



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 4.1

DATE: January 12, 2026
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brent Smith, Community Development Director
SUBJECT: Confirmation of City Historian Appointment and administration of the oath of office.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Historic Preservation Commission and staff recommend the City Council appoint Jeff Kaskey as City Historian to an unexpired term ending February 1, 2026, and a regular term ending on February 1, 2028, and direct the City Clerk to administer the oath of office.

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

The City Council created the City Historian position in 2005 (Attachment 1) to increase the public's awareness of Livermore's history. The City Historian is appointed to a two-year term, and the current term expires on February 1, 2026. The Historic Preservation Commission interviewed candidates for the position and based on his experience, recommends Jeff Kaskey be appointed as Livermore's City Historian.

DISCUSSION

Background

The City Council created the City Historian position in 2005 to increase the public's awareness of Livermore's history (Attachment 1). Responsibilities of the City Historian include providing historical presentations, developing educational programs, and supporting the Historic Preservation Commission and local historical society (today known as the Heritage Guild). The City Historian is appointed by the City Council, after Historic Preservation Commission recommendation, to a two-year term. There are no term limits for this position. The current term expires February 1, 2026, and is currently vacant. The City Clerk's Office held a recruitment period for a new City Historian that closed on November 14, 2025, and staff received one eligible application (Attachment 2).

Review Process and Recommendation

On December 4, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission (Commission) interviewed the candidate at a public meeting, taking into account the applicant's credentials, the requirements of the City Historian position, and public comment (staff report and meeting minutes are attached as Attachments 3 and 4). The Commission determined Jeff Kaskey is a qualified applicant to fill the City Historian vacancy given his experience, including previously serving as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and as President of the Livermore Heritage Guild, leading Livermore's Downtown History Tour, and presenting lectures of Livermore's History through the Then and Now series at the library.

For these reasons, the Historic Preservation Commission and staff recommend the City Council appoint Jeff Kaskey as Livermore's City Historian to an unexpired term ending February 1, 2026, and a regular term ending February 1, 2028.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

There are no fiscal or administrative impacts for the City Historian nomination since the position is voluntary, without compensation. The City Historian conducts historical research for the Community Development Department, saving staff time and resources.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

5: A City That Works

GOAL

2: Engage effectively with the City's advisory bodies

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution Establishing City Historian Position
2. Application - Kaskey
3. Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report
4. 12.4.25 - Draft Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Prepared by: Emily LaDue
Assistant Planner

Approved by:



Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:



Tina Olson
Administrative Services Director