

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF NIXA, MISSOURI

NIXA CITY HALL

September 20, 2021 5:00 p.m.

The special committee meeting of the Nixa City Council was called to order by Darlene Graham. Attending were Council Members Shawn Lucas, Darlene Graham, and Amy Hoogstraet.

The pledge of allegiance was given.

Election of Committee Chair:

Lucas made a motion to appoint Darlene Graham as the Special Committee's chair, with Hoogstraet seconding and all voting aye.

Election of Committee Vice-Chair:

Graham made a motion to appoint Amy Hoogstraet as the Special Committee's vice-chair, with Lucas seconding and all voting aye.

Redistricting Presentation:

Garrett Tyson, Planning and Development Director, gave a brief overview of the seven (7) redistricting criteria that must be followed when deciding new council districts. Tyson discussed the current districts and their population sizes. He next gave information on how Scott Godbey, City Planner, developed the two (2) options they would be considering, along with information on the ten percent (10%) deviation within both districts. Tyson stated that staff recommends Option A. Council asked questions about the current housing developments and if they can be considered in the redistricting decisions. Tyson responded that future growth is speculative. Nick Woodman, City Attorney, gave information on why the U.S. Census data must be used. Council held a brief discussion regarding the redistricting options. Council questioned which was more important, deviation or compactness, when selecting new districts. Tyson responded that deviation is more important, which is why staff is recommending Option A. Council continued discussion on the redistricting options. Council asked questions about the percentage of deviation concerns between Option A and Option B. Jimmy Liles, City Administrator, stated Option A is consistent between the district sizes. At the same time, Option B has unbalanced district sizes. Council continued discussion on the redistricting options. Liles stated that Main Street is a main thoroughfare and using it as a boundary should be easy to explain to citizens. Council questioned precinct boundaries and voting stations. Tyson stated that the County Clerk is going to redraw the precinct boundaries after the November election. He also said that if Council could meet the target date to have the Council districts redistricted, it would help the County Clerk draw the precinct boundaries. He also stated that there would be voting stations throughout each district. Council continued discussion on precinct boundaries and population deviation. Tyson stated that staff could have gotten deviation lower; however, they would have violated all other criteria that should be followed. After a final discussion on the redistricting options, Hoogstraet made a motion to recommend Option A to Council with Lucas seconding and all Council Members voting aye.

Tyson praised Godbey for all his hard work developing the redistricting options. He also discussed the timeline to approve the redistricting.

Adjournment:

Lucas made a motion to adjourn at 5:39 p.m. with Hoogstraet seconding and all voting aye.

Chair

Deputy City Clerk