



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

Evidentiary Hearing

SUMMARY

Public Hearing

Redistricting Commission Recommendation

Monday, March 21, 2022

5 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Reed, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, M. Ventura in person - J. Cepeda-Freytiz, J. Waltman virtually

OTHERS PRESENT:

M. Gombar, L. Kelleher, S. Smith, F. Lachat, M. Rodriguez, W. Stoudt

COMMISSION MEMBERS

B. Kell, L. Bellman, R. McLendon, P. Cianciosi in person – M. Golembiewski, T. Shade and W. Bealer virtually

Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz called the hearing to order at 5:03 pm. She stated that the purpose of this hearing is obtain public comment on the proposed recommendation from the Redistricting Commission.

I. Presentation on the Process Used by the Commission & Their Recommendation – Redistricting Commission

Mr. Kell explained the Commission's work over a four (4) month period to review the 2020 Census data on a precinct level to provide the best realignment that would create population neutrality while considering the precincts natural boundaries, neighborhood cohesiveness and reduced electorate disruption. He stated that the Federal and State requirement prevent splitting precincts.

After reviewing a number of potential precinct shifts, the group settled on three (3) potential recommendations - two moving precincts into different Council districts and the third retained the current Council districts. After careful consideration, including visiting the areas where change was considered, the group voted to approve the recommendation that improves

population neutrality and minimizes the disruption of the electorate by moving precinct 5-1 from District 6 to District 1.

III. Public Comment (No More than 3 minutes per speaker)

Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz inquired if anyone was registered to provide comment. Ms. Kelleher stated that no one registered and that the only members of the public present are the Commission members. No one present indicated the need to address Council.

VI. Council Comment

Ms. Reed thanked the Commission members for their hard work to find a reasonable solution and their service to the community. She noted that the Federal and State governments should work this well. She thanked Mr. Golembiewski for once again assisting the Commission with the process and the census data.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed and she thanked the Commission for this well balanced recommendation.

Mr. Waltman thanked the Commission for their work with the grassroots census data to improve the population neutrality in the Council districts.

Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz thanked the Commission for their work and for the detailed recommendation provided.

Ms. Reed noted the widespread concern about the accuracy of the 2020 Census. She questioned how to handle public information if egregious defects are discovered in the Census data. Mr. Golembiewski explained that the published Census results were used by the Commission to address the redistricting of the Council districts. Moving forward any adjustments to that data are only considered estimates and will not affect the precincts or the districts.

Ms. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Ventura, to adjourn the hearing at approximately 5:18 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC, City Clerk*