

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITY COMMISSION
CITY COMMISSION ZONE REDISTRICTING, PROCESS AND OPTIONS WORKSHOP**

December 7, 2021

5:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Partington called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Partington, Commissioners Dwight Selby, Troy Kent, Susan Persis, and Rob Littleton, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, Assistant City Manager Claire Whitley, City Attorney Randy Hayes, Assistant City Attorney Scott McKee, City Clerk Susan C. Dauderis, Planning Director Steven Spraker and GIS Analyst Eric Dickens.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, explained the Commission Zone redistricting was on a tight deadline and needed to be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections office no later than the second City Commission meeting in March of 2022.

Mr. Steven Spraker, Planning Director, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and explained the redistricting process was completed every ten years after the United States Census. He stated per the 2020 census Ormond Beach had about a 13 percent growth rate over the prior ten years and had 43,080 residents. He stated the redistricting process was to allow each zone to have the same number of residents, with a maximum of a five percent variation. He explained the six options he would review had a maximum of a three percent variance. He explained the redistricting must follow the census blocks, which were the smallest geographic data set and the target population for each zone would be 10,770 people. He reviewed the six options, noting the population shift, the deviation percentage from the target goal number and how many areas were affected. He discussed Option 1 which affected 999 people, the highest deviation was 1.74 percent, and affected three areas. Option 2 had a population shift of 2,050, a high of 0.54 percent for the deviation, and changed five areas. Option 3 had a population shift of 2,032, a high deviation of 3.04 percent and affected five areas. Option 4 had a population shift of 1,108, a high deviation of 2.67 percent and changed four areas. He noted Option 5 was the most aggressive with a population shift of 4,232, a deviation high of 3.00 percent and affected six areas. Option 6 had a population shift of 1,661, a 1.46 percent for the highest deviation and changed 3 areas.

Mayor Partington inquired about what census blocks were; whereby, Mr. Spraker explained a census block was the lowest geographic area in the census, noting they were like building blocks of the zones. Mayor Partington asked how many census blocks were within the city; whereby, Mr. Eric Dickens, Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst, stated the city had 787 census blocks, noting some blocks had no citizens as they were commercial areas.

Commissioner Persis thanked Mr. Dickens and staff for their hard work on the maps. She inquired if in Options 4, 5 and 6 if the area south of Airport Road was the same throughout all three options; whereby, Mr. Dickens stated it was the same census blocks for that area change.

Mayor Partington inquired which option would be best for 2031 when the city would have to complete the redistricting process again; whereby, Mr. Spraker explained Option 5 started the process but there was no one option better than the others. Mr. Spraker discussed the population potential in different areas, noting it was hard to prepare for the next redistricting when the zones needed to stay within a five percent variation.

Commissioner Kent inquired about the highest target population deviation percentage; whereby Mr. Spraker explained the census guidelines recommended a maximum of a five percent deviation while the Florida League of Cities recommended a maximum of a three percent deviation.

Commissioner Persis stated her preferences were Option 4 and Option 6.

Commissioner Littleton stated he preferred Option 6 with Option 4 as a second choice.

Mayor Partington agreed that he liked Option 6 but requested the Andrews Street segment be kept as Zone 2.

Commissioner Selby discussed the zones and deviations, noting Zone 2 was the only zone in need of more people. He stated four of the six options affected all four zones, but two options impacted three zones. He stated his concerns with Option 1 and changing The Trails subdivision from two zones to three zones. He stated he liked that Option 6 utilized natural boundaries and had the fewest number of changes.

Commissioner Kent expressed his concerns for the east side of North Beach Street as Zone 1 and requested it be changed to Zone 2. He also discussed his concern with Zone 2 not having growth like Zones 1 and 3. He stated he liked Option 1 as it would give Zone 2 more residents. He explained he would be in favor of Option 1 or Option 6 with a few more adjustments, agreeing with Mayor Partington to leave the Andrews Street segment as Zone 2 as well as the east side of North Beach Street.

Mayor Partington discussed possible rank choice voting for the future, as the Commissioners have a team attitude and would not turn away a citizen just because they were not in that Commissioner's Zone. He explained the suggestion was for the Commission to think about the future. He believed Option 6 was the least disruptive. He inquired how many people would be added to Zone 2 with the east side of North Beach Street up to Sanchez Avenue; whereby, Mr. Dickens explained the Commission would be unable to do that as that would break a census

block. Mr. Dickens stated there were two census blocks in that area; the first census block was from Granada Boulevard to Melrose Avenue and included 19 people, and the second census block was from Melrose Avenue to Cameo Circle and included 84 people.

Commissioner Persis stated she would be in favor of the changes.

Commissioner Kent inquired if the east side of North Beach Street was required to remain Zone 1 to maintain its contiguous status with the beachside portion of Zone 1; whereby, Mr. Dickens informed him that section could be changed to Zone 2.

Mr. Randy Hayes, City Attorney, explained that back in 2011 when the last redistricting was completed he believed it may have been the mindset of the majority of the Commission to maintain contiguity with the beachside zone 1 district, but was not required.

Commissioner Selby clarified it would be 103 people that would move from Zone 1 to Zone 2 with the change of the two census blocks from the east side of North Beach Street and inquired how that would affect the deviation percentage; whereby, Mr. Dickens stated with the two census blocks being added and the Andrews Street segment remaining with Zone 2 the deviation percentage would be within the acceptable range.

Commissioner Kent stated he would be favor of the change and believed it would assist in the next redistricting.

Mr. Hayes explained the charter was a guideline and there was plenty of other criteria that would satisfy the contiguous portion, noting it was up to the Commission to interpret. He read Paragraph 5 of Section 5.09 from the charter:

“Specifications. All zone boundary adjustments shall result in zones which are contiguous and substantially compact, with boundary lines following prominent geographic features, whether natural or manmade, that may include but shall not be limited to rivers, creeks, roads, and railroad lines, while avoiding to the maximum extent possible the division of residential subdivisions, and which are based on the principle of equal and effective representation as required by the United States Constitution.”

Mr. Hayes stated as long as the Commission stayed within the specified deviation range, then the changes should be acceptable.

Commissioner Persis inquired when the redistricting would take place; whereby, Mr. Spraker stated it would be sent over to the Supervisor of Elections in March and would be applicable to the 2022 election.

Ms. Shanahan inquired if there was a consensus to keep the Andrews Street segment in Zone 2 and add the two census blocks on the east side of North Beach Street from Zone 1 to Zone 2; whereby, the entire Commission agreed.

Ms. Shanahan explained the next step in the redistricting process would be to bring the Commission a Resolution of Intent on January 18, 2022; whereby, Commissioner Selby inquired if it could be brought earlier. Ms. Shanahan stated it was possible and would note to bring the resolution to the January 4, 2022, City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Selby inquired if the Commission was required to wait 30 days before finalizing; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated that was correct, the resolution needed to be passed 30 days before the ordinance was brought to the Commission.

Mayor Partington inquired if the resolution could be passed at the first January meeting and the ordinance at the two February meetings; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated it could not, as the resolution needed the full 30 days and that timeframe would not allow it. She explained if the resolution passed at the first January meeting then the ordinance would come before the Commission on the second meeting of February and the first meeting in March, which would allow staff time to produce all required documentation to the Supervisor of Elections office before the due date.

Commissioner Selby inquired about the Mayor's comments on rank choice voting; whereby, Mr. Hayes stated it could be changed if the Commission changed the charter, but would ultimately be up to the voters.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Transcribed by: Taylor Lochert