

MINUTES

2021 New Castle County Redistricting Commission

July 28, 2021

I. Call to Order

- Redistricting Chairman Ted Blunt convened the July 28, 2021 meeting of the 2021 Redistricting Commission at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers.

II. Roll Call

- Chairman Blunt asked Nellie Hill, Clerk of Council, to perform the roll call. Commission members present were: Paul Jones (District 1), Robert Valihura (District 2), Katherine Beard (District 3), Justen Wright (District 4), Constance Merlet (virtual) (District 5), Keith Thompson (District 6), Michael Shaw (District 7), Terrence Wright (District 8), Charles Stirk (virtual) (District 9), Vincent D'Anna (At-Large), Patricia Abernethy (District 11), James Hudson (District 12), Chairman Blunt (District 10).
- Others Present: Nellie Hill (Clerk of Council), Tara Finnigan (Deputy Clerk of Council), Michael Migliore (Counsel to Council), Anthony Albence (State of Delaware Elections Commissioner), Chris Ramos (State of Delaware Department of Elections IT Director)

III. Reading and Approval of July 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

- Chairman Ted Blunt requested Ms. Hill to read the minutes from the July 12, 2021 meeting.
- Bob Valihura moved to waive the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Hudson and approved by voice vote. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

IV. Discussion re: Procedural Rule 1.5

- Katherine Beard stated her concerns with the wording in procedural rule 1.5.
- Discussion among commission members ensued.
- Connie Merlet moved to approve rule 1.5 as written. The motion was seconded by Vince D'Anna and was approved by voice vote 11 Yes, 2 No (Mr. Jones, Ms. Beard).

V. Overview of Commission Charge & Redistricting Procedures (Tab 5)

- Mike Migliore, Counsel to Council, provided an overview on the Commission's charge and the redistrict procedures.

VI. Redistricting Timeline Review (Tab 6)

- Mike Migliore, Counsel to Council, provided an overview on the redistricting timeline and noted that the State of Alabama litigation is still a live issue.
- Chris Ramos, Department of Elections, elaborated on Maptitude software and the August 16th date for production of redistricting data.

VII. Review Current New Castle County Council District Maps

- Chris Ramos, Department of Elections, reviewed the 2011 Census data numbers for each district.
- Terry Wright offered to provide the final district numbers from the 2011 Redistricting Commission before the next meeting.

VIII. Robert's Rules of Order & Discussion Regarding Personal Attendance at Meetings.

-- Procedural Rule: Voting in Person.

- Chairman Ted Blunt proposed that Commission members be present at the meeting in order to vote.
- Justen Wright moved that Commission members be present at the meetings in order to vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. D'Anna. Discussion on motion took place. Chairman Ted Blunt ruled that the motion was approved by voice vote.
- Connie Merlet requested a roll call vote on the original motion. Ms. Hill restated the original motion and called the roll.

- Yes (5): Mr. Jones, Mr. Justen Wright, Mr. D'Anna, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Blunt
 - No (7): Ms. Beard, Ms. Merlet, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Terry Wright, Mr. Stirk, Ms. Abernethy
 - Abstain (1): Mr. Valihura
- Katherine Beard moved that Commission members resolve to try and make every meeting that they can because of the importance of the Commission's task. The motion was seconded by Chairman Ted Blunt and approved by voice vote.

IX. Discussion of request for 2011 Redistricting Commission Meeting Minutes and Other Proposed Rule Changes

- Katherine. Beard discussed an email that she sent to the Commission email distribution list on July 22, 2021 which contained additional proposed procedural rules that she asked the commission to consider.
- Chairman Ted Blunt requested that Commission members bring agenda items to the chair's attention.
- Bob Valihura moved to make Ms. Beard's July 22, 2021 email part of the record. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry Wright and approved by voice vote.
- Patricia Abernethy requested that the Commission move the meetings to Gilliam Hall.
- Jim Hudson moved that all meetings be held at the City/County Building. The motion was seconded by Vince D'Anna. Discussion on the motion took place. The motion was approved by roll call vote:
 - Yes (10): Mr. Jones, Mr. Valihura, Mr. Justen Wright, Ms. Merlet, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Terry Wright, Mr. D'Anna, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Blunt
 - No (2): Mr. Stirk, Ms. Abernethy
 - Abstain: Ms. Beard
- Katherine Beard moved that Commission members receive all items that need to be voted on at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The motion failed to receive a second.

X. Set Meeting Schedule

- Chairman Ted Blunt suggested the next meeting be held within 5 days after the Department of Elections receives the data.
- Bob Valihura moved to schedule the next meeting on August 23, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jim Hudson. Discussion on the motion took place.
 - Justen Wright requested that date be changed to August 24, 2021. Bob Valihura accepted the change and amended the original motion.
 - The amended motion carried by voice vote. The next meeting date is August 24, 2021.
- Chris Ramos, Department of Elections, provided clarification on the timeline once the Federal Government releases the census data.
- Chairman Ted Blunt suggested the Commission amend the original motion to adjust the date to August 26, 2021. The amended motion was accepted, and discussion took place.
 - Mike Migliore suggested that the Commission schedule several meeting dates.
 - Bob Valihura amended the original motion to include August 24, 2021, August 26, 2021, August 30, 2021, also, to authorize the chair to cancel any of the meeting dates if the data is unavailable.
 - Justen Wright moved to amend the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. for the proposed dates. The amendment was accepted.
 - The motion carried by voice vote.
- Chairman Ted Blunt announced agenda items for the next meeting, looking at the maps and discussion of future meeting dates.

XI. Public Comment

- Keith Thompson read a letter he received from Joan Wheeler from the 6th District into the record. The correspondence will be included in the record.

XII. Adjournment

- Justen Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by James Hudson, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.