

The Strategic Planning Meeting Monday, May 15, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:12 P.M.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 MINUTES

Mitchell moved to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2023 Strategic Planning meeting as circulated, Cerra seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

1. The matter of ward redistricting: ward boundaries required for small population- balancing changes.

President Stewart called Community Development Director Ashley Scott to share the business of the meeting. Director Scott explained that after each recurring federal census the city is required to analyze and redraw ward boundaries pursuant to the results of the census. Community Development and the consultant attended a previous strategic planning meeting and provided the committee with initial results as well as some potential draft options. The website has been available for review of the options presented. Director Scott explained the goal for the meeting was to bring the options before the committee for review once more, so that request for consideration could be made at the next strategic planning meeting. Director Scott re-introduced Doug Johnson, hired consultant that has worked on preparing data reports and mapping tools. Mr. Johnson has identified four possible solutions for boundary balancing. The changes proposed are minimal. Mr. Johnson provided a quick refresher to the census data rules so there could be at most a ten difference between the largest and smallest council wards. The maps presented provided each ward number, the 2020 census population and the current percentage of the ward and if it is either above or below the target population of 7,522. Wards two and six reflect more than five percent under that target number. Ward one is under by about 3.3 percent. Wards three and five are the largest at 4.5 and 4.79 percent. In an effort to be in compliance with federal law, there needs to be a balance between the largest and smallest wards within ten percent. To comply with the law, wards two and six will need to pick up a little territory and ward five will need to shrink. Changes made amongst those three wards, will place the wards in balance. Another option Mr. Johnson provided was to trade population with wards one and three. Ward one would pick up some of ward three population. The wards would be closer to balance and the likelihood of ten years from now, they would still be balanced. Wards two, five and six changes are needed, however wards one and three are optional. Wards four and seven are fine, and no changes are needed. The percentage over for the two wards are 2.9 and 2.6 percent.

Two options have been presented that are labeled A and B (maps provided). Map A1 west of City Hall, from West Ave. to the river, below the railroad tracks would move into ward six and provide the desired population number. North of the railroad to the river in ward five, would move into ward two and provide the balance needed for wards two and five. Mr. Johnson provided option B which would propose moving the area from the river over to the railroad and Third Street all into ward six. The change would make ward six too big and ward two would be short. Ward two would need to pick up two blocks south of the freeway. The proposed change

for the Eastern side of town was draft map B2. The area is near The Abbewood community, changes proposed would move territory from current ward three into ward one. The change would balance wards one and three. No action was being requested at the meeting. Council member Cerra asked for confirmation of the time frame of changes being the conclusion of the 2020 census. Mr. Johnson confirmed that is correct. Although ward changes have happened since the 2020 census, the federal government only requires a balance according to the census data. Council member Schneider expressed that he believes consideration for wards one and three is of importance considering the wards growth since the 2020 census. Council member Lipian asked Council member Corbin his thoughts.

Council member Corbin expressed he reviewed all of the maps and he would have no issue with any of the proposed changes.

Director Scott encouraged the council members to take a look at the proposed changes and shared that she and Mr. Johnson would be available to answer any questions that anyone may have. President Stewart expressed his appreciation to Mr. Johnson for traveling from California twice to present the information to the members.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Lipian seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

RLP/