



CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

April 5, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:02 pm, explained the called meeting was to hold a public hearing about redistricting, and asked Mr. Mosley to give his presentation on redistricting first before he opened the public hearing. President Smith also stated the council would take all comments made during the public hearing under consideration.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Jones reminded President Smith that he needed to call the roll. President Smith then asked Mr. Jones to please call the roll.

1. George Allen, Erica Norris, Tim Aja, Todd Rauch, Eddie Smith
The Mayor and all City Council members were present.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Mosley gave his presentation on redistricting explaining the process the city went through to draw the maps the way they did, and then stated he would be happy to answer any questions that anyone would like to submit to him at a later time.

1. Public Hearing - Redistricting

President Smith then opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak about the redistricting plan.

Billy Allen, President of Lee County NAACP Branch 5038, of Stone Mountain, GA spoke first. Mr. Allen requested that the city hold public hearings in each ward of the city, to educate every citizen on the impact of redistricting in the city, and provide more accessibility and open dialogue about the process. Mr. Allen stated that they believe these public hearings will provide for total inclusion for all citizens, and that they have also been asked by citizens to help them understand the process better and they will do just that.

Elizabeth Hill, Lee County NAACP Branch 5038, of 274 Bragg Avenue, Auburn, AL spoke next. Ms. Hill stated that what she has learned about this process over the last year is that it is a complicated process but not necessarily a difficult one. Ms. Hill also requested the city to hold individual public hearings in each ward to educate the public about the process since it only happens once every ten years, and also for an opportunity to have more open dialogue about what the changes will be. Ms. Hill closed by volunteering to assist with the meetings if the city wanted or needed them to do so.

Patricia A. "Patsy" Jones, former Ward 1 councilmember, of 1407 Harper Street spoke next. Ms. Jones stated she had reviewed the proposed maps for clarity

purposes, and as a council member ten years ago when the previous maps were drawn, she would like to understand more about why the proposed map has now taken away those areas that were added previously in Ward 1. Ms. Jones stated that looking at the map, the way it was, she would have brought in numbers from across the street, as was proposed for room to grow the last time the maps were drawn, instead of getting rid of some of those specific areas and would like to understand more about the rationale behind that as well as for the council to take that under consideration.

John Andrew Harris, former Ward 1 councilmember, of 311 East Avenue spoke next. Mr. Harris stated that he wasn't sure how this map was created, but when he served on the council they would come together and discuss how the maps would be drawn and have an open dialogue. Mr. Harris then stated that the maps should be drawn to reflect the growth of Opelika and he doesn't believe the proposed map reflects that now. Mr. Harris agreed that there needs to be meetings held in each ward to hear from the constituents as well as inform them of the process, because there are a lot of people that are confused about the process. Mr. Harris closed by offering to help in any way that he could to help move the city forward. Christine Bradshaw, with the Lee County NAACP, of 2305 Anderson Lakes Dr. spoke next. Ms. Bradshaw agreed with Mr. Allen about the redistricting as well as making this process more clear where they can understand it better. Ms. Bradshaw closed by stating she supports the NAACP and prays that they can work together cohesively with the city and make a difference.

President Smith asked both Mr. Mosley and Mr. Jones to work together and set up the requested meetings in each ward to discuss the proposed redistricting further. Mr. Gunter stated it would be appropriate for all council members to attend as long as it is informational in nature and the council doesn't deliberate or make any decisions on the matter. Mr. Jones then suggested having the meetings in each ward's voting location and listed the locations. President Smith agreed that would make a lot of sense and asked Mr. Jones to coordinate that and figure out how to publicize it.

President Smith stated if there was no one else that would like to speak, he would close the public hearing. No one else came forward, President Smith closed the public hearing.

4. ADJOURN

The City Council called meeting minutes of April 5, 2022 are hereby adopted and approved this the 19th day of April, 2022.

/s/ Eddie Smith

President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, CMC

City Clerk

1. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
AYES: Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:30 pm.