



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

4:40 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson; Ann Williams and Brian Emison

3. New Business

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-22:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2.55 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WARD BOUNDARIES BASED ON 2020 CENSUS INFORMATION AND UTILIZATION OF EFS GEOTECHNOLOGIES GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS SOFTWARE.

Sponsors: Mayor's Office and Engineering

Attachments: [Wards 2011 11x17](#)
[Wards 2022 11x17](#)
[Ward Legal Description](#)
[2022 Ward Map_Circled Changes](#)

Brian Richardson explained that this is the same ward map that had been discussed a few months back. Now that the election is over we will have ward election for half of the council members, so we thought that this is the appropriate time to bring it back up to allow proper time for re-districting and for everybody to know who and what district they are going to be voting in. Basically what we did, with councils approval is task EFS Geotechnologies to look at the 2020 census data and to make recommendations with making sure that we can have an equal elect representation in the upcoming election. Their findings are that ward two under the standard deviation it was a little too small, and that ward six was much larger than many of the other wards, I believe it was approximately in the 18% range, and they try to keep the target in the range of 10% or less to remain in the scope of the 14th amendment to insure that elections are free and equal. What we asked them to do was try to make as minimal changes as possible, to take into consideration what our current city councilmembers addresses are, so that we don't upset the makeup of council unless it was absolutely necessary, and that we continue to follow geographic boundaries where possible. As you see on the maps before you the recommendation from EFS was to move the boundary on ward six down to Aggie and Airport, and that triangle running from north there to Johnson with it becoming ward three, and to add a section on to ward two that will

come out of ward three consistent with Sylvan Hills and the Scott street area. There is about a thousand people in ward three that will be going into ward two, and about another thousand that will be going from ward six into ward three. Unfortunately ward three was kind of caught in the middle here, they had a little chunk taken out of them from ward two, so they had to gain it back through ward six. All in all I was fairly surprised by the consistency that the city has grown, and it obviously has grown a lot. But, I was expecting for us to have to do a pretty considerable size redistricting. But, I was very happy with EFS for being able to kind of look through this and make sure that we did the best that we could. James Hartshorn with EFS is with us on a ZOOM call if anyone has any technical questions they would like to ask.

Councilmember Bobby Long asked when the redistricting is done, if we do this as proposed, what percentages are each ward now versus where they were. You said that ward six was approximately 18% with the changes in ward six, two, and three where are those percentages now in relation to where they were? Mr. Harthorn explained that ward two was low to the tune of negative 12.9% and ward six was high at 10.89%. So, as Brian said that 10% is actually plus or minus 5%, so it's a total 10% range. Ward two being negative 12.9% low, you want to get those numbers between plus or minus 5%. As a byproduct ward three was effected even though it was fine, but we had to move people from ward six to ward three and then from three to two so, ward three was the byproduct of that. What we ended up with, option-1, ward two is now negative 4.7%, ward six is down to 2.48%. As Brian stated we tried to make minimal changes when it came to the public to updating voting registration systems, that's usually the best solution for all constituents and all parties involved, the least change possible to get within the ranges that we need to consider to be substantially equal populations. Brian commented that, so with these changes you are say that all of our wards would be within that 5% standard deviation? Mr. Hartshorn stated, that is correct.

A motion was made by Councilperson Bobby Long, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner;Bobby Long;Ann Williams and Brian Emison

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:083](#)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TITLE VI PROGRAM SUBMITTED FOR THE JET SYSTEM

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [JETS 2022 Title VI Program\(002\)](#)

JETS Director Michael Black explained that this is part of the standard title six, we have to do this every three-years. I have worked with the FTA for the last month to put this together to update all of our information regarding title six. It will need to go through the next council meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner;Bobby Long;Ann Williams and Brian Emison

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Bobby Long, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Ann Williams and Brian Emison