comparable size, demography and financial resources for similar responsibilities. A list of comparable cities shall be adopted by Resolution of the Council. Assigned salary ranges shall not be changed or established without conducting a salary survey of comparable cities for the position being changed. All changes must be approved by the Mayor and City Council.
- b) Compensation studies should be conducted every 3-5 years in order to maintain currency with market conditions. Variations in the scope of the study are acceptable (i.e., every other study may include salaries only, not total compensation).
- c) The salary ranges shall be structured as follows:
 - (1) Range Differential. The percentage differential between the maximum rates of salary ranges shall be approximately three (3) percent.
 - (2) Ranges Steps for non-represented professional employees. Salary rates of a range shall have five (5) steps A, B, C, D, E. Step A through Step E in the range shall each be spread by approximately three (3) percent. The spread between the minimum and maximum steps shall be approximately twelve (12) percent.

Adjustment of Salary Range Levels

The City Council shall provide for adjustments to salary range levels as are consistent with the Council's CPI-U for the Seattle area salary adjustment policy each year.

Actual Salary Rate

Initial Rate

Management Director Level

The salary rate of an employee upon appointment to a management position at the Director level (as identified by the City's Budget Job Classification and Pay Range document) shall be set within the range assigned to the titled position. Increases in wages will be based off the calculated COLA increase of the budget year and the annual Salary Comparison Survey. Increases will be approved by the Mayor and City Council via an approved City Budget.

Professional Level Employees

The salary rate of an employee upon appointment shall be set no lower than Step A of the salary range to which an employee's position is assigned. When it is in the best interest of the City, the department heads (with the Mayor's approval) may authorize an initial salary of a newly hired person at a rate which exceeds Step A.

Merit/Step Increases

- a) Salary Step Advancement. Each person shall be eligible for a salary step advancement January 1 of the year following completion of six (6) full months of regular (as opposed to interim) service at each step in the salary range. To receive a salary step advancement, the employee must be evaluated as "meets expectations" (or equivalent) on his or her work performance evaluation. Salary step advancements shall be an increase of one (1) step in the same salary band, if available.
- b) Additional Advancement. Those employees who receive a rating that exceeds the rating "meets expectations" (or equivalent) may be eligible to receive an additional salary step advancement for an increase of one (1) additional step in the same salary range, if available, above the initial step advancement provided in subsection (b)(1) of this section. This additional advancement shall require the recommendation of the department head, or equivalent, and approval of the Mayor and City Council.
- c) A step advancement that was denied may be granted following a minimum sixty (60) day review period of the employee's performance.
- d) Notwithstanding the above, when it is in the best interest of the City, City Administrator may authorize an in-range adjustment to provide additional salary in instances of promotion, to provide for internal equity corrections, or for another reason deemed appropriate by the City Council.

Changes to Employee Classifications

- a) Downgrading an Employee's Classification. Upon the City Council's approval of downgrading a person's classification to a lower salary range, the person's initial salary step will be set at the same rate in the new band that was in effect in the former salary range. In the event a person's salary rate exceeds the maximum step of the salary range to which his or her position is assigned on the date of downgrading, his or her actual salary rate shall be frozen until such time as the maximum step rate of the new band is equal to or greater than his or her actual salary and, at such time, the employee's salary step shall be set at the maximum step of the salary range to which his or her position is assigned.
- b) Upgrading an Employee's Classification. If an employee's classification is moved from one salary range to a higher range (excluding promotions), the employee's salary rate at the higher range shall be set at the next step which is higher than the salary the employee was receiving at the former range. The employee's salary step advancement date does not change.
- c) Promotions. In the event an employee is promoted from one classification to a higher classification (one (1) salary range to a higher salary range), the employee's salary rate at the higher range shall be set at the next step which is higher than the salary the employee was receiving at the former range. Promoted employees shall be eligible for a salary step advancement upon completion of twelve (12) full months of regular (as opposed to interim) service at each step in the new salary range, which shall be the employee's new salary step advancement date.

Initial Benefits for Department Heads

When it is in the best interest of the City, the City Council may authorize increased or additional benefits in hiring a department head beyond those specified in this chapter or sections 5.03 Sick Leave or 5.04 Vacation Time. Any extraordinary benefits must be included in the department head's employment contract and approved by the City Council.

REPRESENTED EMPLOYEE SALARY AND WAGE PLAN

When you begin your employment with the City, you will be paid a wage or salary consistent with the governing Collective Bargaining Agreement, the City's Employee Salary and Wage Plan and appropriate to the experience, educational background, training, and skills you bring to your position. Thereafter, you will only receive salary and wage adjustments based upon the CBA or promotions to higher classification. All salary and wage increases shall remain within the range for that position as approved by the City Council. Your eligibility for a pay increase may occur at the end of your first six (6) months of City employment.

Payment of Salaries

All represented employees are paid at an hourly rate, as specified in the City's annual budget document. Hourly employees are paid on the basis of actual number of hours worked, including authorized absences with pay and allowed holidays. Salary rates for temporary or part-time employees will be based on the pay for full-time positions in the same classification.

Beginning Salary

Each employee will be appointed at the first step of the range established for the classification. If it is determined that appointment of a non-management employee above the first step may be warranted, the following procedures will apply:

- a) The factors to be reviewed in approving appointment beyond the first step are: availability of applicants meeting the qualifications for the vacant position, relationship to other similar classifications, prior experience of a candidate in a comparable position, time available to continue the recruitment process, and budget considerations.
- b) The Department Manager will submit a request for appointment at a higher step to the Mayor, or his designee, stating justification for the request. The Mayor will make a decision based upon the Department Manager's justification.

Step Increases – Represented Regular Status Employees

Wage increases for represented employees is directed by the applicable Collective Bargaining Unit for each employee. Typical wage or step increase schedule is:

- a) When a regular status employee has performed satisfactorily, as determined through the Performance Evaluation process, a merit/step increase may be granted, but not before the satisfactory completion of the employee's initial six-month probationary period. In the case of an employee placed at the time of hire above Step One of the pay range, the initial in-class merit/step raise will be considered upon the completion of twelve months in class and at twelve (12) month intervals thereafter until the employee reaches the top step of the range.
- b) The annual merit/step increase date for an employee will change only if: 1) the employee is promoted or otherwise moved to a position assigned to another job class and is required to serve a trial performance period; and 2) the employee receives a merit/step adjustment as authorized by the Mayor.

Promotion

A promotion is an appointment to a position in a classification which has a higher maximum salary rate than the employee's present classification. The salary step of the promoted employee will be set so that the promoted employee's pay level is no more than two (2) salary steps higher than the employee's step prior to the promotion. If step one of the salary range to which the employee has been promoted is a pay level more than two (2) steps higher than the promoted employee's previous salary step, then the employee shall be assigned to step one of the higher salary range. When the date of promotion and the merit/step increase date coincide, the merit/step increase is paid prior to the promotional increase.

Demotions

A demotion is an appointment to a position in a classification which has a lower maximum salary rate than the employee's present classification. When a demotion occurs, the Department Manager

will recommend to the Mayor and/or City Administrator a salary for the demoted employee within the salary range of the lower classification which is less than or equal to the employee's present salary. The employee will retain the same anniversary date.

Transfer

- a) A position transfer is an appointment to a position in the same or different classification of the same pay grade.
- b) When an employee is transferred to a position in a different classification with the same pay grade, or is transferred to another department with the same classification, the employee will retain the same anniversary date for leave and length of service purposes.

Temporary Change of Classification

- a) A current employee assigned to a classification with a differing rate of pay in an "acting" appointment status will be compensated at the next higher step in the new range according to the policy on promotion.
- b) If the employee is promoted to the higher class with regular appointment status, all policies apply from the date of promotion.

Exemptions

The Mayor may recommend positions to be exempt from overtime provisions to the City Council on the basis of the nature of work, conditions of employment or by definition of administrative, supervisory and professional classifications as provided by State and Federal laws. Such exemption is based upon special conditions to work or assignment, in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

3.04 Overtime and Compensatory Time Off.

At the City of Orting, we want our employees to work a reasonable number of hours. The regular work week is no more than forty (40) working hours in a week, except in the case of non-standard work schedules. On certain occasions some overtime may be required. You may request not to work overtime, but you may not refuse to work assigned overtime. Any overtime work must be authorized in advance by your supervisor or the City Administrator. If overtime is authorized or required, regular, full-time, nonexempt employees will be paid at one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a work day. Holiday, Vacation and Sick leave time are not considered hours worked. If overtime is authorized or required for temporary or part-time employees, they will be paid at one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one work day. Public safety employees (police) may be subject to alternative work periods and overtime standards, as set forth in an applicable labor agreement.

Nonexempt employees who work overtime have the option to choose compensatory time off that will be accrued at one and a half hours for every hour worked in lieu of overtime pay. You may accrue up to forty (40) hours of compensatory time off. Employees covered by a collective

bargaining agreement may have different accrual limits. Compensatory time can be used at times mutually agreed to by you and your supervisor. Any compensatory time not used may be carried over to the next year (up to 40 hours). Upon separation of employment any compensatory time will be paid at your current rate of pay.