

SPECIAL CALLED CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Complex

1476 J.A. Cochran Bypass Chester, SC 29706

Thursday, February 17th, 2022 at 8:00 AM

Present: Interim Chairman Frederick, Councilman Wilson-by Zoom, Councilwoman Guy
Councilman Vaughn, Councilman Jordan- by Zoom, County Attorney Winters, Clerk to Council
Lee.

Absent: Vice Chairman Branham was absent with prior notification. Councilman Killian was absent.

1. **Call to Order-** Interim Chairman called the meeting to order.

2. **Redistricting**

Attorney Winters stated today was the deadline to submit any final changes to the redistricting map that was presented as draft number one. Council voted Tuesday to decline the second reading and not approve the map. In the council rules of procedure, the ability to what is called reconsideration to bring the second reading back to the table with a motion to reconsider in order to take a different vote. That way Council could make changes to the map so it could be presented to the State by the end of the day which was the deadline to submit. By law Council does have to decide on some redistricting, it was a state mandate. If Council doesn't have any recommendations to the State by the afternoon, according to the State the county could run the risk of litigation with no changes to the map would revert back to the existing map. The goal that was set by the State was a 5% deviation, state law requires no more than 10%. The State selected 5% as the median goal which Chester County was well below that at 3.5%. Councilman Vaughn motioned to reconsider second reading of ordinance 2022-2 for the purpose of conversation and revote, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 4-0 to approve.

3. **Ordinance**

a. **2nd Reading of 2022-2 An Ordinance to Provide for the Redistricting of Chester County Council Seats Utilizing Popular Data from The 2020 Federal Census In Accordance With The South Carolina Code Of Law.** Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Councilwoman Guy stated six blocks was taken from district five and added to district six, which had a higher percentage of minorities than district five, since district five was made by law she wanted some of those blocks to go back to her district. She had spoken to Councilman Killian letting him know she would like to have some of the blocks back so her district would be the same percentage as his was. She implemented she wanted block 45 to come back to her district.

Councilman Wilson stated his concern was if blocks were returned back to district five it would throw the count off. He pointed out in district five the black population was taken from 54.5% to 54.74%, if he was reading the numbers right it was less than a quarter of a percent and did not see a big change. His concern was moving blocks from district six which could short Councilman Killian from not having enough votes.

Councilwoman Guy stated she was trying to get back to the Supreme Court ruling for district five to have a higher percentage of minorities than any other district.

Attorney Winters stated the County could not go above 10 percent, now it was 3.5 percent, if it comes back at seven or eight percent that would be a problem.

Councilwoman Guy stated she would take block 45 back. With no more discussion the vote 4-0 to approve.

4. Adjourn

Councilman Vaughn motioned to adjourn, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Karen Lee, Clerk to Council

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Chester News & Reporter, The Herald in Rock Hill, SC, WSOC-TV, Channel 9 Eyewitness News, the Mfg. Housing Institute of SC, WRHI Radio Station, C&N2 News, WCNC News and Capitol Consultants were notified, and a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Chester County Government Building 24 hours prior to the meeting.