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Former city manager gets 'last' check

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Hanson paid for 40 hours; more money still to come
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The Desert Sun

Though he hasn't been completely cashed out, former Desert Hot Springs City Manager Jerry Hanson received his last paycheck from the city Thursday.

For 40 hours of work, Hanson earned a gross \$5,035.03 but netted \$4,104.60, Finance Director Linda Kelly said.

Hanson also received separate checks of \$500 for his July auto allowance, \$291 for gas allowance and \$578.50 for his life insurance premium, Kelly said.

Interim City Manager Corky Larson said Hanson turned in his keys to City Hall in the late afternoon Thursday.

"He dropped off all his equipment and was given a receipt," Larson said.

Larson said his final check hasn't been cut yet. The calculations are not yet complete.

But, according to Hanson's previous contracts, his final payouts should include a \$40,000 "golden handshake" in the form of contribution to the CalPERS retirement fund, and any remaining balances from his nine rolled-over employment contracts.

Those balances could include more than 500 consultant contract hours at a rate of at least \$125 an hour, an unknown number of vacation/sick hours, an unknown number of months of car allowance, gasoline allowance, health-care and life insurance premiums and any retroactive pay increases or deferred compensation.

If the city's final settlement with Hanson just includes the \$40,000 "golden handshake" payment and the 500 contract hours, it will total about \$102,500.

But the actual amount could be much higher, depending on the other benefit payments he is due.

Larson did not know when the final check will be cut.

Mayor Matt Weyuker was on vacation and could not be reached for comment. Council members Mary Stephens, Hank Hohenstein and Gary Bosworth did not return calls requesting comment.

Hanson enacted his retirement July 31, saying heavy media scrutiny was making him a polarizing force within the city.

In March, the city confirmed that Hanson netted \$322,809 in 2004, including a cashed-out severance package for a year's salary, even though he was not leaving the city.

Since, Hanson has made headlines as more details of his employment contracts approved by the City Council began