

Greenville County Planning and Development Committee Minutes
January 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room D at County Square

Members Present: J. Dill, Chairman; M. Barnes; C. Harrison; E. Fant; S. Shaw

Members Absent: None

Councilors Present: None

Planning Commission Present: None

Staff Present: M. Tollison, R. McCaskill; IS Staff

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dill called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation

Councilor Shaw provided the invocation.

4. Rezoning Requests

Greenville County Redistricting Ordinance

Councilor Fant presented an ordinance to reapportion the twelve (12) single member election districts for the election of Greenville County Council Members based upon the 2020 Decennial Census so that the population of such districts shall comply with applicable federal and state laws.

Discussion:

Mr. Tollison stated in December, the South Carolina Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs presented two (2) maps for Council's consideration in regards to redistricting. Rich Hanning, GIS Director, interfaced census data with Council district lines in order for Council to be able to see the impact of different moves. The base map used was Scenario 2; nine (9) districts saw no change between Scenario 1 and Scenario 2. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022, to allow the public the opportunity to offer comments on redistricting, provided the Committee approves one of the proposed scenarios. Mr. Tollison stated the maps would be posted online in the near future for the public's viewing.

MOTION: By Councilor Fant to approve and forward the request to Full Council.

AMENDMENT: By Councilor Barnes to amend the motion to move one section of the map back to District 18 from District 17.

Chairman Dill stated he was concerned as there was no replacement for the section Mr. Barnes was proposing be moved.

Councilor Barnes asked if the population counts for each district would be acceptable if the section was moved from District 17 and moved back to District 18.

Mr. Tollison stated moving the section in question would not raise the overall variation significantly. If the amendment was approved, Mr. Dill's district would be at -5.2% of the desired target but would still be in compliance with state law. District 25 would still have the highest variation.

Councilor Fant stated Council had worked tirelessly on the redistricting process; the “spirit of cooperation” was “one for the ages.” Staff was also owed a “ton of thanks and praise” for all their hard work. At the end of the day, the residents of Greenville County would be well-served by the decisions Council had made.

Chairman Dill stated the amendment by Councilor Barnes would increase the population of District 18 and decrease the population of District 17. He would have preferred Mr. Barnes suggest some sort of trade. Mr. Dill asked if there was any way to ensure District 17 was represented by a number more in line with the recommended population count.

Councilor Barnes stated it was his understanding that Mr. Dill was in agreement with the proposed amendment.

Chairman Dill stated he was under the impression that another area would be added to District 17 if the amendment was approved; however, that addition was approved by Council. Mr. Dill stated he would like to see what other areas could be added to District 17. He asked Mr. Barnes how many people were included in the section he had proposed to be moved.

Councilor Barnes stated there were approximately 1600 people living in the area in question.

Chairman Dill stated there was a section near Lake Robinson that he had proposed could be moved from District 20 to District 17. Mr. Dill added that he was willing to vote to move the item forward; however, in the “spirit of cooperation”, he would like to see Council work together to resolve the issue.

Motion to amend carried with Chairman Dill voting in opposition.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

6. Adjourn

Councilor Fant made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica M. Stone
Deputy Clerk to Council