



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2022

REQUESTER: Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee

PRESENTER: Joyce Green, GIS Services Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2223-8 UPON FIRST READING BY TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTION NOS. 2-112, 2-113, 2-114, 2-115, 2-116, 2-117, 2-118 AND 2-119 OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN SO AS TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF WARD BOUNDARY LINES FOR WARDS ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN AND EIGHT OF THE CITY OF NORMAN; SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEALING OF ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF

BACKGROUND:

Article XX, Section 3 of the City Charter requires the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee pass and refer to the City Council a resolution equalizing the city's population among the City Council wards subsequent to the issuance of the Federal Decennial Census. The Federal Decennial Census was conducted in 2020 and the data was issued in 2021.

DISCUSSION:

At the time of the 2020 Census, the difference in population between the largest and smallest ward was 4,386 persons, which is 27.41% of the mean ward population of 16,003. This range of population among the Council Wards after a Decennial Census necessitated the realignment of ward boundaries to equalize the number of citizens that each Councilmember represents. The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee held a regular meeting on May 25, 2022 to adjust the population among the wards and reached consensus to forward for public comment on June 15, 2022.

The proposed plan reduces the overall range from the mean ward population to 1,580 persons, which is 10% of the mean ward population of 16,003. If adopted all wards will be modified by the proposal. This proposal could potentially affect ward-specific appointments to the Greenbelt Commission, the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee, and the Public Safety Sales Tax Citizen Oversight Committee. Therefore, the ordinance implementing the plan provides that existing ward-specific appointees will finish their term before the new boundaries will be applied.

No citizens spoke at the June 15, 2022, Public Hearing. On July 6, 2022, the Reapportionment Commission held a regular meeting, at which time the Commissioners voted to forward Resolution RAHCR-2223-1 to City Council for consideration. On July 26, 2022, a Public Hearing was held to present the proposal to City Council. Ordinance No. O-2223-8 is presented to the City Council for their action.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Reapportionment Ad Hoc Commission unanimously recommends that the City Council adopt the above referenced Ordinance upon First Reading by title and attached Ward Map (Exhibit A), on August 23, 2022, followed by Second and Final Reading on September 13, 2022.