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Aldermen to keep raise

Move fails to scrap salary increase

By SHAWN LOGAN, Sun Media

City council will hold firm to a 5.5% salary boost in 2009 despite a move today to scuttle the raise.

Calls to drop the increase, which for aldermen will be worth an extra \$5,000 as well as an extra \$8,200 annually for Mayor Dave Bronconnier, fell just short losing on a 7-7 vote with Ald. Dale Hodges not present.

Ald. Andre Chabot had suggested council slash the raise in half to 2.75% but Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart wanted her colleagues to back no increase at all in 2009, prompting Bronconnier to note that would require council to reconsider the decision to have an independent board review council wages.

With the raises staying in place, the salary for aldermen this year will be about \$97,000 along with a car allowance and benefits while the mayor will earn over \$174,000.

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