

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
September 4, 1991

A meeting of the Planning/Economic Development Committee of the Chesterfield City Council was held on September 4, 1991, at 5:39 p.m., in the City Council Conference Room. In attendance were Chairman Betty Hathaway (Ward I); Councilmember Jade Bute (Ward II); Councilmember Dan Hurt (Ward III); Councilmember Dick Hrabko (Ward IV). Also in attendance were Mayor Jack Leonard; Councilmember Susan Clarke (Ward II); Assistant City Administrator/Director of Personnel, Brenda Collins; and Jerry Duepner, Director of Planning/Economic Development.

ITEM I. Report of City Council Ward Redistricting

Ms. Collins addressed the Committee summarizing the background on the proposed redistricting of City Council Wards. Ms. Collins presented a proposed revision of Wards I and IV, which would bring the population of Ward I more in line with the other three (3) Wards. She cited the pending annexation to the east of Ward I, and its potential shift of Ward lines to the east, due to the population of the annexation area.

Chairman Hathaway inquired that what if the proposed revision were in Ward II.

Ms. Collins responded that there would still be a shortage of population in Ward I.

Councilmember Hrabko questioned whether the change should be made at the present time. He noted that if the annexation occurs, there will be a large shift in population and the need for a revision. After the annexation, then more logical boundaries could be reviewed. Change now could result in the possibility of an area being within three Wards over a one (1) year period.

Chairman Hathaway noted the imbalance which currently exists in the population.

Councilmember Clarke cited the Moore case (Moore versus City of Pacific Missouri) referenced in Ms. Collins' memorandum. It was her opinion that time was not the issue in that case, but rather racial considerations.

Councilmember Bute noted there was no cost in making a change, and notification of change to residents would be made by the Board of Elections.

Ms. Collins noted that she could check with City Attorney Beach to determine whether there was a two (2) year time frame for redistricting.

Councilmember Hurt suggested that the line be revised to the west of Surrey Place, which would bring Ward I within ten percent (10%) of the mean.

Ms Collins indicated that, in her opinion, the difference in population should be within five percent (5%) of either side of the mean.

Councilmember Bute noted that there is a discrepancy in population, and a revision should be made in the Ward lines.

Councilmember Hrabko indicated that he and Councilmember Tilley of Ward IV opposed the proposal since it would be removing voters from their Ward. In addition, he thought it was extra motion that was not needed at this time, since the City may be facing a major revision upon approval of the annexation. Councilmember Hrabko inquired as to the accurate population for the annexation area.

Director Duepner responded that it was in the neighborhood of 3800 people. The 4,000 plus figure was based on an estimate from the 1980 Census, while the 3800 is based on 1990 figures.

Upon general discussion, the sentiment was expressed that the matter of redistricting should be referred to the Council as a Whole for discussion at its September 18th meeting, with no further action by the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hrabko to send to the City Council as a Whole, for discussion at its September 18, 1991 meeting, the issue of Redistricting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

[PED-SUM.904]