

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 21, 1974
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Present on roll call: 7 - Egan, Herrmann, Hudson, Nalley, Sonntag, Warnick and Mayor Johnston. Absent: 2 - Moss and Nelson.

Mayor Johnston announced that the Special Meeting had been called to hear a presentation by Dr. William Baarsma, the Council's consultant for Councilmanic districting.

Dr. Baarsma then made a brief presentation on the basic problems he and his staff are encountering in developing the district boundary criteria. In following the prescribed procedure as outlined in the City Charter amendment establishing five separate districts in the City, Dr. Baarsma outlined the difficulties he and his staff are encountering in identifying five separate and distinct districts of the City based on precinct boundaries and equal population. He stated that five districts should have an equal population of 30,900 but that some trade offs will have to be made in order to set up the proposed districts.

Dr. Baarsma introduced Gordon Jones, a student at UPS, who reviewed the possible legal guidelines involved in the one person-one vote decisions relative to districting. He said the districts will probably have a maximum of two to three percent variance in the number of citizens.

Another student, Mr. Mike Cooper, reviewed geographic districts in the City and stated that the staff is still determining the exact boundaries of the proposed five districts.

Gordon N. Graham, another UPS student, briefly reviewed the census data being considered by the Baarsma team with relation to social ranking within the districts.

Councilman Nelson arrived at 4:40 p.m.

Dr. Baarsma reviewed for the Council a border alienation map outlining a pattern of dissatisfaction against the form of government which was expressed in votes on the form of government over the past 20 years. He stated a pattern of dissatisfaction is apparently taking shape in the studies, which has manifested itself on a low voter turn out in municipal elections. He stated this particular study is just one indicator and that other correlations will be made in the final report.

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Dr. Baarsma then stated that his study team has made some tentative recommendations for the five proposed districts. Without specifically delineating the boundaries themselves, he generally outlined them as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|--|
| 1. NORTH END | | *Figures taken from the 1973 Primary Election |
| Total population | 30,592 | |
| Registered voters | 17,504 | |
| *Those voting | 4,630 | |
| *Percentage voting | 26.4 | |
| 2. WEST END | | |
| Total population | 30,994 | |
| Registered voters | 18,614 | |
| Those voting | 4,159 | |
| Percentage voting | 22.39 | |
| 3. SOUTH END | | |
| Total population | 30,998 | |
| Registered voters | 14,277 | |
| Those voting | 2,765 | |
| Percentage voting | 19.3 | |
| 4. EAST SIDE | | |
| Total population | 31,393 | |
| Registered voters | 15,096 | |
| Those voting | 2,947 | |
| Percentage voting | 19.5 | |
| 5. CENTRAL AREA | | |
| Total population | 30,971 | |
| Registered voters | 18,279 | |
| Those voting | 4,570 | |
| Percentage voting | 20.3 | |

Dr. Baarsma said these districts will be finalized within the next several weeks and requested comments from the Council and the public for additional input into the development of the districts. He stated he will make a final report and recommendation to the Council approximately the first of July.

Mayor Johnston, upon proper motion, adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.


GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR

ATTEST:


H. B. BOND - CITY CLERK