

**Planning, Streets and Traffic Committee
November 8, 2021 @ 5:00 PM**

The meeting was held in person at:

City Service Center – 915 Quarrier Street – Conference Room

Or by joining via internet at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85229500767?pwd=Smg4aXdueUVNL1V4UXJSzk3RVR0UT09>

Or call: 312-626-6799 or 929-436-2866 or 301-715-8592 or 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 852 2950 0767

Passcode: 800207

Members Present

Mary Beth Hoover, Chair
Naomi Bays, Vice Chair
Becky Ceperley
Jennifer Pharr
Brady Campbell
Bobby Haas
Samuel Minardi

Staff Present

Dan Vriendt
Chad Webb
John Butterworth
Chad Webb
Adam Cottrell
Mackenzie Spencer
Kevin Baker

Mayor's Office and City Council Present

Mayor Amy Schuler Goodwin
Matt Sutton
Jonathan Storage
Pat Jones
Chuck Overstreet
Larry Moore
Jeanine Faegre
Deanna McKinney
Adam Knauff
Robert Sheets
Keeley Steele
Shannon Snodgrass
Joseph Jenkins
Brent Burton
Bobby Reishman
Bobby Brown
Chad Robinson
Ben Adams
Caitlin Cook
Emmett Pepper

Public Present

Connie Jones
Katy Lane
Johanna Miersner
Hollis Lewis
Lori Kersey
Martec Washington
Robert Burton

1. **Call to Order:** Mary Beth Hoover / Special Meeting to review redistricting the City of Charleston
2. **Unfinished Business**
3. **New Business**

Bill No. 7932 - A Bill changing the ward boundaries for City Council elections beginning with the 2022 election, as required by federal and state law.

Kevin Baker, City Attorney, gave an overview of the three options that were presented, together with an explanation of the process involved in making the proposed adjustments. The process included, but was not limited to, meeting the requirement that all adjustments remain within the boundaries of the consensus blocks, while maintaining an equitable distribution of population among the wards.

Option 1 has 11 wards on the north side of the Kanawha River and 9 wards on the south side of the Kanawha River, which is consistent with the existing ward layout.

Option 2 has 11 wards on the north side of the Kanawha River and 9 wards on the south side, similar to option 1. This allows for options 4 and 5, potentially, that would include the 11 wards on the north side of the Kanawha River from Option 1 combined with the 9 wards on the south side of the Kanawha River from Option 2 or vice versa.

Option 3 involves one less ward on each side of the Kanawha River, 10 on the north side and 8 on the south side.

Those in attendance from the public were given the opportunity to address the questions and concerns from the podium and via zoom.

Kevin explained that the short time frame the city faces in approving a redistricting of wards was due to a delay in receiving the consensus information brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of City Council addressed their concerns and questions from the podium or via Zoom, speaking in favor of or in opposition to the three options.

The decision was made to eliminate Option 1 and 3 and focus on Option 2.

Motion to take a 30-minute break at approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes into the meeting was made by Becky Ceperley, seconded by Naomi Bays and passed unanimously by the Committee.

After reconvening, Kevin Baker presented to the committee and others in attendance a revised version of Option 2, incorporating and/or addressing concerns and questions during the meeting before recess, which he referenced as Option 2b.

Motion to take a 10-15-minute break at approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes into the meeting was made by Becky Ceperley, seconded by Naomi Bays and passed unanimously by the Committee.

After reconvening, Kevin Baker presented to the committee and others in attendance a second revised version of Option 2, incorporating and/or addressing concerns and questions during the meeting before recess, which he referenced as Option 2c.

Motion made by Becky Ceperley to adopt Option 2b and do a committee substitute of Bill No. 7932 passed unanimously.

4. Discussion

Council Member Jennifer Pharr brought up the topic of reducing the size of council in regard to what is in the best interest of the City of Charleston. Council Member Pharr asked that a committee be selected to make a recommendation within the next year to council.

Council Member Minardi agrees with Council Member Pharr and, in addition, Council Member Minardi suggested that the selected committee look into partisan races and term limits.

Council McKinney spoke in complete opposition to reducing the size of council.

Council Ceperley spoke in opposition to term limits but suggested having staggered elections.

Kevin Baker will write up a resolution and present it at the next City Council Meeting.

Motion made and passed to take a look at the size of council, term limits and staggered elections.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the October 25, 2021, meeting

Motion and vote: On the motion of Namoi Bays, seconded by Becky Ceperley, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting.

6. Adjournment

Chair Mary Beth Hoover made the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.