



Recommending Committee Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS ANTHONY and FIORE

EXCUSED: COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN

ALSO PRESENT: CHIEF OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TOM PERRIGO, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROČAK, CITY CLERK LUANN D. HOLMES and DEPUTY CITY CLERK GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Bill No. 2021-37 - For possible action - Annexation No. 21-0539-ANX1 - Property location: Southeast corner of Buffalo Drive and Alexander Road; Petitioned by: Black Diamond Holdings, LLC; Acreage: 0.87 acres; Zoned: R-E (County zoning), R-E (City equivalent). Sponsored by: Councilman Stavros S. Anthony

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing open.

PETER LOWENSTEIN, Deputy Planning Director, advised that this matter is in order and verified for COUNCILMAN ANTHONY that the annexation pertains to a voluntary request.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing closed and announced after the vote that this bill is eligible for adoption at the City Council meeting of December 15, 2021.

Motion made by Michele Fiore to Approve as Do Pass

Passed For: 2; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Michele Fiore, Stavros Anthony; Excused-Brian Knudsen;

4. Bill No. 2021-38 - For possible action - Adjusts the ward boundaries of the City in accordance with a redistricting plan and to reflect precinct adjustments made by the Clark County Election Department, as a result of annexations or otherwise. Proposed by: Bryan K. Scott, City Attorney

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing open.

CITY ATTORNEY BRYAN SCOTT thanked the Councilmembers, JUDGE FREDERICK P. KESSLER, CITY MANAGER JORGE CERVANTES and CHIEF OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TOM PERRIGO for taking the time to work with him to get the redistricting process completed in an abnormally abbreviated timeframe of four months instead of the normal one-year period. He explained that the delay in the release of the United States Census 2020 results, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, caused the rush. This proposed bill, if approved, will be considered for adoption by the City Council at its meeting of December 1, 2021.

MR. SCOTT referred to the current and proposed ward maps displayed on easels and using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which submitted for the record, he detailed the process. Redistricting is required under the City of Las Vegas Charter's Section 1.1130 (2) once the population in one of the wards exceeds the population of any other ward by 5 percent. The difference in population between Ward 6, which is rapidly growing, and Ward 3, which has the least growth, is 31.9 percent. The proposed redistricting map reflects a 4.7 percent differential. The ward boundary changes must be established and amended by ordinance. The wards must be as nearly equal in population, and the territory comprising each ward must be contiguous. He noted that Wards 4 and 6 have the least population in the proposed map to accommodate future growth, and Ward 6 will lose approximately 25,000 citizens as part of this process.

With the City of Las Vegas being one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the United States, Hispanics (33.3 percent) make up the biggest portion of the City's population compared to other ethnic groups.

MR. SCOTT said that thanks to RICHARD WASSMUTH, Statistical Analyst, the redistricting data, which was made available on August 16, 2021, was quickly used to create Geographic Information System files to allow the data to be viewed in the existing ward format to get the process completed in order to meet the January 2022 judicial deadline. He noted the City's population is 641,903, with an average population of approximately 107,000 per ward to comply with the City's Charter.

Meetings were held with each of the Councilmembers, the citizenry and stakeholders to determine the population for each ward. In contemplating redistricting, they considered the differential in population per ward, left the wards intact as much as possible, left communities of interest together, considered the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits racial discrimination in voting, retained election precincts and Councilmembers in their wards and considered race, ethnicity and voting ages of the residents within the wards.

In an effort to make the process as transparent as possible, the current and proposed redistricting maps were made available online and interested groups were supplied with maps in advance of the public viewing held on October 28, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He met with each Councilmember to discuss important issues, and he had copies of maps hand delivered to the list of groups he submitted for the record. MR. SCOTT also submitted a copy of the sign-in sheet from the public viewing, which was advertised in the newspaper on three dates. He indicated that he did not receive any negative feedback.

MR. SCOTT briefly reviewed the boundaries on the maps and mentioned that balancing the population of the wards ensures representation, better provision of services and equal weight to each vote. He noted that the redistricting process does not cause an increase in property taxes. He said the item is in order and requested approval.

For COUNCILMAN ANTHONY, MR. SCOTT explained that should this body approve this bill, it will be eligible for adoption at the City Council meeting of December 1, 2021, and will become effective December 5, 2021. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE expressed concern about having the information to adjust her mailing list for her Ward 6 newsletter. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY asked that the details of the Councilmembers being able to notify their new constituents of the change be taken care of by the following week. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE said it would be a good idea for the City to send out introduction letters for each ward. MR. SCOTT said that could be costly. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE and COUNCILMAN ANTHONY said it would be money well spent to inform the citizens of the change. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE was sure she could raise the funding to cover the cost for Ward 6. MR. PERRIGO assured the Councilmembers that he would confer with CITY MANAGER JORGE CERVANTES on the best way to communicate the change to the constituents and follow up with the Councilmembers about it at the Council meeting of December 1, 2021.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY praised MR. WASSMUTH for his expeditious work. He asked when the next redistricting process would take place, given that Wards 2 and 6 will be expanding to the west and north,

respectively. MR. SCOTT said the redistricting process is done every ten years or is triggered by a 5 percent population differential in wards. MR. PERRIGO explained that since he has been with the City, redistricting has taken place once because of a huge differential in a non-Census year. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY confirmed that no negative responses were received. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE interjected that staff went above and beyond in notifying people.

LEX ANDERSON, representing NARA (Northwest Area Residents Association), read and submitted his comments, along with a partial Ward 6 map, for the record, and he requested incorporation of precincts 2044, 2709 and 2037 into Ward 6 for rural preservation purposes. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE said she would review the request.

ALLEN BIGELOW, Ward 2 resident, commended the work performance in getting the maps ready, but he was concerned about the quick turnaround and felt that more time should be allowed for the public's sake. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE noted that the redistricting lines are very fair. MR. SCOTT conceded the process was rushed, but reiterated that it was due to the Census results being made available so late. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE observed that government moves fast when it wants to.

JUDGE FREDERICK P. KESSLER, former judge of Wisconsin, said he has been involved with redistricting for Las Vegas on six occasions. He endorsed the maps and noted that prisoners in Nevada will not count. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY expressed his appreciation to MR. KESSLER.

MR. SCOTT said he had a breakdown of incarcerated persons. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE verified with MR. SCOTT that only felons cannot vote, and MR. SCOTT added that felons cannot vote unless they have had their rights reinstated. He provided a breakdown by ward of prisoners from the list he submitted for the record, totaling 1,839.

See Item 5 for related discussion.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing closed and announced after the vote that this bill is eligible for adoption at the City Council meeting of December 1, 2021.

Motion made by Michele Fiore to Approve as Do Pass

Passed For: 2; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Michele Fiore, Stavros Anthony; Excused-Brian Knudsen;

5. Citizens Participation: Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee. No subject may be acted upon by the Committee unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come to the podium and give your name and correct spelling for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

COUNCILWOMAN FIORE expressed her appreciation to those who participated in the redistricting process.

6. Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov