

Minutes of the Work Session of the Gallup City Council, City of Gallup, New Mexico, held at Gallup City Hall, 110 West Aztec Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Louie Bonaguidi. Upon roll call, the following were present:

Mayor: Louie Bonaguidi

Councilors: Linda Garcia
Michael Schaaf
Yogash Kumar
Fran Palochak

Also present: Maryann Ustick, City Manager
Curtis Hayes, City Attorney

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors was the following item:

1. Proposed Redistricting Plans for the Four (4) Council Districts of the City of Gallup – Alfred Abeita, City Clerk and Rod Adair, New Mexico Demographic Research, LLC (NMDR) President

Mr. Abeita provided information regarding the redistricting of boundaries as required by State Law, whereas each local public body, whose governing body members are not elected at the regular local election in November of odd-numbered years, to redraw their districts in the same calendar year in which the state receives the results of a federal decennial census. The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 census data at the end of August; however, the release of the data was almost five months late and resulted in the delay of the redistricting process. The final redistricting plan needs to be submitted to the Secretary of State's office prior to the issuance of the statewide election proclamation on December 1, 2021 for the Municipal Officer Election to be held on March 1, 2022. Mr. Abeita said the City of Gallup has contracted for professional services with New Mexico Demographic Research, LLC (NMDR) who will provide three redistricting plans for public discussion. A special work session will be held on November 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. for further discussion and another special meeting will be held on November 16, 2021 for adoption of the final plan by City ordinance.

Mr. Adair, via Zoom, provided information regarding the redistricting requirements and presented a PowerPoint presentation including Plan A, titled, *Least Changed*, which had the least amount of changes to the current districts; Plan B, titled, *Perfect Plan*, consisted of various changes to all current districts and is based on perfect deviations in terms of population and Plan C, titled, *Major Features*. Mr. Adair provided population data information including Hispanic, White, Native American, Black and Asian per square mile for districts 1-4 for within each proposed plan to avoid dilution of minority

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voting rights. A copy of the plans are attached hereto and made a part of these official minutes.

Mr. Adair responded to questions posed by the Mayor and Councilors regarding the deviation column, the ideal number for each district, the potential of split precincts and ethnic distributions.

Discussion followed regarding overlay maps of the existing boundaries in comparison to the proposed plans and the importance of maintaining fair deviations. Mr. Adair will provide visible precinct boundaries and overlay maps to compare the proposed plans prior to the next redistricting meeting on November 10th and will be in attendance. There was no action taken by the Mayor and Councilors.

Public Comment

JoAnn Benenati requested clarification regarding the total population used versus the total adult population.

Tiffany Charley, Public Information Officer of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, requested the Commission's involvement in the process and the contact information for the submittal of proposed maps with regard to redistricting.

There being no further business, Councilor Schaaf made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia, Kumar, and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk