

Reynoldsburg

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MINUTES MEETING REYNOLDSBURG WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION February 16, 2022

Les Davies called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM

PRESENT: Benner, Castro, Davies, Missick

ABSENT: Boggs

Additional attendees: Attorney Chris Shook, Derek Mair and Kristi Gardner from EMH&T, Clerk Mollie Prasher

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 19, 2022 were approved as amended. Mr. Castro advised that he did not ask if precincts would be a factor in setting boundaries. He stated that the Commission would need to make choices about where to position wards beyond just balancing population numbers. The minutes will be amended and allow Mr. Castro to review the amendment.

Ward Boundary Process

INITIAL CENSUS DATA BY WARD

Derek Mair and his associate Christy introduced themselves as our consultants from EMH&T. Mr. Mair indicated that he had taken all of the updated census data and input it into the existing ward boundary map. He had provided the Commission the new population numbers in their packet. He would work with the Commission to determine how best to align the new population numbers into new ward boundary areas. He highly encouraged the Commission, when setting the new boundary lines, to not split census blocks. He showed the Commission the multitude of census blocks in the Reynoldsburg corporation limits.

Mr. Mair showed the Commission how various areas could be broken down into per household units. Those units varied from neighborhood to neighborhood and by different types of housing.

Mr. Castro had an annexation map from School Board member Dr. Whitman showing different corporation limit lines from Mr. Mair's map. Mr. Mair's map did not yet include a

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number of newly annexed areas and would need to be updated by property lines and anticipated buildable units.

The Commission debated on how best to calculate units, whether to use one standardized number or by type of dwelling (apartment, townhome/condo, single family unit). Mr. Mair showed various areas in the City and the number of people per unit. There was discussion of how neighborhoods can be cyclical with younger families then transition to more empty-nesters. There was also discussion of how predicative the Commission needed to be as to the future of growth in each ward. There were concerns that a four-bedroom house could hold an average of eight people or just a couple.

Mrs. Missick moved to set a standard per unit of 3 people for all types of units throughout the City. Second by Mr. Benner. Motion carried 3-1. Mr. Castro explained his no vote as he would have supported a more specific per unit number based on the type of unit.

The discussion then moved to how the mapping of the wards could be adjusted. Mr. Mair took a small area from Ward 4 and moved it into Ward 2. That adjustment helped to equalize the total overall population numbers of those two Wards as well as allowed for a straighter Ward boundary.

Mr. Castro stated that he would like to see several configurations of boundary maps.

Mr. Castro moved to request that EMH&T provide three different, specific map types - a map similar to the existing map showing just population adjustments, a map showing the Licking County area as a specific Ward, and a map showing the City divided into four quadrants (crosshair design). There was no second to his motion.

Mr. Mair and Clerk Prasher will work together to add any unincluded annexations and the projected number of units to the map for the next meeting. Mr. Mair will provide that information ahead of the next meeting for the Commission to review.

Other Matters

There were no Other Matters.

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Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Benner moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mrs. Missick. Motion carried.

Mollie Prasher

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council
Mollie Prasher
7232 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg OH 43068
614-322-6836 phone

Memo

DATE: February 16, 2022
TO:
CC:
RE: Initial Census Data by Ward

Below is the current census data by Ward. Mr. Mair will explain the data and discuss how the process of making any adjustments to the Ward boundary lines.

We have assigned the 2020 Census blocks based on the current municipal and ward boundaries and have come up with the following (preliminary) results related to total population and population assigned to each ward:

- Total Population - 41,070 (average of 10,267 per ward)
- Ward 1 - 10,176 (1% lower than average)
- Ward 2 - 9,938 (3% lower than average)
- Ward 3 - 10,286 (very close to average)
- Ward 4 - 10,670 (4% higher than average)

That seems like a really good starting point. The last commission must have done a good job considering the impact of future growth.