

Legislative Committee Meeting minutes

April 21, 2011

5:30pm

City Hall

Present: Councilor Feener, Councilor Audet, Councilor Boyd,

Others present: Manager Dragon, City Clerk Tax Collector Holly Burbank

Chairman Councilor Feener called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Chairman Feener indicated that this evening the committee discuss a letter sent to Mayor Merrifield in regards to the possible need to redistrict wards as a result of the most recent census. The Mayor has requested that the legislative committee take a look at this topic. More specifically review voters and population of each ward and determine if redistricting is necessary.

City Clerk Burbank provided information in regards to her research on the matter. She handed out a map of the wards and population printout of each ward using census data. Ward one has 2,935 residents, Ward two has 2,611 residents, and Ward three has 2,931 residents- according to the most recent census information. She also stated she has spoken to Dave Scanlan at the Secretary of State's office and his suggestion is that the state would like to see no more than a 10% deviation in population. Our current population numbers fall within that deviation.

Councilor Boyd stated that by looking at both population and registered voters in each district it seems we are within the 10% deviation and it would not be worthwhile to spend money and time on redistricting.

City Clerk Burbank agreed with Councilor Boyd and added that she thought redistricting would create only confusion with voters.

Councilor Boyd asked about the actual number of voters, people coming out to vote in each district. Ms. Burbank stated that Ward 1 has the biggest turn out and ward 2 and 3 are usually very close in numbers.

Councilor Feener stated his concern is the inconvenience this would be to people and he further stated that when you look at the map it would be very difficult to

draw new geographically lines and figure out how many people were in each section.

Councilor Audet agreed and stated that it would cause a lot of expense for no real reason.

Councilor Boyd moved, and Councilor Audet seconded, a motion to recommend that the city **DOES NOT** proceed with any realignment of wards at this time. Vote unanimous. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Submitted by: *Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager*