

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STANTON
SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2017

1. **CLOSED SESSION** None.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Mayor Warren.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Ms. Kelly Hart.

4. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member Donahue, Council Member Ethans, Council Member Ramirez, Mayor Pro Tem Shawver, and Mayor Warren.

Absent: None.

Excused: None.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5A. **TRANSITION TO DISTRICT BASED CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS – SECOND PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Council adopted a Resolution of Intention on July 11, 2017, initiating the process to transition to district-based elections. Subsequently, the City entered into a contract with National Demographics Corporation (“NDC”) to provide demography and district map preparation services. On September 29, 2017 the City Council held the first of two required Public Hearings. This afternoon’s Public Hearing represents the second of the two required Public Hearings to be held prior to the preparation of draft district maps. In addition, staff has had the opportunity via the City’s website to provide information on the districting process to the community and has invited public input. Draft district maps created by NDC as well as submitted by members of the public will be presented to the Council and community during subsequent Public Hearings.

Each of the required steps is outlined in the transition schedule, which was presented and approved by the City Council on September 29, 2017. To begin the process of creating district boundaries, staff is recommending the Council determine the number of proposed districts and whether or not the office of Mayor is directly elected by the voters. To further aid in developing draft district boundaries, the proposed Resolution presents specific criteria in compliance with state and federal law.

Introduction by Mr. Matthew E. Richardson, City Attorney.

Presentation by Mr. Douglas M. Johnson, President, National Demographics Corporation:

- Introduction to Districting
- Election System
- California Voting Rights Act
- Impacts of the California Voting Rights Act
- Project Timeline
- Criteria and Demographics
- Districting Criteria
- Defining Communities of Interest
- Demographic Summary
- Key Community Input

The public hearing was opened.

- Ms. Debbie Greer, Resident, spoke in favor of four equal sized districts, including an at-large Mayor, and the unfortunate circumstance in which the City is being pressed to transition to district based elections.
- Mr. Norris P. Nguyen, Resident, spoke regarding researching the effects/responses within his neighborhood/routes of travel due to the potential transition to district elections.
- Mr. Kevin Carr, Resident, spoke in favor of five districts with equal representation, and also spoke regarding fairness, lack of transparency, equal representation, moving the City forward, and how residents should be a part of the transition process.
- Ms. Alyce Van, Resident, reported that she was surprised to hear that the City would be transitioning to district based elections, being that the City is only three square miles. Moreover, Ms. Van spoke in favor of four equal sized districts, including an at-large Mayor to ensure that she will receive two voices to represent her and her neighborhood.
- Mr. Bud Heitman, Resident, spoke in opposition to the City's transition to district based elections and questioned staff regarding the chance of litigation against the City once a map is chosen.

No one else appearing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Motion/Second: Donahue/Ethans
Motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (Donahue, Ethans, Ramirez, Shawver, and Warren)
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

1. The City Council finds that this item is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(5)(Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment); and
2. Conducted the second of five (5) required public hearings related to the creation of geographic districts and the drawing of district boundaries; and
3. Exercised City Council discretion and determined that there will be four (4) districts and that the office of Mayor shall be directly elected; and
4. Adopted Resolution No. 2017-34 entitled:

**"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STANTON
ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR SINGLE-MEMBER VOTING DISTRICTS FOR
THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS".**

8. **ADJOURNMENT** Motion/Second: Warren/
Motion carried at 3:49 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK