



CITY OF DOVER

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Special Meeting**
Meeting Location: **City Hall, City Council Conference Room**
Meeting Date: **Monday, June 14, 2021**
Meeting Time: **8:30 a.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Shanahan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Councilor Shanahan, Councilor Cullen

Note: Councilor Lindsey Williams was excused due to travel

Also Present: City Attorney, Joshua Wyatt, Deputy City Attorney, Jennifer Perez, and Susan Mistretta, City Clerk

No citizens present for citizens' forum.

2. **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – May 3, 2021. Motion to approve May 3, 2021 meeting minutes made by Councilor Shanahan, seconded by Councilor Cullen. Vote unanimous.

3. CHARTER DISCUSSION – Proposal of Approval of One Additional Amendment to City Charter, Ballot Discussion and Discussion on Ward Boundaries

Josh Wyatt discussed a letter received from Rep. Barbara Griffin, Chairman of the House Special Committee on Redistricting regarding ward boundaries. Specifically, the state would like to know are we planning to review city ward lines to create an equal alignment, what process will the city be using to amend ward lines, if necessary; what is the anticipated timeline for the adoption of an initial proposal, public hearing and adoption of a final proposal for ward line revisions. Rep. Griffin also said the information that the state population data for the purpose of redistricting will not be released on or about September 30, 2021 due to COVID, making it extremely challenging to complete work in time for the 2022 elections. Susan Mistretta discussed the process of ward boundary adjustments and the need to have these adjustments made in time for the 2022 election.

Attorney Wyatt also discussed the options to address the delayed receipt of the census information. One option discussed was removing the ward boundaries from the City Charter and authorizing the council to set the ward boundaries through an ordinance passed by a 2/3 majority vote. Attorney Wyatt presented a draft addendum to the earlier Final Report of the City (filed with the three reviewing state agencies), which ties into the above.

As an alternate to the charter amendment, a special election discussion was also brought up. Susan Mistretta discussed the process of setting up this election and the potential cost of a special election. This special election would be an additional change to the charter for the ward boundaries specifically.

There was continued discussion on the proposed charter amendment to remove the ward boundaries. Sunset clause language was discussed and Councilor Shanahan suggested let the council “grow it”. Councilor Shanahan thinks any decisions should be at council level, as to public meeting on same.



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Councilor Cullen moved to present to City Council an addendum for the additional charter amendment (having ward boundaries be placed in an ordinance), same to be finalized by the City Attorney's office for Council review and consideration; seconded by Councilor Shanahan. All voted in Favor of this Motion. Unanimous.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION

No other matters were brought up to discuss.

5. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

July 12, 2021 tentative next meeting addressing and resolving any changes made to One Additional Amendment revolving around the City Council meeting on June 23, 2021.

6. ADJOURN

Councilor Shanahan moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Cullen.