

NORMAN REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

August 17, 2011

The Reapportionment Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma met in the City Council Chambers of the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Item No. 1, being:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cheryl Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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Item No. 2, being:

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Morgan
James Sheffield
Phoebe Schmitz
Jonathan Leavey
Lea Greenleaf
Ted Metscher
Chadwick Cox
Cheryl Clayton
Karl Jahnke

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

A quorum was present.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Doug Koscinski, Manager of Current
Planning
Joyce Green, GIS Services Manager
Wayne Stenis, Planner II
Roné Tromble, Administrative Technician

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Item No. 3, being:

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN

Chair Clayton announced that every ten years, when the census comes out, the Reapportionment Commission is required to adjust the ward boundaries so that they are as equal as possible in population. The goal, by Charter, is to form compact, contiguous territory with boundaries drawn to reflect and respond to communities of common interest, ethnic background, and physical boundaries, to the extent reasonably possible. She went through the PowerPoint presentation. The first slide showed the proposed ward boundaries. The next slide showed the ward population and the deviation from the mean with the current ward boundaries and with the proposed boundaries; the current deviation is 27.44% and the proposed boundaries would result in a deviation of 7.3%. The next slide was a map of the existing wards. The following eight slides illustrated the changes to each ward, with areas added and subtracted from each.

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Item No. 4, being:

CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED REDISTRICTING OF CITY WARDS

Lea Greenleaf moved to hold a public hearing on the proposed redistricting of City Wards. Ted Metscher seconded the motion. There being no discussion or objection, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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Item No. 5, being:

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN

1. Leonard Youngblood – I live in Ward 8. I missed the opening. What is the onus for this? Now, is this something that you're going to forge this ahead, because, if so, I have other things to do, or is this something that you really will consider?

Ms. Clayton explained that the Commission is a recommending body and makes a recommendation to the City Council. After this public hearing, the Commission will meet again to consider comments that were received at this hearing.

Mr. Youngblood – My biggest concern is that area that is just south of Robinson and 36th down to the mall area. You're removing it from Ward 8 and giving it to 3. You're basically putting that section, which is very well-matched economically with the rest of the ward, with basically the Brookhaven Bunch. I think that is a disconnection. The folks that live there don't really match up well with the people across the street. It's my recommendation you leave that part alone. That's the mall area. I would really like for that one to stay. If you want to move this other stuff around, I suppose. But that one I really think it would not serve that Precinct 71 well to move it to 3.

Mr. Sheffield asked Mr. Youngblood to explain his reasoning.

Mr. Youngblood – I have no problem explaining it. How many of you all live in Ward 8? It is my opinion that the lifestyle of that particular area matches well to the rest of the ward. That area, I think, fits very well with the economic match of families there in that area. If you put that into 3, you basically bunch them into the Brookhaven Bunch and I don't really think that they spend a lot of time with each other. I ran for City Council a year ago and I went into that area and this is something I discussed about this. The size of the homes and the value of the homes match much better to the Dove Crossing area than it would the town homes across the street.

Mr. Greenleaf commented that each of the members of the Commission represents one of the wards. He asked if Mr. Youngblood feels that the representation of the Council member would not serve the interests of this area.

Mr. Youngblood – We have no representation. I live in Precinct 76. I've been there for 27 years. I think that is a very critical area for Ward 8.

Chair Clayton asked if anyone else wanted to address the Commission. There was no indication from anyone in the audience that they wished to speak.

Lea Greenleaf moved to close the public hearing. Chadwick Cox seconded the motion. There being no discussion or objection, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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Chair Clayton announced that the next meeting of the Reapportionment Commission will be on Monday, August 29, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the South Conference Room of Building A to consider the comments from this public hearing.

Item No. 6, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further discussion and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Passed and approved this 29 day of August, 2011.


Norman Reapportionment Commission