

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BOSSIER CITY
STATE OF LOUISIANA TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2022

The City Council of the City of Bossier City, State of Louisiana, met in Special session in Council Chambers, 620 Benton Road, Bossier City, Louisiana, June 15, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Invocation was given by Council Member Jeffery Darby

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Chris Smith

Roll Call as follows:

Present: Honorable, President Don Williams, Honorable Councilors Chris Smith, Brian Hammons, Jeffery Darby, Jeff Free and Vince Maggio

Also Present: Mayor, Thomas Chandler, City Attorney, Charles Jacobs and City Clerk, Phyllis McGraw

By: Mr. Hammons

Motion to approve Agenda

Seconded by Mr. Smith

No comment

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous

Public Hearing –

Gary Joiner, Demographer, went over the 2 maps to be decided on. Charles Jacobs, City Attorney, reminded Council and audience that if the 7 District Maps are the wish of the Council, a Charter Commission must be formed and a vote of the people must happen before it can be adopted.

Mr. Williams opened the Public Hearing up for comments.

Speaking were residents Cary Chandler and Holly Floyd. Both asked questions of Mr. Joiner. City Attorney Jacobs spoke on how process would work to change to a 7 District plan.

No further comments

Mr. Williams closed Public Hearing at 2:35 PM

City Clerk McGraw reminded audience members that they still have an opportunity to comment on each Resolution prior to adoption.

New Business –

Agenda item called: Adopt a Resolution to consider a restructuring of the City of Bossier City, City Council Electoral Districts (Requiring a City of Bossier City Charter Commission to fundamentally restructure said existing Electoral Districts) from existing said Districts to seven (7) Geographical Districts.

Mr. Smith asked for clarification steps after this vote. City Attorney Jacobs explained how the process would work if this Resolution is adopted.

Mr. Darby read statement concerning his stance on this issue. He is not opposed to 5/2 current plan which he was elected under or the 7 District plan. Wants to allow citizens to have the choice of change and hopes to promote more citizen participation in government. He wanted the record to show his “vote today is not to ensure a personal advantage but to ensure the peoples advantage”

Mr. Smith asked for clarification about later putting on the Agenda for adoption an Ordinance for a Charter Commission. City Attorney Jacobs stated that if its asked he will put the

Ordinance on the agenda. He is in favor of the 5/2 plan but also would like to see a Charter Commission formed to allow the citizens an opportunity to have their voices heard.

No further comment

Motion was defeated by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Smith and Mr. Darby

Nays: Mr. Hammons, Mr. Williams, Mr. Free and Mr. Maggio

Agenda Item called: Adopt a Resolution to consider reapportionment (As required by the 1965 Voting Rights Act) of the existing City of Bossier City, City Council Electoral Districts as structured in the current existing City Charter.

Resident Lee Jeter, Sr. spoke out against 5/2 plan and he wants the Charter Commission to be formed to give more representation.

RESOLUTION 61 OF 2022

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER REAPPORTIONMENT (AS REQUIRED BY THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT) OF THE EXISTING CITY OF BOSSIER CITY, CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AS STRUCTURED IN THE CURRENT EXISTING CITY CHARTER

WHEREAS, the 1965 Voting Rights Act requires that all municipalities that have individual Council Districts must reapportion following the Census every 10 years.

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census numbers have been released and indicate that the current Districts are malapportioned and it is now time to reapportion Council Districts so that they are better balanced with Citizen numbers.

WHEREAS, the current Bossier City Home Rule Charter specifies that Council Districts will consist of 5 Districts and 2 At Large members

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Bossier City Council wishes to pursue reapportionment as structured in the current existing Bossier City Home Rule Charter.

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted at open and legal session convened, was on motion of Mr. Don Williams and seconded by Mr. Vince Maggio on the 15th, day of June 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Mr. Smith, Mr. Hammons, Mr. Darby, Mr. Williams, Mr. Free and Mr. Maggio

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Montgomery, Jr.

ABSTAIN: none

Don Williams, President

Phyllis McGraw, City Clerk

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 2:49PM by Mr. Williams

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis McGraw
City Clerk

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