

CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM

AGENDA

City Council, Norman Utilities Authority, Norman Municipal Authority, And Norman Tax Increment Finance Authority

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, retaliation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA ITEMS

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES FROM THE REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Motion to close the public hearing.

2. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION RETAINING OR ADJUSTING CURRENT WARD BOUNDARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA IN THE CHARTER AND AS SET FORTH IN U.S. SUPREME COURT AND OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT JURISPRUDENCE.

ADJOURNMENT

Reapportionment Public Hearing

November 16, 2021



Legal Framework Governing Reapportionment

Criteria and Process

- City Charter
- 14th Amendment of the US Constitution
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- Oklahoma State Law
- Various Federal Court Cases

Reapportionment Criteria

- **Equalize population (total deviation range of 10%)**
- Draw compact and contiguous wards as possible
- Maintain communities of interest where possible
- Use easily recognized physical boundaries
- Do not split precincts where possible (*precincts may change once the State and County complete reapportionment*)

Reapportionment Process to Date

- January 2021 – City Council Appointed Reapportionment AD Hoc Committee
- August 12, 2021 – Census Bureau Released Redistricting Population Data
- September 2, 2021 – Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee Regular Meeting
- September 8, 2021 – Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee Regular Meeting
- September 27, 2021 – Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee Public Hearing
- October 21, 2021 – Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee Regular Meeting
- November 16, 2021 – City Council Special Session with Public Hearing

Reapportionment Process – Upcoming

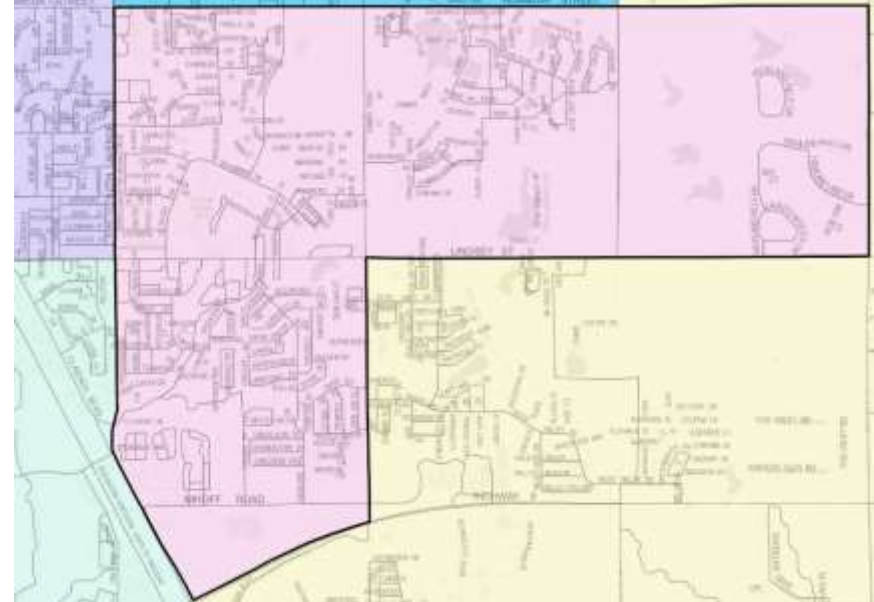
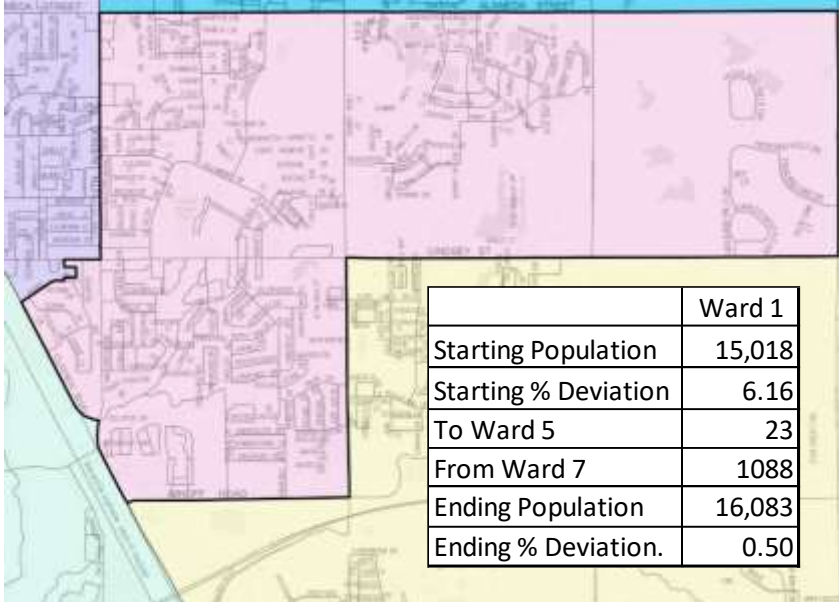
- December 14, 2021 – City Council First Reading of Ordinance
- January 11, 2022 – City Council Second and Final Reading of Ordinance
 - State law requires we publish notice of Council's consideration at least 30 days in advance
- February 10, 2022 – Ordinance adopting boundaries goes into effect – will not impact current terms or the 2022 Council elections.

Wards 1

Item 1.

Proposed

Current



Ward 2

Proposed



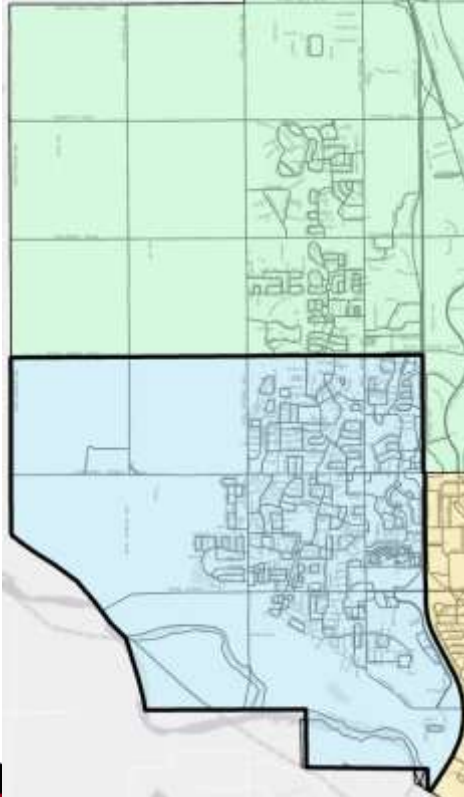
	Ward 2
Starting Population	14,845
Starting % Deviation	-7.24
From Ward 8	1912
Ending Population	16,757
Ending % Deviation.	4.71

Current



Ward 3

Proposed



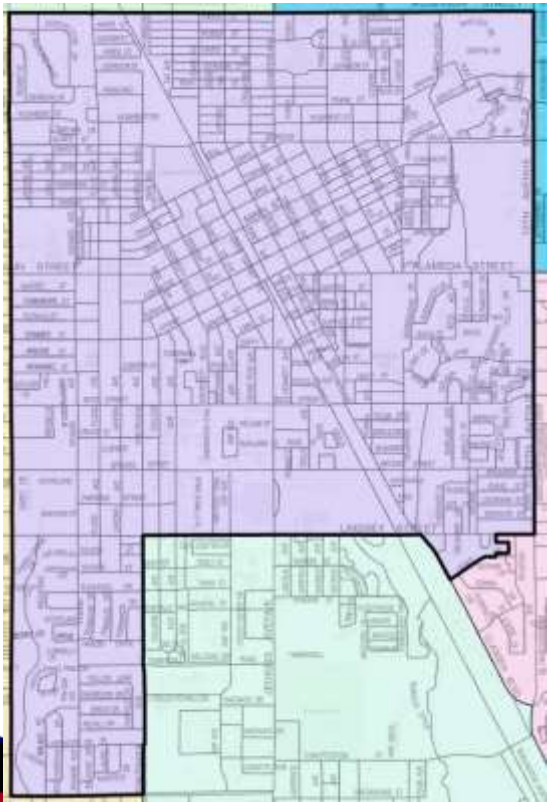
	Ward 3
Starting Population	14,824
Starting % Deviation	-7.37
To Ward 8	135
From Ward 8	2254
Ending Population	16,943
Ending % Deviation.	5.87

Current



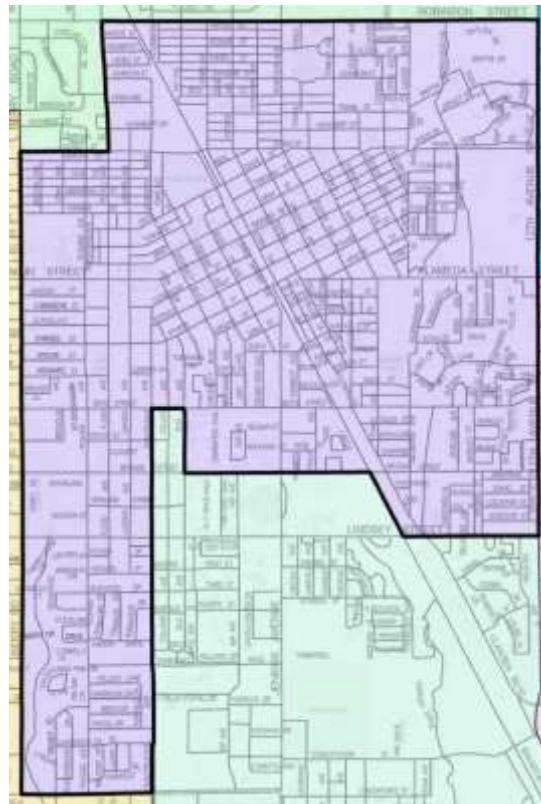
Ward 4

Proposed



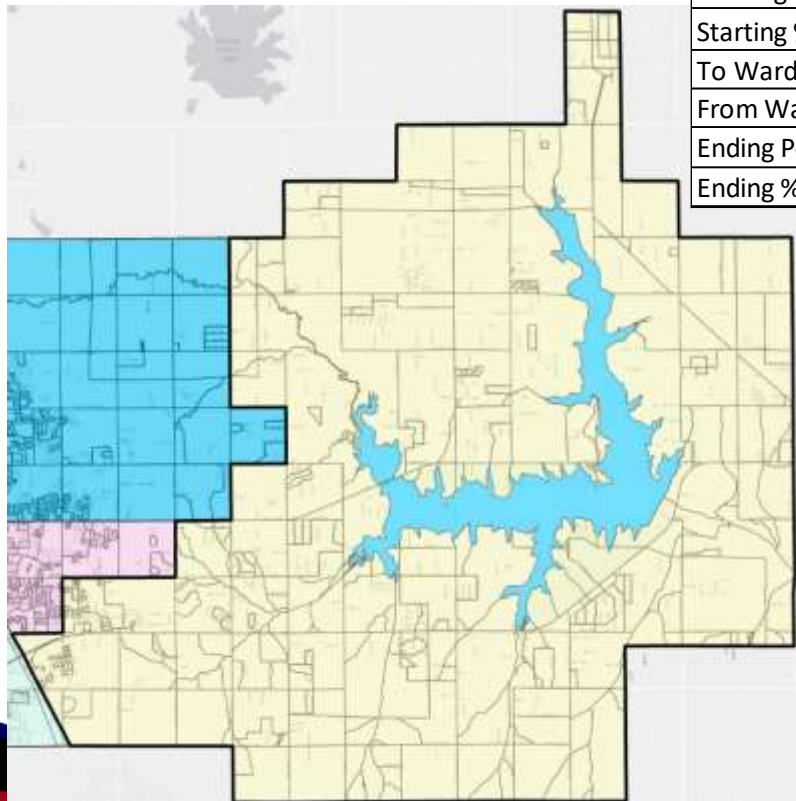
	Ward 4
Starting Population	14,129
Starting % Deviation	-11.71
From Ward 7	1154
From Ward 8	614
Ending Population	15,897
Ending % Deviation.	-0.66

Current



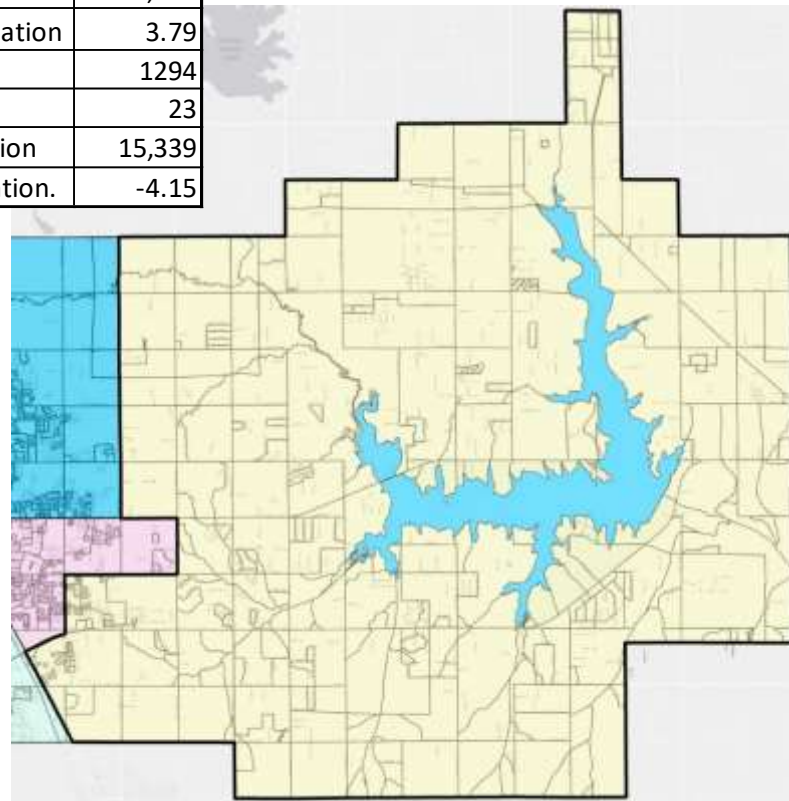
Ward 5

Proposed



	Ward 5
Starting Population	16,610
Starting % Deviation	3.79
To Ward 6	1294
From Ward 1	23
Ending Population	15,339
Ending % Deviation.	-4.15

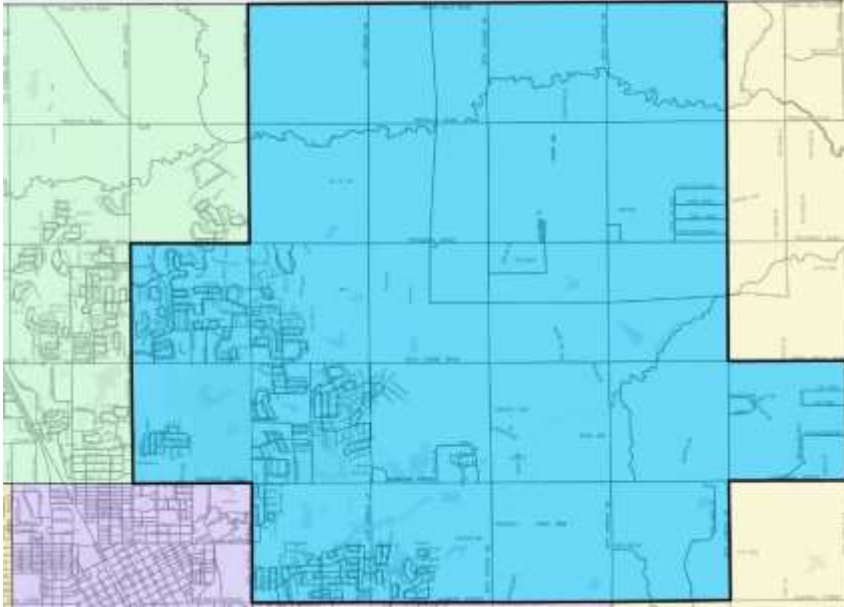
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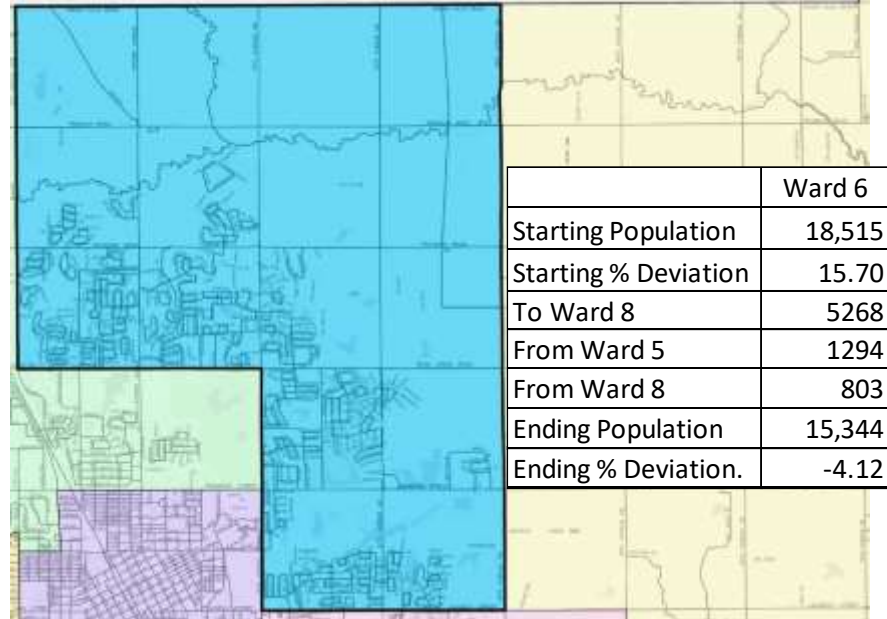
Ward 6

Item 1.

Proposed



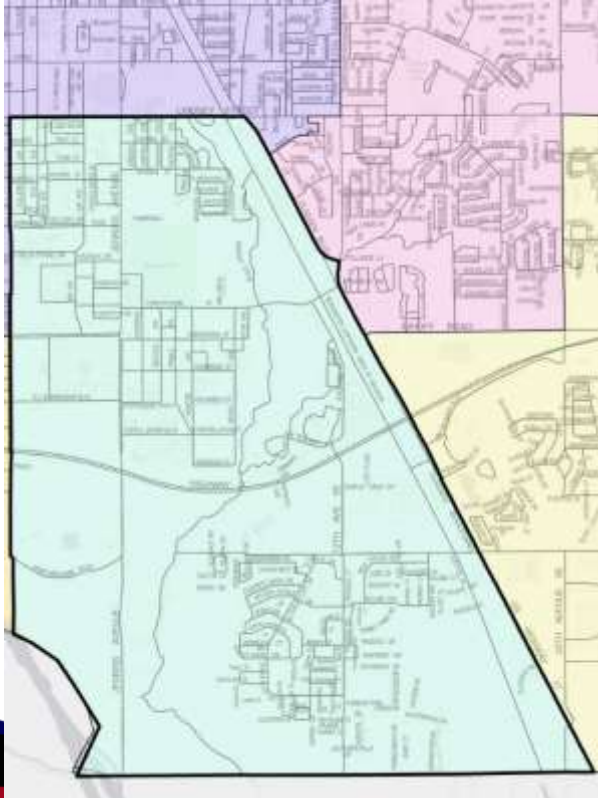
Current



Ward 7

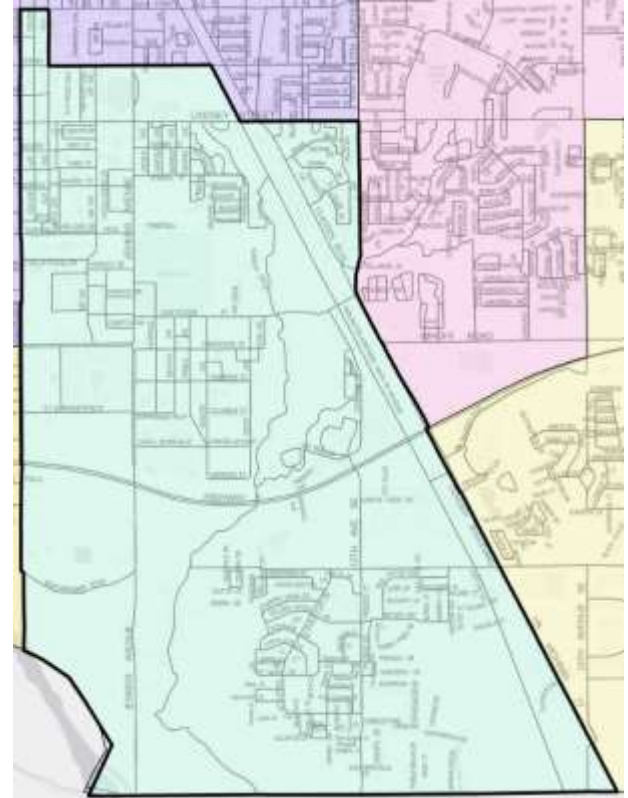
Item 1.

Proposed



	Ward 7
Starting Population	18,309
Starting % Deviation	14.41
To Ward 1	1088
To Ward 4	1154
Ending Population	16,067
Ending % Deviation.	0.40

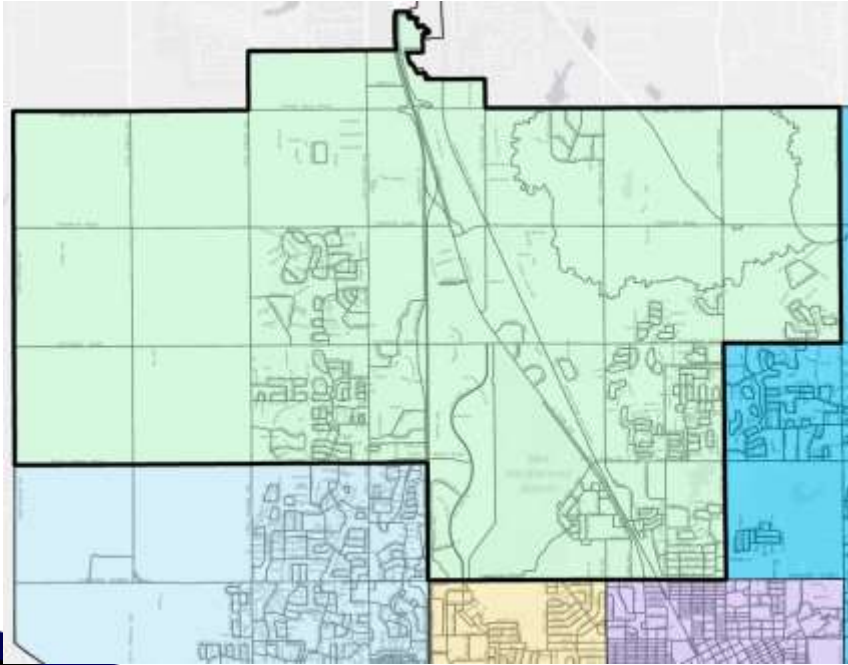
Current



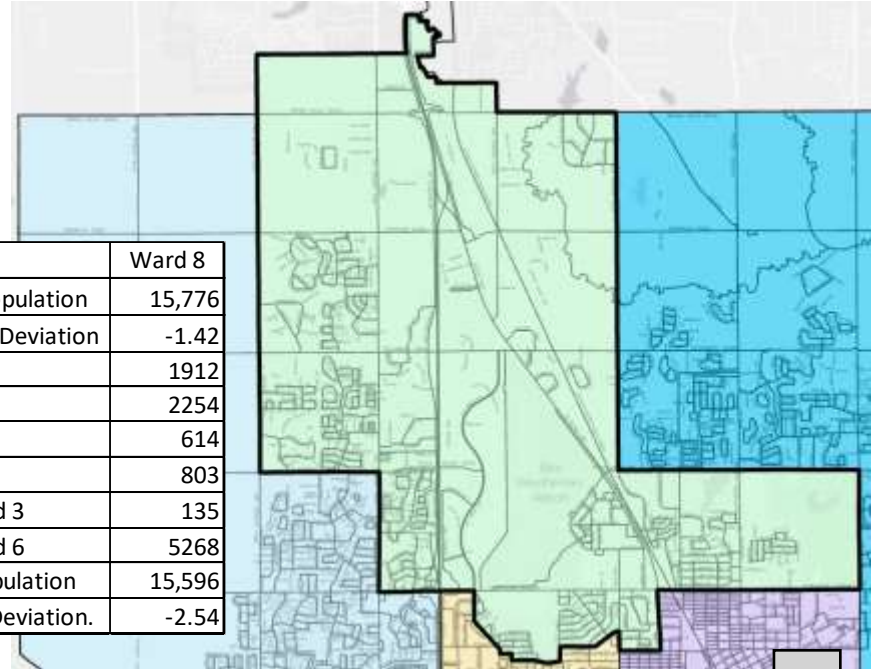
Ward 8

Item 1.

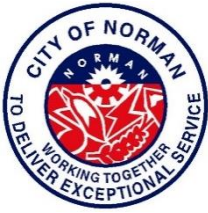
Proposed



Current



	Ward 8
Starting Population	15,776
Starting % Deviation	-1.42
To Ward 2	1912
To Ward 3	2254
To Ward 4	614
To Ward 6	803
From Ward 3	135
From Ward 6	5268
Ending Population	15,596
Ending % Deviation.	-2.54



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/16/2021

REQUESTER: Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee

PRESENTER:

ITEM TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES FROM THE REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION RETAINING OR ADJUSTING CURRENT WARD BOUNDARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER AND APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Motion to close the public hearing.

BACKGROUND:

Article XX, Section 3 of the City Charter requires that the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee pass and refer to the City Council a resolution equalizing the city's population among the City Council wards subsequent to the issuance of the Federal Decennial Census. Title 11, Section 20-101 of the Oklahoma Statutes requires municipal governing bodies to review the wards and ward boundaries as soon as practicable following each federal census. The Federal Decennial Census was conducted in 2020 and the data was issued in 2021 after a number of delays due to COVID-19. The Charter requires the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee to adopt a resolution that either recommends retention or adjustment of the wards and boundaries after its held a public hearing. Once the resolution is referred to Council, Council has 30 days to conduct its own public hearing on the proposed resolution and adopt the resolution without modification, reject the resolution, or adopt it with such modification as it deems necessary. If Council adopts a resolution changing the ward boundaries, such changes must also be adopted by ordinance and codified by the City. This will require a first, second and final reading of the ordinance, which will become effective 30 days following its adoption. State law (11 Okla. Stat. §20-103) requires that the governing body give at least 30 days' notice of the proposal by the governing body to change the boundaries of the wards. The notice must be published at least once and when the governing body considers the proposed changes by ordinance (second and final reading), it must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its members. Based on the current Council meeting schedule and the publication requirement, it is anticipated that the ordinance would come forward for first reading on December 14, 2021 and second and final reading on January 11, 2022, making it effective on February 10, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Article XX, Section 3 of the Charter sets forth the criteria for considering ward boundaries. It says

Wards should be formed so as to equalize, as nearly as practicable, the population of the several wards. In addition, each ward should be formed of 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. Ward lines shall not create artificial corridors which in effect separates voters from the ward to which they must naturally belong.

Similar standards for determining boundaries can be found across the country. The baseline standard by which reapportionment or redistricting is examined is commonly known as the “One Person, One Vote” standard. This arises out of the Equal Protection clause made applicable to state and local government through the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. “One Person, One Vote” is intended to protect the voters and the U.S. Supreme Court has used this principle to state that absolute population equality is the paramount objective of apportionment. The Court has said that when drawing wards, you can deviate from absolute population equality to accommodate traditional districting objectives, like maintaining communities of common interest and creating geographic compactness. As long as the maximum population deviation between the largest and smallest ward is less than 10%, the local ward map is presumed to comply with the “One Person, One Vote” standard.

At the time of the 2020 Census, the difference in population between the largest and smallest ward was 4386 persons, which is 27.41% of the mean ward population of 16,003. This range of population among the Council Wards after a Decennial Census necessitated the realignment of ward boundaries to equalize the number of citizens that each Councilmember represents. The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee held regular meetings on September 2, 2021 and September 8, 2021 to adjust the population among the wards. At the September 8, 2021 meeting, the Committee chose a plan to forward for public comment on September 27, 2021.

The proposed plan reduces the overall range from the mean ward population to 1,604 persons, which is 10.02% of the mean ward population of 16,003. All wards are modified by the proposal. This proposal could potentially affect ward-specific appointments to the Greenbelt Commission, the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee, and the Public Safety Sales Tax Citizen Oversight Committee. Existing ward-specific appointees will be allowed to finish their term before the new boundaries will be applied.

Twenty citizens either spoke or sent emails that were added to the record of the September 27, 2021 Public Hearing. Most voiced concerns about residents with a rural lifestyle in Ward 5 being placed in Ward 6 by the plan. On October 21, 2021, the Reapportionment Commission held a regular meeting, at which time the Commissioners voted to forward Resolution No. RAHCR-2122-1 to the City Council for consideration.

As stated above, after the public hearing before Council on the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendation, Council will have the option to adopt a resolution retaining the current ward boundaries, adjusting the boundaries as proposed by the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee, or adjusting the boundaries as Council deems fit. Staff will draft an ordinance based

on the boundaries selected by Council via resolution, and the ordinance will come forward for a final vote after notice has been published of such hearing and vote at least 30 days in advance.

RECOMMENDATION:

By a vote of 7 in favor and 2 opposed, the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Commission adopted Resolution RAHCR-2122-1 recommending ward boundary adjustments based on current Census Data. Retention of the current ward boundaries in effect now is not recommended due to the population deviation between the largest and smallest wards far exceeding 10%. Staff recommends Council either adopted a resolution adjusting the boundaries as proposed by the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Commission or as Council sees fit in accordance with the criteria in the Charter and as set forth in U.S. Supreme Court and Oklahoma Supreme Court jurisprudence.

RAHCR-2122-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE REAPPORTIONMENT
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, RECOMMENDING
THE READJUSTMENT OF THE WARDS AND
THEIR BOUNDARIES.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee of the City of Norman has met and recommended that the wards and their boundaries be formed so as to equalize as nearly as practicable the population of the several wards, to conform with the requirements of the Charter; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee on September 27, 2021 at the Norman Municipal Building for the purpose of eliciting public discussion on the proposed boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 3. That the City of Norman be reapportioned into eight (8) wards, one (1) through (8) respectively. The boundary lines are hereby described as follows and attached hereto is a map which is made a part of this resolution showing the wards and their boundaries.
- § 4. Ward One (1) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Alameda Street and 12th Avenue N.E.; thence East on Alameda Street to 48th Avenue N.E.; thence South on 48th Avenue N.E. to Lindsey Street; thence West on Lindsey Street to 24th Avenue S.E.; thence South on 24th Avenue S.E. to Imhoff Road; thence West on Imhoff Road to State Highway 77; thence Northwesterly on State Highway 77 to Classen Boulevard; thence Northwesterly on Classen Boulevard to Drake Drive; thence East on Drake Drive to Springfield Apartments parking lot; thence North through parking lot to Lindsey Street, thence East on Lindsey Street to 12th Avenue N.E., thence North on 12th Avenue N.E. to Alameda Street.

- § 5. Ward Two (2) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a the point where Interstate Highway 35 intersects the Southern boundary of the City; thence North on Interstate Highway 35 to Robinson Street; thence East on Robinson Street to Berry Road; thence South on Berry Road to Imhoff Road; thence East on Imhoff Road to Chautauqua Avenue; thence south on Chautauqua Avenue to the Southern City limits; thence Northwest along the Southern boundary of the City to that point which intersects Interstate Highway 35.

- § 6. Ward Three (3) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

That portion of the City West of a line beginning at a point where the South boundary of the City intersects with Interstate Highway 35; thence North on Interstate Highway 35 to Rock Creek Trail; thence West on Rock Creek Trail then Rock Creek Road the Wester City limits (72nd Avenue N.W.); thence South and East along the City Boundary to that point which intersects Interstate Highway 35.

- § 7. Ward Four (4) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Imhoff Road and Berry Road; thence North on Berry Road to Robinson Street; thence East on Robinson Street to 12th Avenue N.E.; thence South 12th Avenue N.E.to Lindsey Street; thence West on Lindsey Street to Springfield Apartments parking lot; thence South to Drake Drive; thence West on Drake Drive to Classen Boulevard; thence Northwesterly on Classen Boulevard to Lindsey Street; thence West on Lindsey Street to Chautauqua Avenue; thence South on Chautauqua Avenue to Imhoff Road; thence West on Imhoff Road to Berry Road.

- § 8. Ward Five (5) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

That portion of the City East of a line beginning at a point where the South boundary of the City intersects with Classen Boulevard (Post Oak Road); thence Northwest along Classen Boulevard to

Imhoff Road; thence East on Imhoff to 24th Avenue S.E.; thence North on 24th Avenue S.E. to Lindsey Street; thence East on Lindsey Street to 48th Avenue S.E.; thence North on 48th Avenue S.E. to Alameda Street; thence East on Alameda Street to 60th Avenue N.E.; thence North on 60th Avenue N.E. to Robinson Street; thence East on Robinson Street to 72nd Avenue N.E.; thence North on 72nd Avenue N.E. to Rock Creek Road; thence West on Rock Creek Road to 60th Avenue N.E.; thence North on 60th Avenue N.E. to the intersection with the Northern boundary of the City (Indian Hills Road).

- § 9. Ward Six (6) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Indian Hills Road and 12th Avenue N.E.; thence East on Indian Hills Road to 60th Avenue N.E.; thence South on 60th Avenue N.E. to Rock Creek Road; thence East on Rock Creek Road to 72nd Avenue N.E.; thence South on 72nd Avenue N.E. to Robinson Street; thence West on Robinson Street to 60th Avenue N.E.; thence South on 60th Avenue N.E. to Alameda Street; thence West on Alameda Street to 12th Avenue N.E.; thence North on 12th Avenue N.E. to Indian Hills Road.

- § 10. Ward Seven (7) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Chautauqua Avenue and the Southern City limits; thence North on Chautauqua Avenue to Lindsey Street; thence East on Lindsey Street to Classen Boulevard; thence Southeast along Classen Boulevard to the Southern City limits (Post Oak Road); thence West on Post Oak Road to the point of beginning.

- § 11. Ward Eight (8) shall embrace and be limited to all of the area which is now embraced within the corporate City limits and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of 72nd Avenue N.W. and Indian Hills Road; thence East along the City limits to 12th Avenue N.E.; thence South on 12th Avenue N.E. to Tecumseh Road; thence East on Tecumseh Road to Porter Avenue; thence South on Porter Avenue to Robinson Avenue; thence West on Robinson Avenue to Interstate 35; thence North on Interstate 35 to Rock Creek Trail;

thence West on Rock Creek Trail then Rock Creek Road the
Wester City limits (72nd Avenue N.W.); thence North along the
City Boundary to that point which intersects Indian Hills Road.

- § 12. That a map has been drawn reflecting the boundaries set forth in Sections 4
through 11 herein, and that said map is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

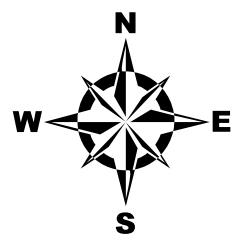
PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Chairman, Norman Reapportionment Commission

Map of the City of Norman, Oklahoma, showing the seven wards. The map includes major roads like Interstate 35, State Highway 9, and Alameda Drive, as well as landmarks like Lake Thunderbird. The wards are numbered 1 through 7. Ward 1 is the central downtown area, Ward 2 is to the west, Ward 3 is to the southwest, Ward 4 is to the south, Ward 5 is to the east, Ward 6 is to the northeast, and Ward 7 is to the south. The map also shows the city's boundary with Indian Hills to the north and Etowah to the south.



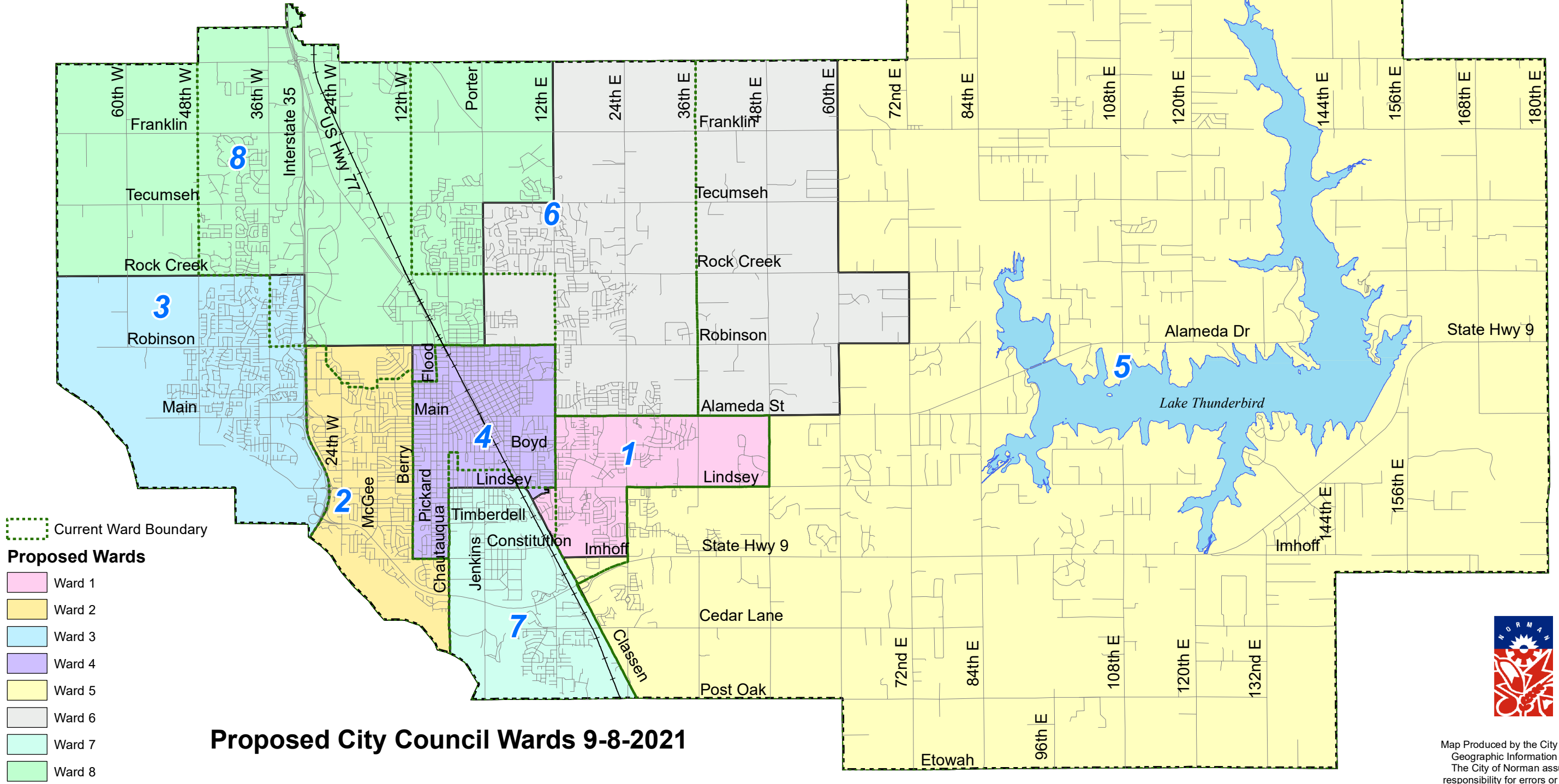
23



September 9, 2021

Current Wards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Census 2020 Population (April 1, 2020)	15,018	14,845	14,824	14,129	16,610	18,515	18,309	15,776	128,026
Deviation from Mean	-985	-1,158	-1,179	-1,874	607	2,512	2,306	-227	
Percent Deviation from Mean	-6.16%	-7.24%	-7.37%	-11.71%	3.79%	15.70%	14.41%	-1.42%	
Mean Ward Population : 16,003	Total range from mean as percentage:								27.41%

Proposed Wards 9-8-21	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Census 2020 Population (April 1, 2020)	16,083	16,757	16,943	15,897	15,339	15,344	16,067	15,596	128,026
Deviation from Mean	80	754	940	-106	-664	-659	64	-407	
Percent Deviation from Mean	0.50%	4.71%	5.87%	-0.66%	-4.15%	-4.12%	0.40%	-2.54%	
Mean Ward Population : 16,003	Total range from mean as percentage:								10.02%



Proposed City Council Wards 9-8-2021



Map Produced by the City of Norman
Geographic Information System.
The City of Norman assumes no
responsibility for errors or omissions
in the information presented.

NORMAN REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 2, 2021

The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma met in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201-A West Gray at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting and online at https://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09-02_reapportionment_ad_hoc_committee_agenda.pdf (normanok.gov).

Item No. 1, being:
CALL TO ORDER.

Joyce Green called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

* * *

Item No. 2, being:
ROLL CALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aleisha Karjala
Katherine Leidy
Kay Holladay
Karen Goodchild (arrived 6:06)
Michael Zorba (arrived 6:32)
Rich Lubbers
Joshua Hinkle

MEMBERS ABSENT

Larla Turner
Christopher Tall Bear
John Johnson

A quorum was present.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Joyce Green, GIS Services Manager
Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
Roné Tromble, Administrative Technician

* * *

Item No. 3, being:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Ms. Green asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

Joshua Hinkle nominated Aleisha Karjala for election to the position of Chair. Kay Holladay seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Aleisha Karjala was elected Chair by a unanimous vote.

Control of the meeting was turned over to new Chair Karjala.

Chair Karjala asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Aleisha Karjala nominated Kay Holladay for election to the position of Vice-Chair. Rich Lubbers seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Kay Holladay was elected Vice-Chair by a unanimous vote.

Chair Karjala asked for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Aleisha Karjala nominated Rich Lubbers for election to the position of Secretary. Kay Holladay seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Rich Lubbers was elected Secretary by a unanimous vote.

* * *

Item No. 4, being:

ORIENTATION OF MEMBERS.

Ms. Walker addressed several items regarding the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee:

- A quorum of the Committee is a simple majority, which is 5 members.
- This is a short-term committee, with a very important purpose.
- The typical policy is that if a member is absent for three consecutive meetings, they would be removed.
- This is an advisory committee, so Council will make the final determination, and they can act however they deem necessary on the Committee's recommendations.
- To make it easier for the transcription of the minutes, the Chair should recognize anyone before they speak, and it would be beneficial for the speaker to state their name.
- All meetings will be open to the public, and have to be properly posted on our website. If it's not posted for public comment, we don't necessarily have to take public comment. All of your discussions about these topics should occur within the meeting. Email is usually the biggest issue; if you hit "Reply All" it can result in a "meeting" that has not been posted. Please do not hit "Reply All".
- Staff will handle all the posting of minutes and agendas.
- Reapportionment Committee exists to address Census data, which we have finally received for 2020. The job is to look at the population and try to make, as much as possible, substantially similar between Wards, and to form Wards of 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. Take into consideration areas of growth versus area that aren't going to grow, and try to anticipate how you can keep the Wards fairly similar over the next 10 years.

* * *

Item No. 5, being:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATED TO ANNUAL POPULATION FIGURES AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE CITY'S WARD SYSTEM.

ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

1. Staff Memo
2. Reapportionment Section from Charter
3. City Council Wards with Precincts map
4. Residential Construction Permit Activity 2011-2020 map
5. Current Plat Activity map, through June 30, 2021

DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE.

Ms. Green indicated population is our main concern. Hispanic is our highest number, and the highest number within the Ward is about 10%, so there is not going to be a voting block of Hispanic voters, or any other ethnicity, because we don't have compact neighborhoods. However, if there are some neighborhoods that you're aware of within your Wards, it would be good to keep them together as much as possible.

Wards 6 and 7 are the highest in growth, and 4 is the lowest. Wards 1, 2 and 3 are also pretty low. We will probably have to change the boundaries of all the Wards, even the ones that are more or less right, because you can't correct one without touching another.

The Residential Construction Permit Activity map shows where we have experienced growth over the last decade. There have been a lot of permits in Ward 4, but those are usually also tear-downs, so it hasn't had a lot of growth. Ward 3 also does not have a lot of potential for growth as currently drawn. The Current Plat Activity map shows where future plats are. We will probably see Ward 6 have a lot of growth, because there are new plats that are not currently built out. Ward 5, down in the southern part, has some developments coming in with a lot of growth. Some of the plats on University North Park are commercial, so we won't see growth there.

The ideal ward population is 16,003. Precincts are also something we try to take into consideration, because the times you will have problems with an election are when somebody is confused about where they're supposed to vote. It is good to have all of one precinct in the same ward, but it's not required and it's not part of the charge under the Charter.

Rich Lubbers referenced a case he remembers from law school regarding equal representation; he asked if we have a range that we're trying to hit. Ms. Green responded that we're absolutely trying to stay within 10; lower than that is better. If we get close to 10, she recommends that slow growing wards be left high and faster growing wards be left low, because they'll grow into that and be out of alignment less quickly.

Karen Goodchild, in Ward 5, said there's a lot of interest in City wells, and a lot of interest in the growth of neighborhoods in that area. I know that you keep talking about 3 – 1

know that that used to be high growth and it is not very much growth there any more because of the arsenic in the water. Me and several others in Ward 5 are worried about the number of wells that are being drilled and the growth that's going on in Ward 5. I just wanted to throw that out there to everybody. Water. It's population, but it's also water. I'm concerned that this is a watershed where all of us get water. I'm just very concerned about population growth in Ward 5.

Ms. Walker responded that the water wells that are being talked about out there now are actually serving the urban areas of Norman and the growth that is anticipated there based on zoning and the Land Use Plan. Right now most of Council is, as far as I can tell, very committed to restricting a lot of growth east of 48th, differently than what it's already zoned or set aside on the Land Use Plan, so that's still the status from the City's standpoint of maintaining that, even though we're giving these water rights, it's really to bring that water back into the City into the more urban areas to address the water needs there.

Ms. Green demonstrated how moving boundaries impacts population numbers and the deviation. The Committee can work on making adjustments during the meetings, or they can ask her to make some adjustments and bring the results back to the next meeting.

Mr. Hinkle suggested moving a section of Ward 5 into Ward 1 – the area east of 24th Avenue S.E. to 48th Avenue S.E. on the north side of Highway 9 – just to see the impact on the numbers. Ms. Green reported that would make Ward 1 almost 10% over. Ms. Goodchild asked how the large development south of Highway 9 at 48th Avenue S.E. would affect Ward 5. Ms. Green responded that we might want to leave Ward 5 a little bit low. Mr. Lubbers suggested adding the neighborhood north of Alameda between 24th and 36th to Ward 1.

Ms. Goodchild suggested moving the triangle on the east side of the railroad tracks in Ward 7 into Ward 4. Ms. Holladay suggested moving the sliver on the northwest side of Ward 7 into Ward 4. Mr. Lubbers commented that Ward 7 has a low voter turnout; although there are lots of registered voters, a lot of them are students that don't vote in City elections. Ms. Green added that we really don't have to take into consideration whether or not the population of a ward is registered; we deal with total population. Mr. Lubbers clarified that the vertical sliver is north Greek Row.

Mr. Lubbers noted that the three largest outliers are Wards 4, 6 and 7. It would seem to make sense to attack this from how to normalize those kinds of things.

Mr. Lubbers asked if street names can be added to the map. Ms. Green was able to add some street names.

Ms. Green reported that adding the area north of Alameda between 24th and 36th to Ward 1 moved it up to 1.8%. Taking the vertical sliver out of Ward 7 and adding it to Ward 4 unsplit a precinct and takes Ward 4 down a little bit.

Ms. Holladay asked for clarification of what the deviation should be. Ms. Green explained

it should go from -5 to +5, or -6 in a really fast growing area and +6 in a really slow growing area. So Wards 2, 3 and 4 should be on the positive side, because they don't grow very much. Wards 5, 6 and 7 have been growing, and Ward 8 will probably continue to grow.

Ms. Leidy suggested moving the boundary between Wards 3 and 8 (Precinct 76) to the east to the interstate. Ms. Green indicated that would put Ward 3 at 6.7.

Ms. Goodchild suggested moving some of the area north of Franklin Road into Ward 8. The suggestion was also made to move the west edge of Ward 8 over to 72nd Avenue. Mr. Zorba suggested adding Precinct 1 to Ward 8.

Ms. Karjala suggested taking the portion of Precinct 19 south of Robinson out of Ward 8 and adding it to Ward 2. Ms. Green indicated that brings Ward 2 up to 4.7.

Mr. Hinkle asked whether it would be acceptable for people to send Ms. Green suggestions of changes they would like to see.

Ms. Green asked about holding the next meeting on Tuesday, September 7 or Wednesday, September 8. Mr. Lubbers is unavailable on the 7th and 8th. Ms. Leidy is not available the 7th. Mr. Zorba is not available the 7th. The next meeting was scheduled on September 8 at 6:00 p.m., with a possible meeting on September 13.

Ms. Walker noted the Committee needs to hold a public hearing, and it's not clear in the Charter how much notice we need to give for that. The hearing has to be 10 days before the Committee votes to forward their recommendation to Council. The filing deadline for the next Council election is during the first week of December, which is what is driving the schedule for this Committee.

Ms. Walker again said that wards are to be formed of 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. We try not to split precincts. We want the dividing line to be on major streets, not in the middle of a residential block, etc. We want to focus on numbers, first and foremost, and get as close as we can on the numbers. We don't have any strong communities of common interest or ethnic background in Norman.

Ms. Green will email a PDF of the map as it has been changed, along with the statistics.

Chair Karjala asked members to send any recommended changes to Joyce before the next meeting.

* * *

Item No. 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

None

* * *

Item No. 7, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further discussion and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Passed and approved this 21st day of October, 2021.



Rich Lubbers, Secretary
Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee

NORMAN REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 8, 2021

The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma met in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201-A West Gray at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting and online at https://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09-02_reapportionment_ad_hoc_committee_agenda.pdf (normanok.gov).

Item No. 1, being:

CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Aleisha Karjala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

* * *

Item No. 2, being:

ROLL CALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Larla Turner
Aleisha Karjala
Katherine Leidy (arrived 6:07)
Kay Holladay
Karen Goodchild
Michael Zorba
Rich Lubbers (arrived 6:15)
Joshua Hinkle
Christopher Tall Bear

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Johnson

A quorum was present.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Joyce Green, GIS Services Manager
Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
Roné Tromble, Administrative Technician

* * *

Item No. 3, being:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATED TO ANNUAL POPULATION FIGURES AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE CITY'S WARD SYSTEM.

ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

1. Wards In Progress Chart
2. Incomplete Draft 9-2-2021 Map

DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE.

Chair Karjala suggested starting work by looking at Ward 2, Ward 3, and Ward 4 first, because they are landlocked and we need to get those right, and then go on to look at Wards 8, 6, 5, 1 and 7 on the outside. The change that was made at the last meeting to Ward 2 is probably good; the new percentage was 4.7%. We added the half-circle of Precinct 19 south of Robinson that was part of Ward 8. She proposed leaving Ward 2 alone.

At the previous meeting, some changes were made to Ward 3; the northern part north of Rock Creek Road was put in Ward 8. Ward 3 is not experiencing growth. Chair Karjala suggested 5.87% seems a little high. It was suggested moving the north boundary of Ward 3 down to Robinson, which didn't make much of a change. Moving the north edge of Ward 3 down to Main Street resulted in -3.7%. It was decided to leave the north edge at Rock Creek Road with a deviation of 5.87% because we're not expecting a lot of growth in Ward 3, and there is a lot of floodplain.

Chair Karjala suggested adding the notch at the northwest corner of Ward 4, currently in Ward 8 (Berry to Flood south of Robinson), into Ward 4. It's a random neighborhood to be in Ward 8. Ms. Holladay recommended the vertical sliver at the northwest corner of Ward 7 be added to Ward 4. Chair Karjala commented that it would put the University all in Ward 4, whereas now the University is divided between two separate wards, Ward 4 and Ward 7. That change brings the deviation to -2.8% and puts a precinct back together. Chair Karjala commented that having the University in two wards may help to keep the University of Oklahoma happy so they get along with the City well; if more than one Councilperson is responsible for that area, then they have more responsiveness on City Council. Mr. Hinkle added that it also prevents a future conflict of interest should a University employee be the one person that runs and wins that ward.

Mr. Hinkle commented that he had emailed Ms. Green a suggestion for putting the area with Sutton Place, the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, and Sutton Wilderness into Ward 4. Ms. Green indicated that proposed change is reflected on the map. Mr. Hinkle said Ward 4 would have a portion of the University, downtown Norman, and a state park in it; it's already a Core ward. That brings the population to 15,931, with a deviation of -0.4%.

Ms. Green indicated Ward 7 is including a big change that was emailed in that was more than 7 needed. She suggested taking it back close to its original boundaries. Mr. Hinkle suggested moving the triangle on the east of the railroad tracks south of Lindsey out of Ward 7 and into Ward 1. That area has some apartments, but is largely business. That

puts Ward 8 at 0.4%.

Ms. Green reported Ward 1 is now 5.52% and it started at -6%; the population is 16,851.

Ms. Goodchild commented that even though Ward 6 looks to be negative, they have a lot of proposed construction (on the residential construction permit activity map). Ms. Holladay noted the time period for the map is from 2011 to 2020. Ms. Green explained that the vast majority of that is reflected in the census. The things that are out in the future are the plats. Some of the plats are going to be commercial; there might be a little bit of residential. Mr. Hinkle commented that Wards 6 and 8, over the last 10 years, have been the fastest growing because of the development west of I-35 and north of Rock Creek/south of Tecumseh areas.

Ms. Green indicated Ward 8 and Ward 6 are down quite a bit and are both out of range. Currently Wards 1, 5, 3, and 2 are high, with Wards 3 and 2 being not too bad. She suggested taking some of Ward 6 into 8, and then from Ward 5 into 6. Mr. Hinkle suggested putting the Sutton Place neighborhood back in Ward 8, resulting in a deviation of -2.54% and population of 15,596. Ms. Green said Ward 8 is an area that is going to experience growth.

Chair Karjala reported Ward 6 is currently -17.2%. It needs to be closer to 0, but since it's growing, it doesn't have to necessarily be positive. Ms. Green suggested putting all of Precinct 12 into Ward 6, and raised the idea of extending Ward 6 out to Little River. Ms. Goodchild expressed concern about the watershed, the aquifer, and building in what is farmland. Chair Karjala pointed out that changing the ward boundaries isn't going to change the fact that there won't be any growth going on out there. Ms. Goodchild said that Ward 5, being farmland, has a different set of parameters. Ward 5 is 3.79% and because of where we are we should not be having a lot of growth. If we take that large of a chunk, will we get to negative numbers in Ward 5? It seems like a big chunk of farmland. Chair Karjala said it would give the east side of town more political representation, because there would be two different Council members representing the more rural area. Ms. Goodchild added there is also a lot of tribal land in Ward 5. She suggested it would be difficult for someone to represent both rural farmland as well as urban areas; they have different kinds of issues. Mr. Hinkle pointed out those same agricultural issues that are being expanded out to 72nd north of Rock Creek will be lumped into the same issues as University North Park in Ward 8, as currently proposed. Ms. Goodchild said she was trying to keep common interests together. Chair Karjala responded that the committee talked about how Norman is not a community of communities, and she thinks that, in some ways, it's been bad for the east side to be known as the east side, as if they all have the same things. Core Norman doesn't have all the same concerns. In Ward 2 and Ward 4 not everybody is of a like mind, either. Ms. Turner added that putting some of Ward 5 in Ward 6 would increase representation on the east side. Ms. Goodchild expressed concern about the City wells that have been dug in Ward 5 and recharging the aquifer. Lake Thunderbird was made to last 100 years; we're at 52 years. There is farmland in Ward 5 that benefits all of Norman.

Ms. Green suggested starting by expanding Ward 6 to 48th NE, because that's more or less the aquifer line. Chair Karjala agreed to expand Ward 6 from Indian Hills to 48th down to Alameda. That change brought Ward 6 up to -13%. Mr. Zorba suggested going east to 60th down to Alameda, which brought Ward 6 to -10%. Ms. Green suggested taking the square mile bounded by Robinson on the north, 24th NE on the west, 36th NE on the east, and Alameda on the south and moving it from Ward 1 to Ward 6. Chair Karjala suggested putting the square mile with Sutton Place into Ward 6, from Ward 4. Ms. Green said that puts Ward 6 at -1%. Chair Karjala indicated it puts Ward 4 at -5.46%. Mr. Zorba suggested, to regain in Ward 4, adding a triangle, going south of Imhoff and taking that chunk all the way south to the county line and then over west to the county line. Ms. Green said that would be way too much.

Mr. Lubbers asked if the numbers are within a variation of 10 at the moment, right? Ms. Green said just slightly over it. Ward 7 is pretty much at 0, so it's probably good. Ward 1 is a little high, but I don't know that there's going to be any growth in there. Ward 4 is a little high; there's not going to be any growth in there. Ward 3, likewise. Ward 8 is 2 under. Ward 2 is high and Ward 3 is high, but we're not expecting any growth in those.

Ms. Goodchild said at the last meeting she thought we talked about there was going to be growth to 48th. Ms. Green explained that Ward 5 has a huge amount of potential growth down along Highway 9. In the northern area, there's not much growth potential because it's in the aquifer. It's in a lot of sensitive areas, and it's probably not going to have huge growth. But the area down along Highway 9 is going to see growth, and quite a bit of it. So if Ward 5 stays low that should be fine.

Ms. Goodchild said what concerns me is you have 1, 2, 3 families that live on a mile section versus a neighborhood with 400 homes. We talk about they're going to have representation, but I'm just wondering how much representation. Mr. Lubbers commented if we equalize population, it doesn't matter whether it comes out of a farm voter or an urban/suburban voter. It's still one voter, one vote. Ms. Green added that, unfortunately, there are not enough farm families to create an entire ward. There's about 10,000 out there, and you need about 16,000 people to make a ward.

Mr. Zorba asked how often the boundaries are changed. Chair Karjala responded every 10 years. Ms. Green added there are other things that can trigger a review. If we annex something, or have a natural disaster that took out half the City and people didn't build back. But in the scheme of things, we only do it every 10 years.

Ms. Green suggested moving the portion of Precinct 76 south of Rock Creek Road to Robinson between 36th Avenue NW and I-35 from Ward 8 to Ward 3. There isn't going to be growth in 3.

Chair Karjala asked if a variation of 10.01 is a bad thing? Can we do 10.01? I'm perfectly happy with this map. I think we've done a pretty good job that makes a lot of sense. Mr. Zorba asked if the map can have color added. Ms. Green added color and Ms. Walker printed copies for review.

Ms. Holladay was concerned about the impact that two Councilpeople living pretty close together. Ms. Green noted that we haven't looked at where the Councilpeople live. Ms. Walker explained that there are provisions that will protect them in their current seats, so no one will be ousted as a result of this process.

Ms. Holladay asked the number for Ward 4. Ms. Green indicated it is right at the ideal; basically -0.7%. Chair Karjala commented the lines look cleaner.

Ms. Goodchild asked if the Ag zoning is staying the same. Chair Karjala explained this doesn't change zoning at all. Ms. Green concurred.

Chair Karjala asked if the committee needs another meeting. Ms. Holladay asked to review the print copy before making the decision. Mr. Zorba said he didn't think another meeting was needed. Ms. Green said if the committee doesn't need to meet again, we can set the public hearing. At the public hearing, the plan is usually presented by the chair.

Rich Lubbers moved to take the proposed ward boundaries to public hearing. Katherine Leidy seconded.

Ayes	Christopher Tall Bear, Larla Turner, Aleisha Karjala, Katherine Leidy, Kay Holladay, Rich Lubbers, Joshua Hinkle
Nays	Michael Zorba
Did Not Vote	Karen Goodchild

Chair Karjala reported the ayes have it. So we're ready to take it to public hearing. Thank you for your hard work. I think the map looks pretty and it's equalized. I think that's the fairest way to do that. I think it worked out well. So we don't need to meet on Monday.

Ms. Green said we will need to figure out when we should go to public hearing. Typically the entire committee comes to the public hearing, unless somebody has a conflict. If the chair has a conflict, then the vice chair will get to present it.

Ms. Walker said the Council has to have a public hearing also. The committee need to be at the public hearing for the committee because then you'll vote on a resolution adopting the boundaries, if you're ready to do that, after public hearing. The hearing has to be 10 days before voting on the resolution, not the same day.

Chair Karjala suggested that committee members share the map on their ward pages or if you're friends on Facebook with people in the ward and let them comment to you. Ms. Green said she will make a web app tomorrow where you can pull it up and people can zoom around and see how it affects things. Ms. Turner asked to be provided with that link, too. Ms. Green will send it to committee members first. Staff will also probably put it in some sort of press release. We have to advertise it, probably in the Transcript. If we can get an article in the Transcript, we might try to do that so it will reach as many people as possible. We'll pass it to you to put out on social media. Try to reach people as many

ways as we can, because you do want people to know that it's changing and you do want to have public comment into it.

Mr. Zorba asked at what point Councilmembers comment. Ms. Walker explained they will have their own public hearing before Council, and then Council will have to vote on it. That's when they'll make their comments. Chair Karjala asked if it come back to committee, or if Council can change it. Ms. Green responded that Council can change it. It didn't used to be that way, but it is now. The Charter has changed between this time and the last time. Ms. Walker reported last time they rejected the recommendation. Ms. Green clarified that we used to do this every year. They felt that the commission was changing it too often, so the Charter changed to do it every 10 years with the census.

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Item No. 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

Staff will notify the Committee when they have looked at room availability and the legal notice requirements for the public hearing.

* * *

Item No. 7, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further discussion and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Passed and approved this 21st day of October, 2021.



Rich Lubbers, Secretary
Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee

NORMAN REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
 September 27, 2021

The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee 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 Monday, September 7, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201-A West Gray at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting and online at https://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09-02_reapportionment_ad_hoc_committee_agenda.pdf (normanok.gov).

Item No. 1, being:
CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Aleisha Karjala called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

* * *

Item No. 2, being:
ROLL CALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Tall Bear
 Larla Turner
 Aleisha Karjala
 Katherine Leidy (arrived 6:33)
 Kay Holladay
 Karen Goodchild
 Michael Zorba
 Rich Lubbers (arrived 6:45)
 Joshua Hinkle

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Johnson

A quorum was present.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Joyce Green, GIS Services Manager
 Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
 Roné Tromble, Administrative Technician
 Bryce Holland, Multimedia Specialist

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Item No. 3, being:

CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED REDISTRICTING OF CITY WARDS.

ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

1. Proposed City Council Wards 9-8-2021 Map
2. Emails Opposing Proposed Ward 5 Boundaries

Chair Karjala asked for a motion to hold a public hearing.

Karen Goodchild moved to hold a public hearing. Michael Zorba seconded the motion.

Ayes	Christopher Tall Bear, Larla Turner, Aleisha Karjala, Kay Holladay, Karen Goodchild, Michael Zorba, Joshua Hinkle
Nays	None
Not Present	Katherine Leidy, Rich Lubbers, John Johnson

The motion to hold a public hearing passed by a vote of 7-0.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN BY CHAIR ALEISHA KARJALA.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – I want to go through what the Charter says first, then we'll talk a little bit about what the case law interpreting reapportionment tells us to do. The Reapportionment Commission is appointed to meet and review and make recommendations on ward boundaries in three situations under our Charter: when the City proposes to annex or de-annex property, upon a unanimous recommendation of Council, or as a result of the census. It's pretty typical for this just to occur every ten years and not more often. You have one at-large rep and one representative from each ward. The Commission is charged with drawing ward boundaries so as to equalize, as nearly as practicable, the population of the several wards – this is population based on people, not registered voters, not registered members of a political party – it's just simple population numbers based on the census. In addition, each ward should be formed of 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. Ward lines shall not create artificial corridors which, in effect, separates voters from the ward to which they most naturally belong. After the Commission goes through the process of proposing boundaries, they have this hearing, they'll go back no sooner than ten days after the hearing, and either make adjustments to those boundaries or vote on a resolution recommending adoption of those boundaries, and then it goes to Council and Council has final authority to adopt the boundaries, and they will not adopt these until they have their own public hearing. New this census, Council is able to make adjustments to those boundaries, as well. That will be going to Council in the future. Ward boundary changes do not affect current Councilmember terms by our Charter, so no one is getting kicked out of office based on these changes; everyone will be able to finish their current term.

State law tells us we should avoid splitting election precincts, if possible. Of course,

the challenge is the current precinct map is also being changed as a result of the census, so we know that some of these precincts may end up being split, but we do try to avoid that if we can.

Just a little bit about what the purpose of reapportionment is, and you see this similar language that we have in our Charter across the country. The basis of all this, of course, is one person/one vote. That's the baseline standard by which courts look at reapportionment or redistricting. This arises out of the Equal Protection Clause under the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court says absolute population equality is the paramount objection of apportionment. One person/one vote is designed to protect voters and their access to the polls. The U.S. Supreme Court says when drawing wards you can deviate from population equality to accommodate traditional districting objectives, like maintaining communities of common interest and creating geographic compactness. But how much can you deviate? We talked about that at the Commission and the maximum deviation between the largest and the smallest ward can be ten percent. This is called the Safe Harbor Rule. If it exceeds ten percent, it's presumed impermissible, so that was something the Commission really focused on, is making sure that the difference between the smallest and the biggest ward did not exceed ten percent of the difference. There's other federal laws, of course, designed to prevent discrimination that most people are very familiar with – I won't go through those. It's really focused on whether there is a redistricting plan or reapportionment plan that's diluting votes based on history or practice of discrimination against a minority group, or one that's adopted or maintained for a discriminatory purpose against a minority group.

In summary, the primary focus is population equality – we want to make sure our deviations are under ten percent, but those deviations within that range are certainly justified to ensure the wards are formed of compact, contiguous territory and drawn to reflect and respond to communities of common interest, ethnic background, and physical boundaries. Consideration should not be given to the number of registered voters in a ward, partisan membership, historic voter turnout, or current Councilmember residences, and that information was not provided to the Commission. Consideration is given to whether each ward is likely to grow in its number of residents, or whether it is already fully developed and less likely to grow over the next ten years. We know we have some wards that are fairly land-locked that are fully developed and they're probably not going to see a lot of population growth, and we know from our platting that we have some wards with a lot of growth that will probably occur over the next ten years, so that had to be considered, because we want these numbers to work for everyone for the next ten years. If each ward were exactly equal, they would have 16,003.25 residents (figure out how you split someone four ways). Obviously, we can't be mathematically precise, but that is the number that the Commission was really searching for or trying to equalize to. As you address a population shortage or overage in one ward, it inevitably affects another ward. This was my first time to see this process in action, and it was pretty fascinating to see. You think you fixed one, but that affected the next one, and that affected the next one, and you just kind of end up working your way around in a circle. So there's no one right answer, but this is what the Commission has come up with.

With that, I'll turn it over to the Chair to address the rest of it.

Chair Karjala – I think Kathryn has done a good job of the overview of the process. What I wanted to say, specifically, was about how the process took place, and that's this. Wards 2, 3 and 4 had the least population growth potential, so they needed to have population added to them. The Committee tried to leave the deviation of those wards positive to try to keep their populations in line with faster growing wards for a longer period of time. The Committee was very successful in the cases of Ward 2 and Ward 3. Wards 5, 6 and 8 have the most growth potential over the next decade, so the Committee left them with negative deviations to allow for more growth over that time period before they become much more populous than other wards, so you're taking into account the ten-year timeframe. Wards 1, 4 and 7 were left with deviations of less than one percent from the ideal ward size of 16,003.

We're going through the ward slides which show how they were changed. Here's Ward 1. On the one side you see the proposed ward, which is what the Commission is recommending, and then the current ward. So you see how much these are changing and/or not changing. The charts show their population, their starting standard deviation – how far off they were from the standard deviation due to their population, and where we took population from, where we put population in, and what the ending population was. So you see here that Ward 1 ends with a population of 16,083 – pretty good for aiming for 16,003. Ward 2 – one side is the proposed side. This was a small change in Ward 2. We mentioned that Ward 2 was a low population growth. It's land-locked, so it doesn't have a lot of room to grow. Starting population, their starting standard deviation, where they took a little bit of population. The ending population was 16,757, so they're a little bit over the standard deviation for wards. Ward 3 had a starting population of 14,824 and a negative standard deviation, so we took parts of Ward 8 and gave them to Ward 3, and took parts of 3 and gave them to Ward 8, ending with a population of 16,943, so there's a standard deviation there for that as well. Ward 4 – there's the current Ward 4, the proposed Ward 4, which we really just tried to take out the curves, starting population of 14,129. Ward 4 was the slowest growing ward over this time period, so we took a little bit from Ward 7 and Ward 8 to make this one ending population 15,897, for a slightly negative standard deviation, because we don't expect that Ward 4, which is land-locked, will be growing. Ward 5 starting population of 16,610. We took some of Ward 6 and put it in Ward 5. We took some of Ward 1 and put it in Ward 5. The ending population was 15,339, for a slightly negative standard deviation because we expect population in Ward 5 to grow. Ward 6 there's currently what it looks like; here's the proposed version. Starting population of 18,515 so Ward 6 has had quite a bit of growth. Some of Ward 8 was taken. Some of Ward 6 was given to Ward 5. The ending population 15,344, so still a small negative standard deviation because the expectation is that Ward 5 will be growing. Here's the difference between current Ward 7 and proposed Ward 7, and basically what we did here was we took out a lot of the lines and tried to make them more straight. Beginning population of 18,309, big standard deviation, so Ward 7 was a lot bigger than the standard. The ending population with making the small change that we made is 16,067, very close to the 16,003 that we were aiming for. The last of the wards, Ward 8, you see the difference between the current guidelines and the proposed

guidelines. The beginning population was 15,776, so less than what we were aiming for with 16,003. There were elements that kind of went into Ward 8 that came from Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4 and Ward 6. The ending population 15,596, a little bit below the negative standard deviation because, once again, we're expecting population growth in Ward 8, given where the plats are and where growth is happening. So this is what it turns out to look like as far as the proposed boundary changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES.

Chair Karjala – Now we're going to open the meeting for public comment and we'll call you up one at a time. If you would, please give us your name and your address, and you have three minutes to speak. There's no particular order to this; this is just the order of them sitting in the pile.

1. Mark Wagner, 3550 Duke Drive, Ward 5 – I think Ward 5 is being treated differently in this census. First of all, by your own rules, you said there shouldn't be more than a 10% deviation between the highest and the lowest. Ward 3, the highest, has 15,943 [16,943]; Ward 5, the lowest, has 15,339, which was 1,604, so that's even outside of a very wide – a 10% variation is pretty wide. Second of all, all of Norman is land-locked; to say that one ward is land-locked implies that another is not. Ward 5 may be moreso, though, than any of the others because of the restrictions on subdividing the plats of land. Also, so therefore Ward 5, I believe, will be slower and it actually has over the 5% deviation, and the slower growth should be accounted for. In addition, I believe there are tribal lands in Ward 5, and were the citizens that live on tribal lands, which I don't believe are part of the City – were they counted in this number during your calculation? So, again, I think it may have not been the intention of it, but it appears that the rural areas on both the east and the west side of town are being diluted by putting them in with other urban areas. The southwest corner of Ward 5 is more urban and would be a more likely candidate to be added to the Core Norman than the northwest side, which is rural and was added. Thank you.

2. Tom Hackelman, 1812 Quail Creek Drive – For the past nearly two years, I've had the privilege of serving on the Charter Review Commission. Charter Review Commission, as you know, has significant issues to debate, to discuss, to wrestle with, so it's been a long, but positive two years of wrestling with these topics. The challenge I have is that you made these decisions, albeit very important decisions, but decisions that were made over a two-day, two-meeting period. One of the biggest things that I'm challenged with is, based on the instructions that includes that the committee include boundaries drawn to reflect and respond to communities of common interest. What we're looking at is, we feel like there's not been a significant approach to this from the standpoint of drawing those lines to common interest, to common ethnic backgrounds, everything else that goes along with that. And two meetings does not seem to be sufficient to argue that case, to really design this appropriately. What it looks like is you really took the attempt to really, first and foremost, draw the lines as straight as possible and cut out things irrespective of how the area and the geography has been designed. At the end of the

day, it really feels like it's gerrymandering – that we're doing things to impact a political agenda, moreso than we are to manage and balance the population circles that are there. So I would challenge you and encourage you – this needs to be postponed as far as a vote – as part of a recommendation. I really believe that you need to go back and re-examine this and start over.

3. Mark Smith, 4810 72nd Avenue N.E. – I have nothing to add.

4. Deborah Smith, 4810 72nd Avenue N.E. – Same at this time.

5. Mark Swarovsky, 9724 Lilly Lane, Ward 5 – I'm here to talk more about procedure and my understanding of what happened, kind of similar to what the previous gentleman talked about. I'm going to quote it. I can't quote the whole hour and 45 minutes of the recording, but you guys probably know the context. So the quote is "what's going on currently in 5" – Ward 5 – "kind of reflects the opposite. We have a person who I don't think is a farmer, but is dangerous in many ways." So they're referring to the current Ward 5 Councilmember. So it's disturbing that somebody is on a committee to determine boundaries of a ward and they're saying the current Councilmember is dangerous. I don't understand that. I don't know what kind of danger he poses to this person or this individual, but I really don't think a person who feels that way brings in their – I'm going to assume their political opinion or bias into a decision about ward boundaries should be a part of any committee. If what we're doing here is supposed to be all bipartisan, no political affiliations, that person should not be a part of any of this, and anything they've touched or been a part of should get wadded up and thrown in the trash, because it's tainted. That's it. Thank you.

6. Cheryl Blake, 1501 Fischer Drive – Lived out there 38 years. Was there when the lake was built. Been in Norman since 1963. It would serve you all well to go learn the history of the Ward 5 area. That land was annexed by the City of Norman back in the late 50s into the early 60s for the purpose of developing Lake Thunderbird as a water source for the City of Norman. The original intent for that obviously is you can't have a water collection system if you plug it up. And as you move your development further and further east, you are clogging up the recharge zones for the City of Norman, which was Lake Thunderbird – 50 year lake. You're now pumping water out of the Garber-Wellington aquifer. We all in Ward 5 that don't have City stuff, our water comes from a different part of that aquifer. That's the recharge zone – that's where the water that hits the surface goes down. I believe the guy last month said, from the City and ACOG, that 90% of the water that hits the ground is absorbed – the rest of it's runoff. We've got that. We have 90% going into the ground. As you encroach and you take all of that, you're messing up the recharge area, not just for us with our water wells, but you're taking it into that lake, so you're cutting your own throats every time you start moving development over into that area. I agree with the gerrymandering. I think you need to look again – this is the 1995 thing on the urban suitability, and if you look at this and start with this, you're going to find out what can be developed and what can't be developed,

because it's going to tell you where the floodplains are, what the surface stuff is, if you have bedrock, hardrock, sandstone, shifting – go try to build something on the shifting sand. This is something that you should have been looking at, and this is a consideration because everybody in these areas has a common interest – we want to keep it rural, because we need it to be rural. We didn't ask to be annexed. And if you're not going to take care of the property that was entrusted to you from the people that lived here 70 years ago, perhaps we should consider de-annexation, because you are getting rid of the intent. Greed seems to be more valuable – I get very frustrated when I hear all this stuff about we can't euthanize the cats, the dogs, but you have no problem dividing all this and pushing it all out, chasing all the wildlife off, putting in your roads and your bikeways and all this – using us for your backyard. We don't appreciate that. We care about the animals that are out there. We care about the animals that we're raising for food. We care about the animals that live out there. It's important to us. We bought that land out there – if we bought it – most of that land has been in families since statehood.

7. Jeanne Wheeler, 214 Roserock Drive – I'm sure this was not an easy task to do. So we appreciate your efforts and we appreciate you hearing our voices on this. As a realtor, one of the things that I have noticed is that particular area is one of the slowest growing. It is a very, very, very low turnover rate. As she mentioned, a lot of it is family land and they're passing it on to their families. So there is very little movement going on in Ward 5. But, as a realtor, there's a statement in the criteria of what you base this on that causes me concern, and would like for you to help me understand what you mean by it, because when I hear the term "based on ethnic background" – how does that not violate three words that you have here in this introductory paragraph of grounds of race, ancestry and national origin? How does that not violate redlining laws? So that's my question to you. Thank you.

8. Don Wheeler, 214 Roserock Drive, Ward 5 – All the ones that came before are certainly more knowledgeable than I am on the history. I heard the news program last week and would just like to echo – that was disturbing. That was clearly partisanship and bias for what that person said on that committee. It's also my understanding – and there's probably another gentleman that's going to speak more knowledge on it than I can – that I understand the City of Norman purchased software to decide districting and haven't used it. They did a committee and didn't use the software that they bought. That's all I've got to say, other than echo again, you know, back in the 1920s the courts outlawed redlining, and that's what you're doing. Thank you.

9. Delena Gleason, 8120 E. State Hwy. 9, Ward 5 – I'm against this ward boundary plan as proposed. I believe you should keep the politics out and focus on your mandates of keeping like interests together. To me it makes no sense to move eleven square miles of farmland into an urban ward. I do believe that this is more politically motivated, rather than population motivated, and there will be Councillors – the ones that it affects will be displaced, according to The Transcript. I believe that you should go back to the drawing

board. Thank you.

10. Becky Bendure, 1911 136th Avenue S.E. – I believe this ward boundary change specifically targets a duly elected representative by a council that is supposed to be non-partisan, so I am against it.

11. Roger Gallagher, 2513 Woodsong Drive – I've been on a few committees and I was on Council ten years ago. Kathryn was there at the time when I was part of the redistricting. It's probably difficult because, as the City grows, you're going to see some changes. But aside from that, the one thing that bothers me is committee members are supposed to be neutral. They're supposed to pay attention to the subject and, most of all, try to avoid personal comments that the public hears. It's a shame that happened. We all have our own ideas. Norman politics is not gentle. It's dog-eat-dog sometimes, and it depends if you're conservative, independent, or liberal. So that comment came from a person who objects to the politics of one of the Councilmembers. So I'm curious why you didn't – unless this was the last meeting – you didn't come back and say let's take another meeting and look at this, because this is not conducive to a committee thinking of the welfare of the whole city. Aside from 5 being a lush, agricultural area that we like to get out and drive through and see and fish and do those things, it is too bad Norman is changing that much. But 5 is probably going to hold that as long as possible. So my main comment here is that comment has opened the door to prejudice. Now, if you don't go back and look, you're going to inherit the concept that you were doing what you want by gerrymandering. There are three Council people – and I remember the one ten years ago when I was on Council – you try to avoid moving people around because a committee chose something that the Council simply backed up. So I think you should reconsider that. It's not a good deal. You don't coincidentally get rid of three Council people. That must have risen in your meetings when you looked at that and said, wait a minute, we're moving three Council people out, putting them in another ward. There is something to be said for wards and the so-called mini-culture of the area. But that's my main point, and this is not the right answer. I think a better answer exists, and a better answer exists by going back ...

12. Robert Gleason, 8120 E. State Hwy. 9 – I'd like to say I echo everything that's been said so far. My concern is the people in each one of these wards that you're moving the boundaries around. I've talked to so many people. I said what ward are you in? I don't know, maybe Ward 2 or Ward 3. They don't know what ward they're in. And if we move them now and the election is in February, what's going to happen to these people? Are you going to send notices out to these people that are in different wards now? How are they going to know they're in Ward 2 or Ward 4 or Ward 6? How are they going to know that, and the election is in February? It's just going to confuse things. That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

13. Maggie Logue, 2345 Blue Creek Drive, Ward 5 – From my understanding, this committee has been accused of gerrymandering. And, just to be clear, I want to give

everybody on the committee and the people here what the definition of it is. It's the practice of dividing or arranging a territorial unit into election districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage in elections. From what I have seen on how you're trying to divide Norman, it affects mostly Ward 5 and Ward 3, which are our most recent conservative elected Councilmembers, and I have a problem with that. I think the committee needs to be null and void and start over, maybe with new people. My other concern is that the Reapportionment Committee members are nominated by the Mayor, and I understand they're approved by the Council, but I would like to know when you all were approved. Has it been since our new Councilmembers were elected, or was it before? That speaks volumes to me. I have an issue with y'all trying to move farmland into an urban area. The City Charter recommends that the boundary lines are redrawn with consideration such as common interest, ethnic background, and physical boundaries that reflect voters in a ward which they most naturally belong. Well, I'm sorry. Urban and rural don't exactly have the same interests, and that's an issue for me. Like I said before, the biggest impact is obviously Ward 5 and 3, and I just feel like, according to the definition of gerrymandering, that is what has happened. I also want to mention to the female – I don't know who it was that said this, but to refer to my duly elected Councilmember as dangerous in many ways and so that's to be considered – what is wrong with this committee? Seriously.

14. Patrick O'Brien, 7200 E. Franklin Road – No comment.

15. Fred Pope, 1501 Navajo Road – From what I'm given to understand, this present proposal by the Reapportionment Committee for redistricting the wards in Norman contains elements of gerrymandering that may be a bit subtle, albeit intentional, for average citizens of Norman in a proclaimed effort to make neater, straight line boundaries for Norman's wards. It just happens to move the addresses of two of Norman's present Councillors out of the boundaries for which they were elected. This has the practical and immediate effect of nullifying their election, because they would no longer reside in the ward for which they were elected. Is it, perhaps, reasonable to come to the conclusion that these two Councillors have been redlined or, in this case, straight-lined out of their duly elected positions? Why should this happen when other districts within a given ward could have been used to more equitably distribute population according to the requirements associated with the U.S. Department of Census data? According to The Norman Transcript of September 23, as someone else has – a couple of other people have referred to – a member of the redistricting committee can be heard saying at a meeting we have a person in Ward 5 who I don't think is a farmer but is dangerous in many ways. So that is to be considered. The Mayor has considerable influence and control over the composition of any committee established for the City's concerns. He or she can encourage members of a coterie to volunteer for any given committee, thus practically guaranteeing a previously desired outcome. This certainly appears to be the case in this current proposal. This proposal should be rejected and a new less biased and more objective reapportionment committee be formed to carry out its responsibility to the citizens and voters of Norman. Thank you.

16. Teresa Elam, 5921 Alameda – I get very emotional about this, so I'm sorry. I have been very emotional. It hurts my heart to see what's happening to the City of Norman. It's a wonderful city to live in and I love this city very much. I was raised here. My parents bought the house at 5909 Alameda, where I grew up, and my parents still reside. My father passed away there three years ago. Ward 5 is important to me – I mean very important to me. I don't care if you are a Democrat. I don't care if you are a Republican. I don't care. But what you should care about is what you're doing to the city – quit dividing the city. Us Eastsiders have a very important role to play in this city. Ward 5 – we are the caretakers for your water. We are the caretakers for the greenspace of Norman. We are the caretakers for the watershed. And with that, I'm going to tell you our former City Councilperson Michael Nash – we worked tirelessly on the well issue and the water issue and the boundaries. He came to me and he said, Teresa, you are the most qualified person to be on the Reapportionment Committee for Ward 5. I want you there. Nobody has filled out an application to be on this committee for Ward 5. I filled one out. He recommended me. Mayor Clark does not like me; she did not allow me to be on this committee. Four other names were recommended from Ward 5 to be on this committee; all four names that were put forward by Mr. Nash were declined by Mayor Breea Clark. I don't know how Karen Goodchild's name ended up coming up, because he called me and said, what do you think about Karen? I said, well, she lives in Ward 5. She's lived there a long time. I think she'd be great. But the person that was supposed to represent was – not Mr. Tall Bear. What is the other person's name at large? The Governor of the – Johnny Johnson. That was who Mayor Clark wanted to represent Ward 5 on this committee. He was moved to an at large because we finally got a person on here. You cannot tell me this is not political. You cannot even begin to tell me that it's not political. Whenever you have someone who is the Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe to represent all of Ward 5, it is a conflict of interest. It was a conflict of interest. That is tribal land – that is not City land. The City of Norman has zero jurisdiction on tribal land – none. You have no jurisdiction over the people on tribal land, and you have no jurisdiction over their land. They are a sovereign nation, and correct me if I'm wrong. And you have included that and you have tried to include that so that you can take that 1,680 people ... farmland – 2,000 voters of farmland. The other thing I want to point out is you have said multiple times on your tape about OU – the OU issue, and we cannot divide the University of Oklahoma. Well, let me tell you something – OU is a State-owned university. What you're talking about not dividing is the land belonging to the OU Foundation. Part of the land on the North Base ...

Ms. Karen Goodchild asked if we're going to read the emails so they are part of the record. Ms. Kathryn Walker responded that they will be entered into the record.

Chair Karjala asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Karen Goodchild moved to close the public hearing. Kay Holladay seconded the motion.

Ayes	Christopher Tall Bear, Larla Turner, Katherine Leidy, Aleisha Karjala, Kay Holladay, Karen Goodchild, Michael Zorba, Rich Lubbers, Joshua Hinkle
Nays	None
Not Present	John Johnson

The motion to close the public hearing passed by a vote of 9-0.

* * *

Item No. 4, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

Ms. Larla Turner – I think it is well known in this room that I am the person who made the comment. My comment was in response to several comments made on behalf of Ward 5. I hope you all have listened to the tape in full very carefully. I understand that we – a rural community has special interests and needs that are different from other parts of the City. My comment was in response to suggestions that Ward 5 could not lose any population or be altered in any way because they have concerns about water, land, development, and so much more. I find that misleading when we think about what's actually happening in Ward 5. I find it my duty to point out that that is not true, because just last year Ward 5 did elect a businessman, not a farmer, and that's what was being said in that conversation – that we could not change anything because they need the power to elect a farmer. Currently there are a lot of people in Ward 5 that are really upset about development and they're not being represented. My ward and my community have a shared interest of not living in fear and having violent white supremacist groups in our cities. We've talked about the east side issue and we know that there is a large concentration of minorities in the east side, and so that does matter to us. That is one of our common interests. Our quality of life and our ability to live it happily and not threatened. My point was, and it was in response to a conversation that maybe shouldn't have been happening. But I responded to a misleading comment. It was said that Ward 5 cannot lose population because they need to keep their rural power. That doesn't sound like banding together to vote for a common interest or rural owners, so why would we use that as a reason to refuse moving ward lines in 5, if this is supposed to be an equal and non-bipartisan, I don't see how making statements that don't reflect the truth about a ward in order to keep its power can be made without such a refuting comment. If my comment was bipartisan or inappropriate in any way, I apologize for continuing a conversation that probably shouldn't have been happening then. I do not, and will not ever be sorry for speaking out against racism and the terrorism of minorities. I've heard that there have been suggestions that we disband this, and I don't really have an opinion on that here or there, but I know that we're dealing with people that are going to fight, complain, threaten and sue about everything that does not support their agenda. If you feel the need to disband, I understand, but please,

please assure that we do not lose what little diversity we have on this committee. I've learned this week that asking for consideration is a pretty radical thing to do in this town, but I urge you to take these things into consideration. I did not start the conversation.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I would like to say I am the representative for Ward 5. I reject quite a bit of that statement from my fellow committee. I was suggesting that we take the Cedar Lane area. I, at no time, said that we didn't need to take any from Ward 5. My suggestion was that we take some of the new developments, because those people have come to me and said we want to be in a more urban ward. That was my suggestion. My concern was the farmland needed to stay with a common boundary and a common interest. I'm sorry that my fellow committee member felt like that was a racist comment and that I somehow ...

Ms. Larla Turner – I didn't say that and I don't ...

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I'm just saying I'm sorry if that's how you felt – if that was perceived, because that was not my intention at all. I wanted to keep the rural areas of Ward 5 together and move, if we were going to, because Ward 5 now has the lowest population and is not the fastest growing. And that was my concern, and I wanted to move more of the urban neighborhoods to a more urban ward.

Ms. Larla Turner – I just wanted to say real quick in response, I did not mean that you had ulterior motives. I was just saying that the idea that they need to band together for the common interest of rural priority conflicts with my city and ward's common interest of safety and equality.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Okay. And I disagree with that, but thank you.

Ms. Larla Turner – And that's okay. Thank you.

* * *

Item No. 5, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further discussion and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Passed and approved this 21st day of October, 2021.



Rich Lubbers, Secretary
Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee

NORMAN REAPPORTIONMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 21, 2021

The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma met in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201-A West Gray at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting and online at https://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09-02_reapportionment_ad_hoc_committee_agenda.pdf (normanok.gov).

Item No. 1, being:

CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Aleisha Karjala called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

* * *

Item No. 2, being:

ROLL CALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Larla Turner
Aleisha Karjala
Katherine Leidy
Kay Holladay
Karen Goodchild
Michael Zorba
Rich Lubbers
Christopher Tall Bear

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joshua Hinkle
John Johnson

A quorum was present.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Joyce Green, GIS Services Manager
Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
Roné Tromble, Administrative Technician
Bryce Holland, Multimedia Specialist

* * *

Item No. 3, being:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 2, 2021 meeting, the September 8, 2021 meeting, and the September 27, 2021 public hearing were presented for consideration.

Kay Holladay moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2021, September 8, 2021, and September 27, 2021 meetings as presented. Katherine Leidy seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by a show of hands.

* * *

Item No. 4, being:

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

1. Resolution RAHCR-2122-1
2. RAHCR-2122-1 Map

DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – Your options under the Charter are you can make more changes to the boundaries based on the feedback you got, or you could go ahead and move forward with recommending for adoption what you came up with prior and we have a resolution attached to your packet that would do that. We are recommending, if you recommend another change, that we go ahead and have another public hearing. The Charter isn't clear on that, but it's I think better to get the public input than not, so that's what we are recommending.

Rich Lubbers moved to send the proposed ward boundaries to City Council. Kay Holladay seconded the motion.

Ms. Larla Turner – I like that idea because we were all here and I believe that we used population as our guiding force, and that's what we were meant to do.

Ms. Kay Holladay – I also believe that we did the best we could with the help of the incredible software that Joyce was manipulating, our discussion, and we knew our charge well. I believe we did the best that we could do with the Census data that was given to us.

Mr. Michael Zorba – I, too, think we did a good job and balanced the numbers. But I was sort of interested in tweaking the map, and instead of taking Ward 6 east, see if we can shift things down, based on the public comments we had several weeks ago. Would anyone else be interested in that? Or is it going to look like the whack-a-mole thing? I know if we change something in one spot, it shifts a lot of stuff. That's just the nature of this beast. But anyone else interested?

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I would be interested in that for several reasons. One of those is because during our meeting, in our minutes, Ward 5 wasn't really talked about as far as being a fast-growing area. The map we have now, it has the lowest population, and that is a concern of mine. It is a concern of mine that we were charged to have like interests, and I feel like those numbers, which I suggested down on Cedar Lane – I feel like those would be better served being in 7. I know that the City Council meeting after our meeting

included several new residential developments in Ward 5, and I feel like we're taking farmland and we're keeping the residential and I feel like that is changing what that area was designed for.

Ms. Larla Turner – What are the areas in Ward 5 that would be considered residential, in your opinion?

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Well, over here on Classen and Cedar Lane – they've got several hundred houses going in. There were four of them on the Consent Docket a couple of weeks ago. 108th, maybe, and Highway 9.

Ms. Joyce Green – There's no way we could get out to 108th for anything.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – Didn't we keep it low because we expected more population within the next ten years in that area?

Ms. Kathryn Walker – I think it's that Destin Landing, primarily, that drives that, which is 36th and Highway 9.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – That is the area that I suggested taking over to 7.

Ms. Joyce Green – I was going to say that is probably too much. I think there are some ways that you could adjust things around, but it would probably involve changes between 1, 5, and 6. We tried 7 at the beginning last time and it was too many people.

Mr. Rich Lubbers – I'm going to go ahead and point out that 7 is already overweight and 5 is already underweight, so it doesn't make sense to take away from something that's underweight and add to something that's overweight.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – But when we first started this, 5 was at 3.79, and that was in that 5% number. Our charge was to keep like communities together, and this area is farmland.

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – I would like to point out in our first meeting the City staff made it perfectly clear that there were no communities of interest in the City of Norman. So we did not identify Ward 5 as a community of interest, because it's more rural.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – But we did on OU. There was specific conversation about, well, that's the OU issue. What OU issue are we talking about, then?

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – We talked about it as a community of interest, but that's it.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – We were talking about we can't move anything on Precinct 13 because that's the OU issue. What is the OU issue?

Mr. Rich Lubbers – I absolutely do not remember that conversation. I think that's

mischaracterizing conversation related to OU. The reality is that we used OU as a recognition – oh, the idea of moving lines around, because we did move lines around, and we said, oh, yeah, that's OU, but it was a recognition of its physical place.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – We can agree to disagree, because it specifically said that's the OU issue.

Mr. Christopher Tall Bear – I haven't said much here. The public hearing – and I like hearing from public, but I don't like being told that we had a political agenda or that we were gerrymandering. My understanding, we looked at that data, those numbers, and we made decisions based on those. There was no political agenda. My opinion – I've got stuff to do. We've got lives to do. Let's get this on the table. Nobody is going to be happy. We're all going to have to give and take a little bit. Let's keep in mind, this gentleman that felt like people were getting taken away from him. I look at it as the fact that he can win more people over. That's all that I'm saying. Give those other people a chance to meet a new leader. Let him win them over. I try to engage with my elected people – with our mayor. I'm a Native guy, and I know that we just got citizenship not too long ago – in my dad's lifetime, he didn't get to vote. We're trying to fight for what we have. We're sovereign people, but we're also individuals. We pay taxes. We vote. There's a lot of stuff that we do. It's not just this tribal sovereignty/tribal government. I own a house in El Reno; I pay property taxes. Let's do the best that we can for the good of the people and just agree to disagree, like you said. But we all have lives to get on to, and I don't want to drag this out. There's enough bad stuff out there.

Ms. Kay Holladay – I appreciate you saying that, especially the fact that our primary charge was to look at the census data and to equalize the population. That's the primary charge. I think this entire committee was guided by that charge and I think we did our job.

Ms. Larla Turner – I would also like to add that, like you said, we're busy people. The last time we were in this room, we all left in what I considered to be an agreement. The following events have shown that that was not the case. I just want to say that we should be in here as long as the process takes and we should take care of it respectfully and all leave feeling like we had our say and we've done what we're supposed to do so that no one feels the need to comment on things that happened in this room, as if we didn't leave in agreement.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – I want to acknowledge the comments we heard at the public hearing – that there were a lot of concerns from the people of Ward 5 wanting to keep it rural. At the same time, we also need to work within the census number guidelines that we were charged with. I believe that we were doing our best to draw the lines with the census numbers in mind, and future census numbers. If we can find a way to move the lines to make the area more rural but still meet the numbers – I don't see how it's possible with what we have to work with. And it's no ill intent on the rural citizens.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I'm not saying that it's ill intent. I've never ever said that. As far

as politics or election – yes, I contacted my Councilperson because that's who I thought I was supposed to contact. Mr. Nash put me in this position and I respect him a great deal. My concern is this is rural. This area is more developed. I would think, because our charge was also to keep like areas, that the more urban area of Ward 5 would be put into a more urban area in a different ward. Just like we did the numbers before. We haven't really looked at doing that Destin Landing into 7 or into 1.

Mr. Rich Lubbers – Once again, I'm going to point us to the fact that Ward 7 was already overweight and already needed to shed population, and Ward 5 was already underweight and so, once again, it doesn't make sense to send it into 7. We can have a conversation about other items here, but that doesn't seem to be the most obvious solution. I'm happy to entertain other solutions.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Maybe it could go into 1 and some of 1 go into 6.

Ms. Kay Holladay – It's like squeezing a big water balloon. You're going to squeeze it one way and it just – we used the software to manipulate the data and this was the best plan we came up with.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Okay. I'm just saying I don't believe that 6 going all the way out to Little River, where it has every single rural water well that the City has drilled. I do not think that is the best and I will just go on record as saying that I don't agree with that, and if the majority rules, there's not anything I can say about that.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – What is the concern with the water wells with census numbers?

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I just feel like that is a very odd division. One of the things we talked about is we're going to try to keep all the precincts together. We're going to try to keep like interests together. I just don't see how we've got that done. Again, I am in the minority, if everybody else agrees with that.

Mr. Michael Zorba – Well, I don't quite. After hearing the public talk, I would almost like to see, I guess, parts of what you said similar to what I'm thinking is have 6 maybe take a little more going south than going east. Could you click out one level, please, on the map? Like we said before, it's kind of like whack-a-mole. Just trying to keep 5 closer to what it was before we moved the lines. If we could move some of Ward 1 to the south, where Karen said there's a lot of development. Ward 1 is an urban area. Then move 6 into the areas that 1 vacated. Is that a possibility? Was there something preventing us? I thought we might take more time to play with the numbers, if everybody agreed to. You could take Ward 1 down this way. Then 6, instead of taking from here, take 6 down. Maybe instead of 12 square miles of taking of Ward 5, maybe we can make up 6 by taking a couple here and still be contiguous, and then Ward 1 moves down here.

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – Didn't we already play with those? Because we played with these boundaries before, and when we left we were quite happy with the boundaries that we drew.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – But Destin Landing was never included in any of that, because it was always told we can't do it. That part was never played with.

Ms. Joyce Green – I don't know that we played with this one. We can.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – Where is Destin Landing, again?

Ms. Joyce Green – I don't think we can get to Destin Landing.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Could you not go down Highway 9 and go down 36th to Post Oak and include that in 1?

Ms. Joyce Green – That's a little too much.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Then take some of 1.

Ms. Joyce Green – I think you should do it more incrementally than that.

Mr. Michael Zorba – Yeah, do one block at a time, and I think we can get there in three steps or less. Or if nobody wants to go that route, we have to be satisfied with what we have, I suppose.

Mr. Rich Lubbers – I made a motion that was seconded. We have had discussion. So by Robert's Rules, as I understand them, we either vote to send it forward or we vote to continue to do this.

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – Yeah. I can call the question and we can vote on the given motion and see where we're at.

Ms. Kay Holladay – You can't hold two truths to be true at the same time. In this case, I agree with Rich that there is a motion on the floor. Discussion is discussion, but what we're doing is going back to manipulating the data, and that's not what the motion was.

Mr. Tall Bear – My question after we approve or deny and it goes to whatever the next level is, and if they accept it or deny it, it may bring us back here. Am I correct?

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – No.

Mr. Michael Zorba – Can we amend the motion? Or suspend the motion? Or anything like that.

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – We can't amend it, right? Because it's already done.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – It's up to the Chair. But you do need to have discussion about the boundaries. The way we wrote the agenda item was you have the option to adopt the

resolution, which recommends for adoption the boundaries you previously discussed, or to continue that discussion. So if the vote were to fail, I think you'd be back still discussing the boundaries. If anyone's mind is changed through this discussion, it might be worthwhile to continue to have. It's really up to you prior to voting.

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – So it's the Chair's call? Because what I'm getting is it is probably time to vote on the given motion.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – Well, if you want to close public comment, someone could call the question. Or if there is, by consensus, no further public comment, then go ahead and vote. Usually the Chair does not call the question.

Ms. Aleisha Karjala – I know. I was just throwing it out there. Somebody else can do that. Would somebody else like to call the question?

Mr. Tall Bear – I would like to call the question to vote, please.

Ayes	Christopher Tall Bear, Larla Turner, Aleisha Karjala, Katherine Leidy, Kay Holladay, Rich Lubbers
Nays	Karen Goodchild, Michael Zorba

The motion, to send the proposed ward boundaries to City Council, carried by a vote of 6-2.

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Item No. 5, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – I wanted to clarify something that was repeated at the public hearing, and since we're Live Streaming, this might be a good time to clarify. Several people said, and it had me texting Council members for clarification, because I don't know where all the Council members live. I purposely have not looked in respect to this process, because that's not an appropriate consideration. Several people said 2 or 3 Council members are losing their seats, and that's not true. One would – he would be moved into a different ward. But three are not, and I should have clarified that at the public hearing, and I didn't, so I wanted to make sure I clarified it on the record now.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – Can you also clarify, if the boundary is drawn that would move a Council person out of that ward, what would happen?

Ms. Kathryn Walker – The timeline we're on now, I don't think we're going to be able – because Council has to have a hearing and they have to give 30 days notice for that hearing prior to any boundary changes being adopted, and I suspect they'll want to look at this and maybe tweak a few things. So by the time that gets done, I don't believe it will be before the filing period for Council members next year. So a Council member that might be moved out of his ward by these changes would still be eligible to run in his

current ward in February, because these will not go into effect until the following term. No Council member will lose their current elected seat because of this process. It would just be the next election when they might have to run in a different ward or not be eligible to run in their current ward.

Ms. Larla Turner – Thank you. I feel that's very important information.

Mr. Michael Zorba – I almost feel like it would be a good idea to address all the conspiracy theories, for lack of a better term, that came up. I don't know if anyone else wants to do what you did and answer to a few things. One of the things someone said was that we were gerrymandering and, with all due respect, I said I don't think we know enough about how to gerrymander. With all due respect, we're just not smart enough to do that. But tried to convey that without offending anyone on the committee here. The second thing is, would you or someone be willing to play around with this after the meeting is adjourned? Or can I get access to that? I'm a scientist at heart and I think it would be interesting to move things around and see what came of it for my own edification.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – I think we only have it on this laptop, is the problem. We don't have a license. The County, interestingly enough, has developed some software and they're allowing you to go on their website and access it and kind of play around the lines for County redistricting. Actually, Mindy told me about that. Pretty interesting. But we don't have that same kind of software, where we could put it on the website and let people mess with it. I wish we did, because I think it would be pretty enlightening how hard it is to draw the lines and get the population right.

Ms. Larla Turner – It would definitely be cool if the average citizen could go in and try to do what we did and see how even they could make it.

Mr. Tall Bear – Didn't the state, during redistricting, open up something where citizens could go in and try to?

Ms. Kathryn Walker – They're probably using that same software the County has. It wouldn't be Ward-based, but it is neat to play around with it and get an appreciation for what you all had to go through trying to adjust those lines. The County is adjusting their precincts, too, right now. So that's the weird thing about this process, is we don't want to split precincts, but they may change. We've got some timing things we need to work out.

Ms. Kay Holladay – The other thing I'd like to set the record straight -- Michael, I appreciate you bringing that up – is that we were not given information on where Council members live. We were not given information on how certain precincts or wards voted. So that was misinformation that was perpetrated in the public comments. It would be nice to set the record straight on that as well.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I think everybody is looking at me and I'll just say, again, I contacted my Council representative, because I thought that was the place to do that,

because they are the one that represents me, whether I agree with him or voted with him or not. I feel like Ward 5 is somehow categorized incorrectly by people that do not live there. There's a lot of people that value the natural resources. There are a lot of people that do not want development. We are concerned mainly about our water, because the water that comes out of everybody's faucet is pretty much from Ward 5. My concern is not anything political. My concern is water and natural resources.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – How is water affected by these lines?

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Several things. I feel like when a more rural area is put in with a more urban area, some of their concerns may not be addressed because – the way politics works – you're going to be going and answering the questions and doing the things for the most amount of people. And if you've got 1,200 people ...

Ms. Larla Turner – What are some of those concerns? Are you worried about the fact that water is a finite source? It coming from Ward 5 for the entire City – I'm not sure how that affects a Ward 5 member who might be, now, in another ward.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – There are areas that have been bought in Ward 5 and they're waiting for zoning changes so they can develop. When that boundary is changed and you're more in an urban area, it's easier for that to go from agriculture to a different zoning. There's a lot of people that – me included – that I'm concerned with – I live at 60th and Alameda. I have coyotes that 5 or 10 years ago were not coming up to my door. When you bulldoze acres of trees, those animals have to go somewhere. The urban area – it's not something they see every day. When it rains and your road washes out, and you have to own a tractor so you can grade your own road, because the City doesn't provide you services. When somebody in town can't go to the animal shelter and drop off their animal that they no longer want, because I'm going to somewhere for Thanksgiving – I'm going to go drop it out in Ward 5, and then those people are either going to shoot the dog, because it's chasing livestock, or they're going to get a ticket because you've got more than 3 dogs out here. Well, that's not mine. Well, it's on your property. There's issues out here that – I'm not saying they're better, I'm just saying they're different.

Ms. Katherine Leidy – So you don't think someone representing that ward with these lines would be able to represent the population?

Ms. Karen Goodchild – I'm not saying they won't represent the population. I'm saying this area is zoned agriculture, has different needs than somebody that's representing a more urban area. That's all I'm saying.

Ms. Larla Turner – I want to take a moment to address a lot of the things that have been said about Ward 5 and my feelings about Ward 5. I have respect for the residents of Ward 5. I don't have any discriminatory beliefs about them. I have been listening to a lot of residents of Ward 5 in the past few weeks, and they have a lot of concern about development. It's valid, but it doesn't have anything to do with these lines. I do believe

a person should have the right to live in a rural area if they want to, but I don't see how it affects what we're talking about here.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – Okay. We can agree to disagree. I think if I'm worried about having my roads washed out or my tin horns washed out and I've got one person that's worried about that or two people that's worried about that, and I've got 15 people over here saying, hey, that school line – that really bothers me when I go home – that drive-through school line. You only have so many hours, and our City Council reps are not paid to do a full-time job.

Ms. Larla Turner – Well, I think that goes back to the community just doing the best they can to elect officials that will listen to them.

Ms. Karen Goodchild – That 1,500 over there isn't going to get someone that understands those rural needs. That's all I'm saying. We've already voted on it, so it's a moot point.

Ms. Kathryn Walker – I would say the Council is going to take up the Land Use Plan. Our current Land Use Plan goes through 2025, and they're taking that up soon, so I would really encourage you to get involved with that, because that's where you can impact those decision about development. And they will want a lot of feedback.

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Item No. 6, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

Rich Lubbers moved to adjourn. Chris Tall Bear seconded the motion. There being no further discussion and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.