



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL **VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936

January 13, 2022
MINUTES

Officials Present: Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins and Councilman John Kemp, Vice Chairman Dr. Curtis Brantley - Absent: Councilman L. Martin Sauls,

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Also Present: Mr. Frank Rainwater, Executive Director of Mapping and Operations.

Chairwoman Clark called the workshop to order at 5:30PM. Chairwoman Clark asked the Clerk to Council to read the Report of Compliance to the Freedom of Information Act. Wanda Simmons, Clerk to Council read the Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kemp and the Invocation was given by Councilman Adkins.

Chairwoman Clark welcomed guest Mr. Frank Rainwater, Executive Director of Mapping and Operations to the workshop. She then turned the meeting over to County Administrator Andrew Fulghum. Mr. Fulghum noted that the County had asked for assistance from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. He noted that the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office had prepared a Benchmark Report for Council. He said they were here to answer any questions on this report or any other information relating to it. Mr. Fulghum also noted that on 12.06.2021 the County Council had approved Resolution # **2021-28** establishing the criteria to be used for the reapportionment of the Jasper County Council Districts as to population following the adoption of the Federal Decennial Census as required by S.C. CODE ANN. § 4-9-90. Mr. Fulghum also noted that none of the incumbents would be affected by this boundary change.

Mr. Fulghum then introduced Mr. Rainwater and turned the floor over to him. Mr. Rainwater introduced his staff Kathryn Kelley and Adam DeMars that had worked on this project with him.

Discussion on the Redistricting of Jasper County Council Districts and the Schedule for Adoption:

Mr. Rainwater noted that he would be discussing the Benchmark Report and that Adam would talk about the map that had been created. Mr. Rainwater went through the Benchmark Report and reviewed each slide for Council. Mr. Rainwater reviewed the slide entitled, "Considerations for Preliminary Plan", with Council noting the three principles in developing a preliminary plan that were recommended. The next slide entitled, "2020 Census Benchmark Report", was then reviewed with Council and the one person one vote was discussed. Mr. Rainwater reviewed Table 1: 2020 Census Counts applied to current districts on Chart 1 and noted the over and under of districts 1-4 and the percent of deviation in each district. The next slide he discussed had Table 2: Total Population by Race and Table 3: Voting Age Population by Race. He also discussed the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Rainwater noted that this was a good placed to stop for questions. Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked that once County make a determination of the lines to be drawn, does this have to be sent into the State or Federal Government? Mr. Rainwater stated that they did not have to. He noted that this is Council's plan and once it is adopted on the 3rd reading that Council would give a copy over to the Voter Registration Office. Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley noted that the ordinance would need to go thru three readings and Mr. Rainwater said yes that this way the public could respond. Councilman Kemp noted that in Jasper County voters vote at large and Mr. Rainwater said yes and that 2 other counties did that as well. Councilman Kemp also stated to Mr. Rainwater that they had three incumbents in the same district on the map they had prepared and drawn. Mr. Rainwater said if this was the case that this would be corrected.

Mr. Rainwater returned to the presentation and the next slide he reviewed was entitled, "RFA Analysis Results". He then discussed the RFA Recommendations and noted the following information: that districts and wards will be drawn contiguously and that districts need to look compact; that districts or wards will be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts; that districts or wards will be drawn, when feasible, with respect to existing districts and communities of interest; RFA recommends Council consider excluding prison population when redrawing the districts. The maps included in the packet were discussed. Mr. Fulghum noted that the timeframe for adopting the new map was by the end of February because in March the filing for the County Council seats will begin. Mr. Fulghum noted that the staff had prepared and ordinance for the 1st reading for the 01.18.2022 agenda. Mr. Fulghum noted that a Public Hearing and 2nd reading would be on 02.07.2022 and that a Public Hearing and 3rd reading would be on 02.22.2022.

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked that if they could not come into agreement with the maps if they could operate under the current districts. Mr. Rainwater noted that state laws require counties to redistrict by the next General Election. Chairwoman Clark noted that Council would be looking over the maps. There was a little more discussion and then Chairwoman Clark and Council thanked Mr. Rainwater and staff for their assistance and for coming to the workshop. Mr. Rainwater noted that he had enjoyed working with the County Staff. A copy of the Redistricting Benchmark Report – Jasper County and a copy of the Question-and-Answer Facts Document for the Redistricting in South Carolina prepared by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office is attached to the minutes as Attachment "A". Resolution Number 2021-28 is attached as Attachment "B". This meeting can be watched online for further information at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCIIA.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman

M – 01.13.2022