

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FAST CONFERENCE ROOM, 505 WINSLOW STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NC
AUGUST 30, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); Shakeyla Ingram (District 2) (via zoom) (arrived at 5:11 p.m.); D. J. Haire (District 4); Johnny Dawkins (District 5); Chris Davis (District 6); Larry O. Wright, Sr. (District 7); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Yvonne Kinston (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Tisha S. Waddell (District 3)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Telly Whitfield, Assistant City Manager
Jay Toland, Assistant City Manager
Gina Hawkins, Police Chief
Rebecca Jackson, Chief of Staff
Taurus Freeman, Planning and Zoning Manager
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Caroline Mackie, Poyner Spruill, LLP
Blake Esselstyn, Mapfigure Consulting
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member Wright.

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Wright moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (8-0)

4.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4.01 City of Fayetteville Redistricting Presentation - Criteria and Guiding Principles

Ms. Caroline Mackie, Redistricting Consultant, and Mr. Blake Esselstyn, Mapfigure Consulting, presented this item. Ms. Mackie stated she and Mr. Esselstyn need to know which guiding principles are important to Fayetteville and its residents; what should we know about Fayetteville. The contract we (LRS Consultants) have with the City requires we provide two to three alternative redistricting plans.

To comply with the one-person, one-vote constitutional principles, every district's total population should be within plus or minus 5 percent of the ideal district size. Minority voting strength should not be diluted, but race should not unnecessarily predominate. The 2019 estimated population of Fayetteville is 211,657. The ideal district population is 23,517, with a range of 22,341 to 24,693.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Colvin stated he will announce and take a consensus vote on each of the following eight Guiding Principles:

1. **Recognize and respect communities of interest and neighborhood boundaries.**

Unanimous Consensus of Council was to accept this guiding principle.

2. **Use precincts as building blocks for the districts, to the extent possible.**

Consensus of Council was to not accept this guiding principal. Council Members Ingram and Kinston were in favor of this guiding principal.

Mayor Colvin recessed the meeting at 6:29 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

3. **Avoid the pairing of incumbents in the same district.**

Unanimous consensus of Council was to accept this guiding principal.

4. **Consider areas of potential future population growth.**

Consensus of Council was to accept this guiding principal. Council Members Colvin and Dawkins were in opposition to this guiding principal.

5. **In order to minimize voter confusion, districts should retain their current configuration, to the extent possible ("core preservation").**

Consensus of Council was to accept this guiding principal. Council Member Kinston was in opposition to this guiding principal.

6. **Alternatively, the existing district lines should not be considered except to the extent legally required ("blank slate").**

Consensus of Council was to not accept this guiding principal. Council Member Kinston was in favor of accepting this guiding principal.

7. **Follow natural boundaries and physical features, such as roads or waterways, to the extent possible.**

Consensus of Council was to accept this guiding principal. Council Member Ingram was in opposition of this guiding principal.

8. **Districts should be reasonably compact, to the extent possible.**

Consensus of Council was to not accept this guiding principal. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen and Council Member Dawkins were in favor of accepting this guiding principal.

4.02 Public Hearing Discussion

Mr. Blake Esselstyn stated the City must conduct, by law, a public hearing prior to adopting the revised districts.

Consensus of Council was to call for a public hearing; date to be determined.

Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated all questions from City Council are to be sent to the City Clerk. The next meeting to discuss redistricting will be held on September 27, 2021. Mr. Esselstyn stated the maps will be provided to City Council at least one week prior to the meeting date.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at
7:23 p.m.