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Bronson benefit reduction motion dies



Town Councilman Aaron Edmondson (left) was the most outspoken against Councilwoman Katie Parks' idea of Bronson Town Council members giving up a benefit they have enjoyed since back in the days when Jamie Griffin was mayor.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 8, 2016 @ 9:37 p.m.

BRONSON – Bronson Town Councilwoman Katie Parks' motion to have Town Council members not receive benefits failed to meet with a second Monday night (Nov. 8). Parks said that while she and Mayor Bruce Greenlee are the only two members of the five-member council that do not receive benefits for health, dental and vision insurance, she sees there could be an annual savings currently of just over \$42,400 if the other three Bronson Town Council members chose not to accept these benefits as part of their compensation for the job they do.



Mayor Bruce Greenlee (left) and Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts

Councilman Aaron Edmondson again let Parks know in no uncertain terms that there is no possible way he would vote in favor of such a motion, and she

should just quit bringing up this idea of hers.

Parks said she felt that the Bronson Town Council might consider cutting this expense, because then it could hire another employee for the town. She mentioned, too, that while she and Greenlee are not accepting this benefit, because they have other employers who offer benefits, there may be a time in the future when two other people take their place and the taxpayers would then have to compensate those new Council members.

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Councilman Jason Hunt

Parks said this reduction in pay to the five Town Council leaders might help the annual budget, too, which is going to require that \$75,000 annual payment for the multi-million dollar sewer transmission improvements.

Parks said she feels like Town Council members are part-time workers who are getting full-time benefits. She noted that in some cases of these five individuals, the monetary value of benefits exceeds the stipend that is paid to the Town Council member.



Following is the breakdown of the annually budget payment totals of the stipend (including the annual \$250 bonus) combined with the value of benefits for each municipal leader, including the iPad rental, and all forms of insurance:

- * Seat 4 Mayor Bruce Greenlee \$11,118.65
- * Seat 3 Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts \$17,651.46
- * Seat 1 Councilman Aaron Edmondson \$16,351.46
- * Seat 2 Councilwoman Katie Parks \$7,218.65
- * Seat 5 Councilman Jason Hunt \$15,595.46

Edmondson has said he needs his health insurance, and he believes he has earned the benefit provided to him by the taxpayers as an elected member of the Bronson Town Council.

Edmondson has said insurance for Town Council members started 15 years ago, when Jamie Griffin was mayor, and it has continued ever since then.

This matter was last discussed in September. The Bronson Town Council does not have regular meetings in October each year.

After Parks made a motion for the Town Council members to not have these benefits, there was no person to second the motion. It died as a result.