

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6:00 P.M., MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011

PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM

ROOM 357, CITY HALL

---

*MEMBERS PRESENT:* Mayor Allen Joines  
Council Member Molly Leight  
Council Member Robert C. Clark  
Council Member Dan Besse  
Council Member Derwin L. Montgomery  
Council Member Vivian H. Burke  
Council Member Denise D. Adams  
Council Member Wanda Merschel  
Council Member James Taylor, Jr.

*STAFF PRESENT:* Lee D. Garrity, City Manager  
Derwick L. Paige, Deputy City Manager  
Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works  
Martha Wheelock, Assistant City Manager  
Angela I. Carmon, City Attorney  
Denise Bell, Chief Financial Officer  
Paul Norby, City/County Planning Director  
Lynn Ruscher, GIS Principal Planner  
Renée L. Phillips, City Secretary  
Erin L. Hudson, Senior Administrative Council Clerk

*OTHERS PRESENT:* Laura Graff, Winston-Salem Journal

Mayor Joines called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Norby for a brief overview on the proposed ward realignment.

#### 1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT WARD REALIGNMENT PROPOSAL REQUIRED IN RESPONSE TO 2010 CENSUS RESULTS.

Mr. Norby stated that the U.S. Census Bureau reported a population of 229,617 citizens in Winston-Salem as of 2010, which is a 23.6% growth rate over the past decade. In the spring, staff received a breakdown by block to provide necessary information for redistricting, which Planning staff broke down within ward boundaries and found some areas with higher population growth. Mr. Norby also stated the ideal ward population is 28,702, and the deviation between the lowest and highest populated wards is 17.6%. The two lowest populated wards were the Northeast and West, with the

Northwest and East wards being the highest populated. Mr. Norby further stated that Ms. Ruscher worked with GIS software to adjust the City's boundaries and attempted to bring each ward within an acceptable range. Staff plotted the location of each Council Member's home, and tried to adjust the map while keeping the downtown core area in mind.

The proposed realignment is balanced between the wards to within 1.8%. The racial makeup of the City is now at 51.2% white, 34.7% African-American, 2% Asian and 12.1% other, while 14.7% of respondents indicated they were of Hispanic ethnicity. In the proposed realignment, the West, Northwest, Southwest and South wards will have a majority white population, the Northeast and East wards will have a majority African-American population, and while the North and Southeast wards have no majority, the highest plurality is African-American. Four wards will now define the downtown core area: the East, North, Northwest and South wards, with the Northeast, and Southwest wards coming within one-half mile of the boundary of the core area.

- Council Member Clark questioned how many people are in a census block.
- Ms. Ruscher stated census blocks have no defined limit and could account for zero or several thousand people.
- Council Member Besse made a motion to approve the proposed ward realignment and to set the public hearing date for October. 17. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Burke.
- Council Member Besse noted this proposal is significant in that no large changes are being made to ward lines so as to minimize confusion, it maintains ward diversity, it does not move backward in terms of voting rights, it keeps the population balanced, and maintains an effort to ensure each Council Member is representing urban and suburban neighborhoods.
- Council Member Burke noted that the City is unique and has a lot of diversity.
- Council Member Merschel noted that neighborhoods are being kept intact, and no established neighborhoods will be switching wards.
- Council Member Leight questioned how precincts are set.
- Mr. Norby stated the County Board of Elections sets precinct boundaries, and while there have been split precincts for some time, the Board of Elections Director has mentioned an interest in this redistricting as there will possibly be some realignment of precinct boundaries in the near future, and this may be used as a guide. He also stated it can be hard to clarify who votes in what precinct for which ward, as it is not a requirement that precincts and wards align.
- Council Member Taylor stated that in the past, some of the neighborhoods in the Southeast ward were divided and he is happy that the ward is now united and the most diverse.
- Council Member Burke noted that the Northeast ward once had a large geographical area, while the population was not, but development moved into the ward and it is now well-structured.
- The motion for approval carried unanimously.
- Mr. Garrity noted that a resolution would be forthcoming in the Council Members packets, and staff will advertise the public hearing in the Winston-Salem Chronicle on Thursday and the Winston-Salem Journal on Friday. The ad will be one-quarter page with a map and a link to the City's website. Staff will provide data tables for City Link to inform callers requesting

to know if their ward is changing. If approved on October 17, every household and business will be notified of their new ward and receive promotion of the City's new 311 service.

- Council Member Burke made a motion to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Taylor and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:16 p.m.