



CITY OF DOVER

SPECIAL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Special Ordinance Committee Meeting**
Meeting Location: **City Hall, City Council Conference Room**
Meeting Date: **Monday, December 20, 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 Dennis Shanahan, Councilor Fergus Cullen, Councilor Lindsey Williams, City Attorney Joshua Wyatt, Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Perez, City Clerk Susan Mistretta and Director of Planning and Assistant City Manager Christopher Parker

2. CITIZENS' FORUM

Two citizens are present and now opened for them:

Phil Hatcher, a resident of 9 Woodland Road, Ward 3 and a member of the Citizens' Mapping Project, spoke first. From his point of view, Mr. Hatcher is recommending Alpha, Charlie, or Delta plans based on his analysis of the plans, as well as the State's redistricting information. He is hopeful Dover will fight for all six wards. He thinks we should move away from the Republican plan on the table now in the New Hampshire legislature and made remarks about Rochester and Dover sharing a floterial district, and that consideration as relevant to the current redistricting of Dover's wards.

Peter Schmidt, 53 Fourth Street, State Representative, representing Strafford 19 which is Ward One and Two, for the last 19 years, as well as representing Ward Two as part of the City Council of Dover for three years. Mr. Schmidt is that he was part of the lawsuit that sued the state 10 years ago regarding the last redistricting. He feels each district should have its own representative. He hopes the City will challenge the House in January in regards to the proposed Republican proposal. He is very supportive of the concepts that Chris Parker has worked out for polling areas, with the safety of residents/voters in mind.

3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES –

- December 6, 2021 Meeting – two comments: (i) Assistant Manager Parker observes the Citizens' Forum should be its own paragraph number (2) with other paragraph numbering updating in sequence; and (ii) Councilor Cullen asked for additional wording in Item #3, paragraph 2, to add "in Ward 6" after the word Riverside.
- Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Councilor Williams (with changes described above), seconded by Councilor Cullen. Vote unanimous.

4. DISCUSSION OF WARD REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE

Mr. Parker provided an overview of the five separate proposed ward redistricting plans under consideration by the Ordinance Committee, which have been labeled Alpha, Beta, Charlie, Delta, and Epsilon.



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Alpha – Mr. Parker explained that in this proposal, a portion of the Liberty Mutual area goes from Ward 6 to Ward 1. Right now, Glenwood bisects Ward 1 and Ward 6 and then goes down to Watson and Farm Hill Road. Ward 5 loses north side of Tolend Road that goes to Ward 6. To make up that area, from Durham Road to Bellamy River and Mast Road goes from Ward 4 to Ward 5. Spur Road goes from Ward 3 to Ward 4 and the Downtown area of Woodman Park goes from Ward 2 to Ward 3. Silver St. end goes from Ward 2 to Ward 5. Pinehill Cemetery goes from Ward 3 to Ward 2. The area around The Mill goes from Ward 2 to Ward 1 and area around the post offices goes from Ward 2 to Ward 5.

Beta – Mr. Parker explained that in this proposal, the Shaw's area moves from Ward 6 to Ward 1, Tolend Road moves from Ward 5 to Ward 6, Rutland Street moves from Ward 4 to Ward 5, Spur Road moves from Ward 3 to Ward 4, Downtown/Pine Hill Cemetery stays at Ward 3 and St. Joseph's Church moves from Ward 3 to Ward 2.

Charlie – Mr. Parker explained this proposal has a different configuration: Pinehill Cemetery moves from Ward 3 to Ward 2, Portland Ave thru Broadway, currently Ward 2 moves to Ward 1. Area of Sixth Street and Grove St to Spaulding Turnpike, between sixth St and the Cocheco River moves from Ward 1 to Ward 6.

Delta – Mr. Parker explained this proposal is very similar to Charlie, with the only difference being that, unlike Charlie where the Pinehill Cemetery is the change, it is again that area around St. Joseph's Church. This time it does not go all the way to Stark and the Spaulding.

Epsilon – Mr. Parker explained that this proposal is new since the last meeting and is based on Beta. Under Beta, Silver St, from Towel to Rutland moved from Ward 2 to Ward 3. Here it stays and instead the area around Union Street to South Pine St goes from Ward 3 to Ward 2 (to get the same population change, but there is no effect on elected councilor).

Mr. Parker explained that all of these proposed redistricting options are within 1% deviation from a population standpoint. The main difference between Alpha, Beta and Epsilon vs. Charlie and Delta, is that 'A B & E' allow a public owned voting location in each district vs. today where we have some concern in two, if not 3 wards over long-term voting facility availability.

Councilor Shanahan asks for a consensus of which of the two groups for recommendation to the Council:

1. Realignments to make polling places public; or
2. Do we want to restrict it to just the numerical balancing?

Councilor Shanahan thinks public polling would be his position. Councilor Cullen does not disagree.



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Councilor Shanahan mentions that, going forward, the committee should look at and discuss:

- Public outreach
- Public session
- Scheduling public workshop
- Preparing for regular council meeting on January 12, 2022
- Having a consensus of ordinance committee of what option to recommend to City Council before heading into public workshop and then be able to recommend same at the workshop on January 19.

Councilor Cullen expressed concern that additional meetings may not be necessary and that too many will hold the process up even longer.

Councilor Williams made a recommendation to narrow it down to Alpha & Epsilon. Main difference between the two is Ward 6. Mr. Parker explained Alpha takes area around Liberty Mutual and moves it into Ward One. Epsilon has same amount of people in smaller area around “Miracle Mile”. Alpha takes Pinehill Cemetery area and moves it from Ward 3 to Ward 2. Epsilon used Central Ave/Cemetery to be the break between the two. That is the main area.

Councilor Shanahan asks for clarification about Spur Road and the Turnpike and how will the language be written on this? Mr. Parker said anything East of the Spaulding Turnpike will be Ward 3. Anything West of Spaulding Turnpike will be Ward 6.

Councilor Williams asked for Epsilon clarification on Downtown area. Mr. Parker responded that Central to Locust to Spaulding Turnpike would remain in Ward 3. Area around Rutland and Woodpark move from Ward 2 to Ward 3 and the area of Fisher/Elm move from Ward 3 to Ward 2

Councilor Shanahan makes motion and recommends Epsilon to the City Council. Councilor Williams seconds. Vote in Favor – Unanimous.

After discussion, consensus that Chris Parker would reach out to the State Senator James Gray to detail that we are working on this and have a preliminary proposal going to City Council in January 2022, and City staff would create an ordinance with Epsilon option for the first City Council meeting in January 2022.

Attorney Joshua Wyatt explains he spoke with General Code regarding where the redistricting ordinance would go in the Code. It was recommended by General Code to put



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under Chapter 17, and create a new Article and Section number. All in favor of Attorney Wyatt's recommendation.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION

None.

6. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Councilor Shanahan explains his view no meeting to be scheduled for January, 2022. Will determine when next meeting should occur.

7. ADJOURN

Councilor Shanahan moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Williams. Unanimous.
Adjourned at 9:27 a.m.