

ORDINANCE NO. 1398

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KYLE, TEXAS, REPEALING AND REPLACING AN EXISTING ORDINANCE GOVERNING CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS EXPENSES; ELIMINATING THE USE OF CITY-ISSUED CREDIT CARDS FOR MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL; ADOPTING A REVISED POLICY REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT-ONLY FOR CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS EXPENSES; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council previously adopted an ordinance governing City Council business expenses, including the use of City-issued credit cards and the reimbursement of expenses; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3.09 of the Kyle City Charter authorizes reimbursement of necessary and approved expenses incurred by members of City Council in the performance of their official duties; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the existing ordinance and desires to revise the method by which City Council business expenses are paid in order to eliminate the use of City-issued credit cards and transition to a reimbursement-only process; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that adopting a reimbursement-only policy provides clarity, consistency, and transparency while reducing administrative risk and complexity;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KYLE, TEXAS, THAT:

Section 1. Findings of Fact. The above and foregoing recitals are hereby found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein as findings of fact.

Section 2. Repeal and Replacement. The existing ordinance governing City Council business expenses, including the use of City-issued credit cards, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with this ordinance adopting the Policy for Members of City Council Regarding Request for Reimbursement of City Business Expenses, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. Elimination of City-Issued Credit Cards. Effective upon adoption of this ordinance, City-issued credit cards shall no longer be issued to or used by members of City Council for City business expenses.

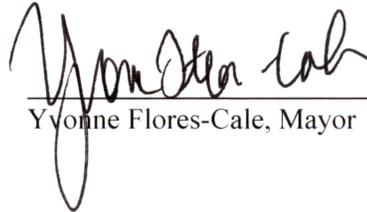
Section 4. Administration and Enforcement. The City Manager and City staff are directed to administer and enforce the revised policy in a consistent and uniform manner in accordance with the City Charter and applicable City procedures.

Section 5. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances. All ordinances or parts thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance as adopted and amended herein, are hereby amended to the extent of such conflict. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this ordinance and any other code or ordinance of the City, the terms and provisions of this ordinance shall govern.

Section 6. Open Meetings. It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapt. 551, Tex. Gov't. Code.

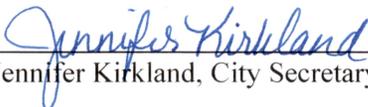
PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 3rd day of February, 2026.
FINALLY PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 3rd day of February, 2026.

The City of Kyle, Texas



Yvonne Flores-Cale, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Kirkland, City Secretary



City of Kyle, Texas
Policy for Members of City Council Regarding
Request for Reimbursement of City Business Expenses

1. Purpose

- 1) This policy is intended to provide guidance and policy compliance requirements to members of the City Council for the reimbursement of allowable expenses incurred while conducting City business.
- 2) Furthermore, this policy is also intended to provide direction to the City Manager, to ensure for the consistent application of this policy and to ensure compliance with the policy requirements when processing requests for expense reimbursements for individual members of the City Council.

2. Policy Objectives

- 1) Establish a clearly defined policy for members of the City Council to adhere to and comply with when incurring allowable City-related business expense when requesting reimbursement for City-related business expenses incurred by individual members of the City Council in carrying-out their official duties.
- 2) Establish a policy that provides clear guidelines, procedures, and requirements that are uniform and can be consistently applied by the City Manager and their staff to strengthen administrative and budgetary controls.
- 3) Ensure accountability and transparency to the residents and taxpayers of the City of Kyle for all City-related business expenses incurred by the members of the Kyle City Council.

3. Policy Scope & Coverage

- A. This policy is applicable to and exclusively covers all elected officials of the City of Kyle including but not limited to the following elected positions:
 - 1) Mayor
 - 2) Council Member, District 1
 - 3) Council Member, District 2
 - 4) Council Member, District 3
 - 5) Council Member, District 4
 - 6) Council Member, District 5
 - 7) Council Member, District 6

4. Policy Basis

The Kyle City Charter is the authoritative basis for the development and implementation of this City policy. Specifically, Article III, Section 3.09 states as follows:

"Members of the City Council shall also be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary and approved expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. There shall be provided in each annual city budget an amount for the expenses of the mayor and for each council member. The city council by ordinance shall provide a method for determining what expenses are reimbursable and what requirements must be met to receive reimbursement. No staff or assistant shall be provided for any member of the city council."

5. Policy

Based on Article 111, Section 3.09 of the City Charter, it is the policy of the City of Kyle to allow members of the City Council to:

- 1) Attend training, educational conferences, seminars, and meetings related to the duties and responsibilities as a member of the City Council.
- 2) Travel to other cities as a member of the City of Kyle delegation that is officially sanctioned by a majority vote of the City Council, to explore economic development opportunities and to further the interest of the City of Kyle.
- 3) Request reimbursement of allowable City-related business expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties including travel which was paid for with personal funds.

6. Responsibilities of the Kyle City Council

Under this policy, each individual member of the City Council shall be responsible for, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) Fully adhere to and comply with the requirements of this policy as adopted by the City Council by an Ordinance.
- 2) Each member of the City Council shall be responsible for monitoring and ensuring that City-related business expenses incurred or planned to be incurred, do not exceed the total approved budget for their respective cost center excluding the line-item budget for Legal Services. A monthly expenditure report for cost centers pertaining to Mayor and Council members shall be provided to each City Council member to assist in the monitoring of the expense line-item budget status and remaining available funds.
- 3) Each member of the City Council shall be responsible for obtaining and submitting actual itemized receipts from the respective vendor, retailer, restaurant, hotel, airline, and or other establishment for their City-related business expense.

7. Definitions

- 1) **Actual Expenses**: Expenses incurred for City-related business and supported by an original legible printed receipt detailing items purchased. Refer to definition of receipts/invoices below.
- 2) **Approved Budget**: Appropriations (spending authority) as authorized by the City Council for line-item expenditures in the approved cost center budget for the Mayor and each Council member.
- 3) **City-Related Business Expense**: An expense incurred by a member of the City Council that is required and or is necessary in the performance of their official duties of a public purpose for the benefit of the City.
- 4) **Entertainment Expenses**: Includes but not limited to, movies, concerts, theatre performances, events at museums, entertainment shows, car shows, social and cultural events, hunting and fishing events, hot air balloon rides, sport events, golf games, sports tournaments, food and drink tasting, or any other excursion/entertainment are not allowed under this policy.
- 5) **Mileage Reimbursement**: Reimbursement request for actual mileage driven per trip in a personal vehicle by a member of the City Council to conduct City-related business.
- 6) **Per Diem**: A daily allowance of money given to City Council members to cover expenses, typically while traveling. The General Services Administration establishes reimbursement rates for lodging and meals and incidental expenses incurred while on official travel within the continental United States.
- 7) **Receipts/Invoices**: An original legible printed receipt issued by a retailer, restaurant, hotel, airline, or similar business establishment that shows the date of transaction, name of the vendor/retailer, vendor/retailer's address, product or itemized description, quantity, and amount for each item purchased or ordered. The following notation shall be included on each receipt: City Council member's name and business justification of expense.
- 8) **Travel - Local**: From Kyle City Hall to a destination that is equal to or less than seventy-five (75) miles and to which it can be reasonably expected to travel, conduct City-related business, and return to Kyle City Hall within the same business day.
- 9) **Travel - Out-of-Town**: From Kyle City Hall to a destination that is more than seventy-five (75) miles and to which it cannot be reasonably expected to travel, conduct City-related business, and return to Kyle City Hall within the same business day.
- 10) **Unallowed Expenses**: A list of expenses specifically identified in this policy and other similar personal type expenses, that under no circumstances, shall be reimbursed to any member of the City Council with City funds.
- 11) **Unsupported Expenses**: Any expense transaction that is unsubstantiated and for which no actual itemized receipt has been provided. An

unsubstantiated expense can also occur when a Request for Reimbursement Form is submitted by a member of the City Council without actual receipts substantiating the expense reimbursement claim.

8. Procedures for Out-of-Town Travel & Completing Travel Expense Claim Form

When a member of the City Council travels to another city, or state to:

- 1) Attend a training session, educational conferences, seminars, and meetings related to the duties and responsibilities as a member of the City Council.
- 2) Explore economic development opportunities and to further the interest of the City of Kyle as an official member of the City of Kyle delegation that is sanctioned by a majority vote of the City Council.

Within five (5) business days of completion of the travel, each member of the City Council who traveled, must prepare, sign, and submit to the City Secretary, a Travel Expense Claim Form (Exhibit 1) along with all original itemized receipts as supporting documentation. The following notation shall be included on each receipt: City Council member's name and business justification of expense.

9. Procedures for Requesting Reimbursement of City-Related Business Expenses

If a member of the City Council is interested in seeking reimbursement of City-related business expenses that the City Council member incurred and paid for with personal funds in the performance of their official duties, then they must follow the following procedural steps:

- 1) Complete a City of Kyle Request for Expense Reimbursement Form (Exhibit 2).
- 2) Attach all actual itemized receipts supporting the reimbursement request.
- 3) Sign and date the Request for Expense Reimbursement Form.
- 4) Submit the completed form with attached itemized receipts to the City Secretary.
- 5) The City Secretary will acknowledge by email, the receipt of the submittal to the member of the City Council.
- 6) The City Secretary will examine the Request for Expense Reimbursement Form and all attachments submitted by the City Council member for completeness, accuracy, and assign appropriate expense line-item and cost center coding for processing.
- 7) If the submittal is complete and accurate, the City Secretary will forward the Request for Expense Reimbursement Form and all attachments to the Accounts Payable section in the City's Financial Services Department for processing a reimbursement payment to the requesting City Council member.

- 8) Should the Accounts payable team in the Financial Services Department find the submittal packet forwarded by the City Secretary to be incomplete, incorrect, or missing any receipts, then the entire submittal will be returned to the City Secretary to take corrective action(s).
- 9) If the Request for Expense Reimbursement Form submittal is incomplete or receipts do not reconcile with the amount claimed for reimbursement, then the City Secretary will contact the member of the City Council in writing by email and request them to rectify the incomplete items and to resubmit their request for reimbursement.
- 10) If the accounts payable team's review and examination of the Request for Expense Reimbursement Form submittal packet indicates that it is complete and accurate, then a reimbursement check will be processed and issued to the requesting member of the City Council within ten (10) business days.

10. Procedures for Requesting Mileage Reimbursement for Use of Personal Vehicle

If a member of the City Council is interested in seeking reimbursement for the actual number of miles driven using their personal vehicle in the performance of their official duties, then they must follow the following procedural steps:

- 1) Maintain actual record for each trip taken using personal vehicle to conduct City-related business to include:
 - a. Name of member of the City Council
 - b. Description of personal vehicle (for example: 2022 Chev Tahoe)
 - c. Date of each City business trip
 - d. Purpose of each trip (for example: to meet with County Commissioners)
 - e. Provide destination for each trip (for example: from City Hall to County Government Center in San Marcos and return to City Hall)
 - f. Total actual miles driven for each trip
- 2) At the end of each month, complete a Request for Mileage Reimbursement Form for Use of Personal Vehicle for City Business (Exhibit 3).
- 3) Sign and date the Request for Mileage Reimbursement Form for Use of Personal Vehicle for City Business.
- 4) If a member of the City Council wants to utilize a GPS-based IRS compliant mileage tracking software for the use of their personal vehicle for City-business trips, they can submit a report generated from the GPS-based IRS compliant mileage tracking software in lieu of completing the City mileage reimbursement form provided the following minimum information is included in the report:
 - 1) Name of member of the City Council
 - 2) Description of personal vehicle (for example: 2022 Chev Tahoe)

- 3) Date of each City business trip
 - 4) Purpose of each trip (for example: to meet with County Commissioners)
 - 5) Provide destination for each trip (for example: from City Hall to County Government Center in San Marcos and return to City Hall)
 - 6) Total actual miles driven for each trip
 - 7) Sign and date of signature
- 5) Submit the completed mileage reimbursement form to the City Secretary for processing.
 - 6) If the submittal is complete and accurate, the City Secretary will forward the Request for Mileage Reimbursement Form for Use of Personal Vehicle for City Business or the GPS-based IRS compliant mileage tracking software report to the Accounts Payable section in the City's Financial Services Department for processing a reimbursement payment to the requesting member of the City Council.
 - 7) If the request for mileage reimbursement form for the use of personal vehicle for City business is incomplete, then the City Secretary will contact the City Council member in writing by email and request them to rectify the incomplete items and to resubmit their request for reimbursement.
 - 8) If the Accounts payable team's review and examination of the Request for Mileage Reimbursement Form for Use of Personal Vehicle for City Business indicates that it is complete, then a reimbursement check will be processed and issued to the requesting member of the City Council within ten (10) business days. Otherwise, the form will be returned to the City Secretary for corrections.

11. Allowable Travel Expenses

Actual, reasonable, and appropriate expenses, within the specified limits, may be claimed by City Council members when they are representing the city on official business away from the city. Expenses that will be reimbursed include the items listed and explained in this section.

- (a) **Lodging.** When available, City Council members should select the host hotel, or one that has partnered with the host agency for accommodation during travel. City Council members must seek reasonably priced hotel rooms of acceptable quality and consider transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors in selecting the most practical and economical accommodation. This provision should not deter City Council members from staying in a hotel where the meeting or convention to be attended is held. Overnight accommodation for conferences and training sessions and other meetings within central Texas must be justified in writing and approved by the full council but are generally not allowed if within 50 miles of Kyle City Hall.
- (b) **Meals.** City Council members will be authorized a maximum per diem allowance for overnight travel only as stipulated in the most current [Internal Revenue Service publication #1542](#), "Per Diem Rates" for meals during travel. The correct rate will be the meal and incidental expense (MandIE) per diem amount under the high-low

substantiation method effective for the fiscal year in which the travel occurred. Receipts will not be required when a per diem is issued. Per diem allowance can either be issued prior to travel or after travel is conducted.

- i. **Partial day Allowance** (over-night travel only). Partial per diem rates shall be provided based on the time of travel. Per diem for travel days will be set at 75% of the daily rate for the business trip.
- (c) **Allowances at Training and Seminar Events** (overnight travel only). A per diem allowance will be given for conference/seminars that do not include meals as a part of the registration fee. If meals are included, per diem will be reduced accordingly for each meal provided.
- (d) **Ground Transportation**. City Council members may claim reasonable actual ground transportation expenses, including shuttle services and taxis, if documentation for these expenses is submitted.
- (e) **Parking**. City Council members may claim actual parking expenses. Whenever possible, receipts should be submitted for parking fees. For parking meters or parking lots where receipts are not offered, the City Council member should submit a signed accounting of the expense including location details, time of day, event details, and expense.

12. Extraordinary Expenses

There may be isolated occasions when extraordinary expenses beyond ordinary costs can be justified as having a direct bearing upon city programs or which otherwise could be of benefit to the city. Expenses not specifically addressed in this policy that are incurred by City Council members are allowable when determined by the full council to be reasonable and necessary for the conduct of city business.

13. Unallowed Expenses

The City of Kyle will not pay for, nor reimburse with City funds, the following types of personal expenses to any member of the City Council. This list is an example of unallowed expenses and includes but is not limited to the following types of personal expenses:

- 1) Alcoholic beverages including beer, wine, liquor, mixed drinks, accessing mini bars in hotel rooms, including rental of alcoholic beverage dispensing equipment and associated supplies and materials.
- 2) Automobile and other vehicle expenses including but not limited to any repair and or maintenance expenses associated with a personal vehicle such as for fuel charges, electric vehicle charging costs/fees, oil changes, brakes, battery, tires, wiper blades, damages due to accidents, insurance, vehicle rental while personal vehicle is being repaired, etc.
- 3) Books and magazines for personal reading, movie rentals, in-room movies, online entertainment services, etc. Newspapers such as the Austin American Statesman, Hays Free Press, Austin Business Journal, Wall Street Journal, etc, are allowed under this policy.

- 4) Cash advances or cash equivalents, money orders, wire transfers, foreign currency, bitcoins, traveler's checks, gift cards, pre-paid cards, etc.
- 5) Charges, fees, and or fines for illegal substances, products, activities, and or services.
- 6) Commuting mileage reimbursement claims. Driving personal vehicle from home to work and driving back from work to return home is an unallowed expense.
- 7) Computer equipment including but not limited to hardware, software, desktop computers, laptop computers, notebook computers, tablets, iPads, printers, scanners, projectors, cameras, audio/video equipment, copiers, shredders, fax machines, cellular devices, mobile phones, routers, hotspot or hotspot service, telecommunication equipment, etc. This includes expenses associated with the purchase, lease, rental, and or the repair and maintenance of any such equipment.
- 8) Cost of any travel ticket class on any airline, limousine, bus, coach, train, ship, or other means of transportation that is above the economy (coach) class.
- 9) Cost of any priority boarding, preferred seating, and or other upgrades on any airline, limousine, bus, coach, train, ship, or other means of transportation.
- 10) Donations and any charitable contributions to individuals, organizations, and not- for-profit entities including value of time donated.
- 11) Entertainment expenses including but not limited to, movies, concerts, theatre performances, events at museums, entertainment shows, car shows, social and cultural events, hunting and fishing events, hot air balloon rides, sport events, golf games, sports tournaments, food and drink tasting, or any other excursion/entertainment.
- 12) Excess baggage fees and or surcharges for overweight baggage.
- 13) Expenses for spouse, partners, family members, pets, and or for other
 - i. guests accompanying the member of the City Council.
- 14) Fitness center charges, health club expenses, and other personal services including sports spa, hot tub, and massage/reflexology services.
- 15) Flight and or travel/trip insurance.
- 16) Gambling expenses, cost of lottery tickets, bingo, betting on sports and races, and cost of other game of chance even if it is operated by charitable organizations.
- 17) Gifts, souvenirs, t-shirts, baseball caps, jackets, and other similar personal items.
- 18) Grooming care services including haircuts, beard trimming, hair stylists,

- hair removal services, nail salon services, beauty parlor services, tattoo services, tattoo removal services, shoe shining, etc.
- 19) Home office expenses including but not limited to internet services, cable service, cellular or mobile phone service, networking services, office equipment, furniture and fixtures, file cabinets, lighting, ceiling fans, flooring, security and surveillance systems, rent for office space, and any repairs or maintenance of such items. Cost of Wi-Fi service during travel including in-flight to conduct City business is allowed under this policy.
 - 20) Loss of personal funds and or personal property including repair of personal property.
 - 21) Marijuana and or related by-products.
 - 22) Passport fees, global entry or similar security clearance fees, annual service fees for security clearance, airline pre-check fee for pre-screening convenience service, etc.
 - 23) Personal items such as clothing, jewelry, watches, batteries for hearing aid and watches, shoes, handbags, hats, raincoats, umbrellas, wigs, toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving kits, toiletries, mints, chewing gum, breath fresheners, air fresheners, sunglasses, visors, baseball caps, sunscreens, etc.
 - 24) Prescription and over the counter medications, sleep aids, thermometers, oxygen sensors, oxygen tanks or refills, contact lens cleaners, bandages, pain relievers, sanitary pads, adult diapers, etc.
 - 25) Pet sitting, pet-care, kenneling, veterinarian fees, pet supplies, etc.
 - 26) Private and or charter flights.
 - 27) Subscription and membership services including but not limited to airline frequent flyer clubs, airport and airline lounge services, auto clubs, Amazon Prime, Instacart, Costco, Sam's Warehouse, and other similar card membership fees and dues.
 - 28) Tobacco and or tobacco products.
 - 29) Traffic citations, parking tickets, related attorney fees, court fees, and other fines.
 - 30) Valet service for parking when self-parking options are available.

14. Policy Directives to City Manager & City Staff

This policy is adopted by a City Ordinance approved by a majority vote of the City Council. Accordingly, it is the expressed intent and direction of the City Council to the City Manager, Assistant City Managers, City Secretary, and all appropriate City staff in the City's Financial Services and Administrative Services Departments that should any member of the City Council fails to adhere to and comply with the requirements of this policy, that all of the following actions shall be immediately implemented:

- 1) Cease and suspend all requests for reimbursement of City-related business expenses, and
- 2) Cease and suspend all requests for mileage reimbursement for City-related business use of personal vehicle.

The above action steps shall be enforced equally by the City Manager and City staff for all members of the City Council and shall remain in effect until the City Council member comes into full compliance with the requirements of the City's Policy for Members of City Council Regarding Request for Reimbursement of City Business Expenses.

The City Manager nor any member of the City staff has been authorized or given the expressed or implied authority under this policy to make any exceptions to any of the requirements of this policy as adopted by the City Council under this Ordinance.

15. Exhibits

- 1) Travel Expense Claim/Report Form - For Use by Members of City Council
- 2) Request for Expense Reimbursement Form - For City Related Business Expense Incurred by Member of City Council
- 3) Request for Mileage Reimbursement Form - For Use of Personal Vehicle by Member of City Council for City Business
- 4) Monthly Expense Reconciliation Form – for use by Members of City Council

16. City Council Authorization

The above guidelines and policy requirements of the City's Policy for City Council Members Regarding the Reimbursement of City Business Expenses were considered, approved, adopted, and amended by a majority vote of the City Council when adopting the City Ordinance.