



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

3:30 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Nye (early departure)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID 19 pandemic confirmed by Res. No. 2020 R025, adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2 3708.2(A)(3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on February 17, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff, provided Council with an overview of recent action taken regarding the Richmond Decennial Voter District Redistricting process, and she informed members of the decisions necessary from members regarding the review and selection of potential redistricting maps.

Review of Richmond Decennial Voter District Redistricting Demonstration Maps

Keith Balmer, Voter Registrar; Gerry Hebert, Outside Redistricting Attorney; and Kristen Lango, NCEC Services, Mapping Experts, provided Council with a review of five redistricting demonstration maps created at previously held meetings, where public drawings of Richmond Voter District map options occurred. Mr. Balmer also provided Council with information regarding the requirement to cure split precincts, and how the precincts were cured on the demonstration maps.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

CD.2022.101 Demonstration Maps

Councilor Michael Jones stated his concerns with considering realigned Council Voter District demonstration maps prior to reviewing the demographic data that would be changed from the realignments.

Mr. Balmer proceeded with reviewing the five demonstration maps, and he informed members of changes made to each map to facilitate the need to increase the citizen population of the 3rd Voter District.

Vice President Ellen Robertson stated that she did not believe that the Manchester neighborhood should be moved from the 6th Voter District to the 5th Voter District, as displayed in demonstration map four, because the 5th Voter District did not require any population changes. Vice President Robertson noted that she did believe that a new second voter precinct was appropriate for the Manchester neighborhood, due to the recent increase of population in the Manchester area.

Mr. Balmer confirmed that a second precinct would be necessary if the Manchester neighborhood remained in the 6th Voter District.

Mr. Balmer provided Council with a review of demonstration map five, and noted that the main difference from other maps was the decision to establish Main Street as the dividing line between the 2nd Voter District and the 5th Voter District.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated that she supported the concept of a map establishing Main Street as the dividing line between the 2nd and 5th Voter Districts. Councilor Jordan also stated that she received supportive feedback from the residents that would be impacted by the change.

Determining and Decision for Map Plan Introduction

Vice President Ellen Robertson stated her preference for demonstration map two.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert confirmed that all demonstration maps addressed the need to cure a split precinct in the Carver neighborhood.

President Cynthia Newbille and Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert also stated their preference for demonstration map two.

Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired if portions of demonstration map five, specifically the establishment of Main Street as a dividing line between the 2nd and 5th Voter Districts, could be incorporated into demonstration map two.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated her support for demonstration map two.

Gerry Hebert confirmed that it was possible to include portions of demonstration map five within other demonstration maps. Mr. Hebert also stated that once Council narrows its review and identifies certain demonstration maps to be included in forthcoming legislation, then the demographic data of the citizens and neighborhoods impacted by proposed district changes could be reviewed by Council.

Vice President Robertson stated she supported Councilor Jordan's suggestion of including portions of demonstration map five within demonstration map two.

Councilor Kristen Nye left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Mr. Hebert provided Council with demographic data relative to the five demonstration maps. Mr. Hebert informed Council that the proposed redistricting displayed in the five demonstration maps, preserved that five of the nine Council Voter Districts contained a Black majority of citizenship.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

CD.2022.083 Demographic Statistics

President Cynthia Newbille confirmed that it was the consensus of Council to proceed with including demonstration map two in forthcoming Richmond Decennial Voter District Redistricting legislation to be considered by Council. President Newbille also informed members that an amended version of demonstration map two, that incorporated portions of demonstration map five, would also be included in forthcoming legislation.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Next Steps of Redistricting Process

Gerry Hebert provided Council with next steps regarding the introduction of Richmond Decennial Voter District Redistricting legislation and future opportunities for the public to provide input through public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

CITY CLERK