

1 **MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING** of the City Council of the City of Orange City, Florida,
2 held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange
3 City.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6
7 The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Strickland and roll call was taken.
8

9 **ROLL CALL**

10
11 **PRESENT:** Mayor Harley Strickland; Vice Mayor Jeff Allebach; Council Members; Tom Laputka, Tom
12 Abraham, Don Sherrill, Paul Rasch; Jim Mahoney; City Attorney William Reischmann; City Clerk
13 Deborah Renner

14
15 **ABSENT:** Interim City Manager Chester Murray

16
17 **1. CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL DISTRICTS**

18
19 Mayor Strickland advised that “assignments” had been given to staff at the conclusion of last night’s
20 meeting. He noted that new maps had been printed and copies provided to Council and that copies were
21 also available for citizens in attendance.

22
23 Debbie Renner, City Clerk, came forward and stated that at last night’s meeting, Council Member
24 Mahoney requested that staff provide a chart of the population numbers within each TAZ block in order
25 to verify the total district population figures developed by staff. She advised that a spreadsheet had been
26 attached to each updated map which provides this information along with a master listing of TAZ block
27 numbers and their corresponding population figures for the City. Ms. Renner noted that Council had
28 requested a review of the map created by Ms. McFall during the Charter review process and advised that
29 had been done. Ms. McFall’s has been overlaid onto the TAZ map, however, there was not enough time
30 to balance the population figures which were very out of date since that map was created using 2000
31 census data. Ms. Renner stated that if Council so desired, staff would continue to work on the map.
32 Mayor Strickland suggested waiting to complete that work until review of the remaining maps has been
33 completed since it may not be necessary at that point. Council Member Mahoney concurred that Ms.
34 McFall’s map does not work when current population data is applied.

35
36 Ms. Renner noted that Council Member Rasch created two maps, Map A and Map B, which were
37 provided to Council tonight for consideration. Council Member Rasch confirmed that his total
38 population number was equal to the number used on the other maps.

39
40 Council Member Laputka commented that the only difference in Council Member Rasch’s two maps is
41 that there a section containing a population of seven. He characterized the maps as “clean” and
42 “contiguous.” Mr. Reischmann concurred that Council Member Rasch’s Map A was the most compact
43 and contiguous of all the maps reviewed thus far. In response to a question from Vice Mayor Allebach,
44 Mr. Reischmann gave the example that the most compact figure would be a circle as it has the smallest
45 perimeter containing the same area. Council Member Laputka said that he could support either Map A or
46 Map B. Vice Mayor Allebach noted that the seven people counted in the area under discussion most

1 likely live in the southern portion of the TAZ block. Ms. Hickey advised that the seven people noted in
2 the TAZ count likely live in the area behind the Kohl's store near Junior Street. Mr. Reischmann noted
3 that some of the white areas could be annexed in the future and that this map would make it easy for them
4 to be placed in a District while maintaining contiguity and compactness.

5
6 Vice Mayor Allebach suggested that some of the TAZ population estimates may be "a little exaggerated."
7 He noted that several of the new multi-family developments were counted at 100% occupancy, while this
8 is not true at the present time.

9
10 Mayor Strickland confirmed with Council Member Rasch that the maps were drawn based on population
11 only. Council Member Rasch advised that he does not know where all of the Council Members live.

12
13 Vice Mayor Allebach noted that if everyone is in agreement with the map, the next step is to add
14 numbers to the districts.

15
16 Council Member Rasch said that his recollection from the charter review meetings was that the residency
17 requirements may take two elections cycles to work themselves out.

18
19 Henry Durica, 1310 E. Lansdowne, came forward and said that after studying all of the maps, the "Map
20 A" that was presented yesterday appears to be the most "logical" as it has all districts touching the 17-92
21 corridor. He stated, "Our main street in the future will need everyone on board to revive it and/or to save
22 it."

23
24 Bob Storke, 1122 E. Wisconsin, came forward and asked for clarification as to the percentage of variance
25 allowed between the districts. Mr. Reischmann responded that it is 5% on either side for a total variance
26 of 10% allowed.

27
28 Hugh Strickland, 420 May Street, came forward and voiced his support for Map A which he had
29 previously submitted. He said that he had seen the models for both of Council Member Rasch's maps
30 before and that they would "lead to not a good outcome."

31
32 Council Member Mahoney noted that the population range for each District should be 1900 to 2100. He
33 pointed out that the limit was exceeded in at least one district. Vice Mayor Allebach said that he believed
34 the population estimate for the Villa Grande apartment complex is wrong. Ms. Hickey responded that the
35 apartment complex was the only one that said they would be at 100% occupancy. The other complexes
36 said they would be in the 90%'s. She said that if this reduction was made to Villa Grande, it would
37 reduce the population estimate for this District by approximately 50.

38
39 Mayor Strickland asked Jim Kerr, City Planner, if he had any comments on Council Member Rasch's
40 map(s). Mr. Kerr responded in the negative.

41
42 Council Member Rasch validated the work that had been done by Mr. Strickland in developing his maps,
43 however, he expressed that the blocks in those maps were not compact enough. He said that in
44 developing his maps his thought was to ensure that the District actually had a representative from their
45 own neighborhood.

46

1 Mr. Reischmann read from the City Charter, Section 4.02 which provides that Seats 1-6 become Districts
2 1-5 with 6 being at-large. He noted that no residency requirements apply during the transitional period.
3 He said that it would apply to Districts 4 and 5 and the at-large in 2009 with the remainder of the
4 Districts (1, 2, and 3) being required to comply with residency in 2011. Mayor Strickland asked Mr.
5 Reischmann to clarify what that meant. Mr. Reischmann responded by stating, "It means for this coming
6 up election if your seat is 4 or 5, you will become District 4 or 5 and you will have to live in District 4 or
7 5 to qualify."
8

9 Vice Mayor Allebach noted that in Mr. Strickland's map, the Districts were spread out so that the
10 neighborhoods on either side would have a different set of issues and expectations. He expressed that
11 Council was still obligated to represent the overall good of the City and not just what happens in their
12 district.
13

14 Council Member Rasch suggested that it may be logical to designate the districts of the Council Members
15 whose terms are expiring this year as 4 and 5. He said what that would mean is that if two Council
16 Members live in the same district, they would have to run against each other for the seat or would have to
17 run for the at-large seat.
18

19 Mr. Strickland came forward and noted that Council Member Rasch's map has Council Members
20 Sherrill, Rasch and Abraham all living in the same district. He stated, "So if you number it either 4 or 5,
21 yes, they could run against each other, however, then you'll have a Council Member living in that
22 District who will finish out his term and then have nowhere to go." Mr. Strickland suggested changing
23 the numbering on Mr. Rasch's map so that the blue area is 4 and the brown area 5, or as a third option, to
24 number the Districts in such a way that no Council Member lives in their district. Mr. Rasch reiterated
25 that when he developed the maps he did not consider where any of the Council Members live.
26

27 Council Member Mahoney asked when the sign ordinance requirement that all signs on 17-92 must
28 conform to the latest code requirements takes effect. Council Member Sherrill responded that it was in
29 2011. He questioned whether having each District touching 17-92 at some point would encourage
30 compliance with the new requirements. Council Member Rasch said that he did not think that would be
31 the case. He reiterated that even though each Council Member would be representing their District, there
32 would also be an overriding representation to represent the City as a whole. He likened it to a Senator
33 from Florida who is representing the State, but has an overriding mission to look out for the vested
34 interests of the United States of America.
35

36 Council Member Abraham said that he studied the map prepared by Hugh Strickland longer than Council
37 Member Rasch's map. He said that as soon as he looked at the map, he had the same suspicion that Mr.
38 Strickland just mentioned. In response to a request for clarification from Council Member Rasch,
39 Council Member Abraham said that he was afraid three of the Council Members would end up in the
40 same District "for some mysterious reasons." Council Member Rasch responded, "I resent that."
41

42 Vice Mayor Allebach suggested that this conflict could be avoided by numbering the yellow block #1,
43 green #2, blue #3, red #4 and orange #5. Council Member Mahoney noted that four Council Members
44 reside in the red district.
45

1 Mayor Strickland asked Mr. Kerr if he had any comments on the proposed maps. Mr. Kerr responded
2 that he felt Council Member Rasch did a good job on his maps. He noted that the yellow area which
3 encroaches into the green contains approximately 18-20 units. Mr. Kerr said that he felt Council Member
4 Rasch's maps were "a much better option." He noted that the maps would be "tweaked" over the years in
5 accordance with changes to the population. Mayor Strickland remarked that it may take more than
6 "tweaking" if the planned annexations on the western side of the City take place.

7
8 Council Member Sherrill noted that he and Council Member Rasch live in the same district. Council
9 Member Mahoney pointed out that he and Council Member Abraham also live in that district. He said
10 that he was still contemplating whether there is a benefit in having each of the districts border 17-92. He
11 noted that Mr. Strickland's map is not a compact as Council Member Rasch's, each district does have a
12 section bordering on 17-92. Council Member Laputka responded that even though a district may have a
13 small area, like a block, which touches 17-92, it is so disproportionate to the rest of the district that it is
14 "almost meaningless." He said that he felt the compactness and simplicity of Council Member Rasch's
15 map were the most important things. Vice Mayor Allebach concurred that it would be much easier for
16 voters to locate their home in their district with Council Member Rasch's map. Council Member Rasch
17 noted that on his map, each district but Blue touches 17-92.

18
19 Mike Polgar, 585 Montclair, came forward and noted that there will be only one representative from each
20 district. He further noted that the population figures within the districts are "pretty close." Mr. Polgar
21 maintained that it didn't matter how many people live in each district.

22
23 Bob Storke, 1122 E. Wisconsin, came forward and said that the boundary lines should follow streets.

24
25 Mr. Reischmann concurred that there will have to be boundary descriptions for each district contained in
26 the adopting ordinance.

27
28 Council Member Sherrill observed that none of the existing Council Members lives in the blue district.
29 Vice Mayor Allebach noted that there is also no one living in the Orange District. Mr. Reischmann
30 reminded Council that two of the seats are at-large and, therefore, not associated with a district. Council
31 Member Sherrill said that the only Council Members who present a conflict because they live in the same
32 district are he and Council Member Rasch. He suggested splitting off Sherwood Oaks where Council
33 Member Rasch lives and putting it in the blue district.

34
35 Council Member Abraham asked staff to explain the difference between their map and Council Member
36 Rasch's map. Ms. Hickey responded that staff used different colors for their districts and beyond that,
37 she would need time to study Council Member Rasch's map to give a complete answer.

38
39 Mr. Polgar came forward again and stated that the district maps don't have anything to do with the people
40 currently on the Council and that their places of residence should not matter during these considerations.
41 He spoke again in favor of Council Member Rasch's map.

42
43 Ms. Hickey advised that about 214 people would have to be shifted to move Sherwood Oaks out of the
44 red district into the blue. Mayor Strickland asked whether there are any considerations beyond which
45 Council Member lives in the district to support moving Sherwood Oaks. He asked whether there was any
46 way to determine the population makeup of a certain TAZ block. Ms. Hickey responded that the larger

1 housing developments could be identified, but it was not possible to get to the level of individual
2 residences. Council Member Rasch said that he only considered the population figures in the TAZ
3 blocks when drawing the map. Mayor Strickland responded to Council Member Sherrill's suggestion by
4 stating that it could be done if Council so directs. Council Member Rasch said that he did not want the
5 district separated between Sherwood Oaks and Country Village just for his benefit. Mayor Strickland
6 said that it may be a case that Council Member Rasch's neighborhood had different needs than Council
7 Member Sherrill's. It was discussed that it would be possible to also move the Oakhurst development
8 into a different district, however, it is still under construction making it hard to estimate the population.
9 Vice Mayor Allebach advised that this move could give an appearance of trying to create a district of a
10 certain socio-economic or racial status and could violate federal laws.

11
12 Hugh Strickland, 420 May Street, came forward again and stated, "I felt that maybe I should just go write
13 a blog and a column about what I know...but I decided that was not the correct thing, that I needed to tell
14 the entire Council what I know. And that is, I had a conversation with Mr. Rasch in which he was
15 searching for a way to end Mr. Abraham's term on the Council." Mr. Strickland expressed his
16 interpretation of Council Member Rasch's district map as a direct attempt to accomplish that. Council
17 Member Rasch responded that he did not even know where Council Member Abraham lives. He stated,
18 "That's a bunch of crap. Yes, I talked about that because I find Mr. Abraham to be an obstructionist."

19
20 Mayor Strickland stopped the conversation and asked that the discussion be returned to the maps or that
21 the meeting be adjourned to study the maps further and continue the discussion at next week's meeting.

22
23 Council Member Rasch stated that he would like to address the maps now. He stated, "I don't want to
24 deal with blogs or insinuations or anything like that, and I'm shocked that Mr. Strickland would do that."

25
26 Mayor Strickland asked Council Member Mahoney how he would like to proceed. Council Member
27 Mahoney replied, "I don't know." He stated, "It's unfortunate it degenerates into this." Council Member
28 Mahoney stated that he preferred to listen to the Council at this point.

29
30 Council Member Laputka stated that he would like to continue the discussion.

31
32 Council Member Sherrill concurred with Council Member Laputka.

33
34 Vice Mayor Allebach stated, "I have no thoughts that that was even considered."

35
36 Council Member Abraham stated, "I think we should continue the discussion and finish this redistricting
37 business as soon as possible. But we should all be more compassionate than what Mr. Council Member
38 is being here. More compassionate than that, since a hard worker like Mr. Hugh Strickland has done a lot
39 of work here since the beginning. I appreciate his efforts and we should have a positive attitude here."

40
41 Council Member Rasch responded to Council Member Abraham stating, "I never said...in fact if you'll
42 recall earlier in the meeting..." Mayor Strickland asked that Council Member Rasch direct his
43 statements to the Chair and "stay focused on maps, please." The Mayor stated, "I will adjourn the
44 meeting if this continues...period."

45

1 Vice Mayor Allebach referenced the TAZ block labeled 2686 and noted that staff was able to separate
2 out the population for Sherwood Oaks. He noted that 2686 contained a population of 494 and that it is
3 the “tie in” between the red and yellow districts in the area located near where Council Member Mahoney
4 lives. He questioned whether the source of the 494 population figure was from the Shadow Ridge
5 Subdivision. Council Member Mahoney responded that there are 60 homes in Shadow Ridge. Jim Kerr,
6 City Planner responded that the Braemoor Dunes and Water Oaks apartment complexes are located in
7 that block.

8
9 Council Member Mahoney asked, “If the discussion is making adjustments to this, is the rationale
10 continuity of leadership? Not wanting to have four people, notwithstanding what Mr. Polgar commented
11 about....is that the rationale?” Mayor Strickland responded that it would be part of his rationale. He
12 stated, “I think if we have all new Council Members, we’re in trouble.” Council Member Rasch said that
13 would not happen because of the staggered elections. He noted that the upcoming election would include
14 an at-large seat and two districts and stated, “No matter how you look at it, you potentially have three
15 brand new Council Members coming on this year, regardless of where they live.”

16
17 Mr. Reischmann noted that in 2011, the election would be for Mayor and Districts 1, 2, and 3. Council
18 Member Rasch observed that by 2011, the Council could be made up of “seven brand new people.” Vice
19 Mayor Allebach conceded that was possible, however, he noted that the incumbent has an advantage. He
20 noted that the purpose of the districts was to have more people running on the Council, but that this
21 doesn’t guarantee there will be a “rush” of candidates. Council Member Laputka commented that they
22 would be “cultivated over time.” Council Member Rasch suggested that if there is no incumbent in a
23 district, Council should encourage people to run.

24
25 Vice Mayor Allebach moved to move forward with Rasch Map A with the revision to take the yellow
26 intrusion and make it part of the green district. Mr. Reischmann noted that the meeting is a workshop,
27 therefore, no formal action can be taken. He advised that direction could be given to staff.

28
29 Mayor Strickland asked each Council Member to state their preference for the map.

30
31 Council Member Abraham stated that he was in favor of the Map A developed by Hugh Strickland.

32
33 Council Member Mahoney said that he was in favor of Rasch Map A with the adjustments contemplated
34 by Council Member Sherrill.

35
36 Council Member Laputka concurred with Council Member Mahoney.

37
38 Council Member Rasch concurred.

39
40 Mr. Reischmann asked Council to consider how they would like the Districts to be numbered.

41
42 Mayor Strickland clarified the available options as finalizing the decision tonight and numbering the
43 Districts or to study the maps at home until the scheduled meeting on Monday, May 18th and to make the
44 decision at that time.

45

1 **It was the consensus of Council to make the final decisions regarding**
2 **the districts at the meeting scheduled for Monday, May 18th.**
3

4 In response to a request from the City Clerk for clarification as to the changes, Council Member Laputka
5 said that Council would like a map with the yellow intrusion moved to the green district and another with
6 that change plus moving Sherwood Oaks to the blue district away from Country Village.
7

8 **2. ADJOURN:**
9

10 There being no further business, Mayor Strickland adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
11

12 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

APPROVED ON:

13
14
15
16
17
18 Deborah J. Renner, CMC
19 City Clerk
