Solution:

The preferred dividend could be calculated as follows:

$$Preferred\ Dividend = 0.06 \times \$10 \times 54,749 = \$32,849.4$$

The common dividend could be calculated as follows:

$$Common\ Dividend = \$0.08 \times 1,520,320 = \$121,625.6$$

Thus, the journal entries are as follows:

JOURNAL ENTRIES FOR DECLARATION & PAYMENT (in $)			
Date	Particulars	Debit	Credit
	Dividends Expense	154,475	
	To Dividends Payable		154,475
	(Being declaration of dividends)		
	Common Dividends Payable	154,475	
	To Cash		154,475
	(Being distribution of dividends paid)		

Let us now calculate the net retained earnings of 2018.

The net retained earnings could be calculated as follows:

$$Ending\ Retained\ Earnings = Beginning + Income - Dividends$$

$$= \$2,463,951 + \$500,000 - \$154,475 = \$2,809,476$$

Thus, the ending balance for Retained Earnings for 2018 is $2,809,476.