

Reynoldsburg

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MINUTES MEETING REYNOLDSBURG WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION January 19, 2022

Les Davies called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM

PRESENT: Benner, Castro, Davies, Missick

ABSENT: Boggs

Approval of Agenda

Keith Benner moved to approve the agenda. Second by Steve Castro. Motion carried.

Overview of Ward Boundary Process

Attorney Shook described the process and purpose of the Ward Boundary Commission based on the current Reynoldsburg population of over 41,000 people. Following each decennial census, and at least ninety days prior to the date candidates for Ward Council seats must file for office for the second regular municipal election after the decennial census, the Commission shall propose the re-division of the City into four wards of substantially equal population in each ward. In addition to the re-division of the City into wards, the Council may, by motion, direct the Ward Boundary Commission to re-divide the City into four wards in order to provide substantially equal population in each ward. All wards shall be compact and contiguous and shall be bounded, as far as practical, by county lines, streets, alleys, avenues, public grounds, canals, watercourses, municipal boundary lines, or center lines of platted streets or railroads. Re-division of the City into wards shall not terminate or otherwise affect the unexpired terms of Ward Council members. If the wards are substantially equal, then the current ward divisions may remain the same. However, we anticipate that Wards 2 and 3 will have grown in the past ten years. The Commission will also need to consider allowing for growth during the next ten years some wards.

Mr. Castro asked if there was a priority as to which of the parameters should be considered. Attorney Shook stated that trying to keep neighborhoods intact was the only main consideration.

Mr. Davies asked if the City had maps of the neighborhoods. Attorney Shook indicated that most neighborhoods were easily distinguishable on a map.

Mr. Benner asked the process if a new ward needed to be added. Attorney Shook stated that adding a new ward would likely not be necessary. The Commission will probably need to increase the size of Wards 1 and 4 due to the growth in Wards 3 and 4.

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Mr. Davies asked about how the density of households would be determined and calculated into the mapping. Clerk Prasher advised that EMH&T will likely provide a lot of that information.

Motions

Nominations for Chair of the Board & Vote

Mr. Benner nominated Les Davies as Chair. Second by Mrs. Missick. Motion carried.

Nominations for Vice Chair of the Board & Vote

Mr. Castro nominated himself as Vice Chair. Second by Mrs. Missick. Motion carried.

A Motion to Authorize the Clerk of Council to Contract with EMH&T for the Purpose of Preparing an Overview of the 2020 Census

Mrs. Missick moved to direct Clerk Prasher to contract with EMH&T to prepare and provide 2020 census data for the Commission. Second by Mr. Benner. Motion carried.

Mr. Castro asked if the Commission needed to authorize a bid process to select this contract provider and if the Commission had a budget. Attorney Shook explained that the City contracts with EMH&T as the City's engineer. Additionally, this contract is under the bid threshold of \$25,000. Clerk Prasher advised that she had funds in her Council budget.

Scheduling

Attorney Shook asked if meeting on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00pm would work for the Commission. The Commission replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Castro commented that choices would need to be made about where to position the ward boundary lines beyond just balancing population numbers.

A question arose regarding whether the Commission needed to be concerned with the voting precincts as part of this process. Attorney Shook stated that the precincts would not be considered.

Mr. Castro asked how the Commission would know how to shift the ward boundary lines. Attorney Shook advised that issue would be further explained by EMH&T.

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Clerk Prasher advised that she would contact EMH&T and advise the Commission if the February 16th meeting date would not work.

Other Matters

Adjourn

Mollie Prasher

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council