

Minutes of Public Hearing held December 7, 2021

Public hearing with the following present: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Jerry Stone, David Emery, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; City Attorney Tom Cate.

Visitors: Rolando Rios, Susanna Rios, Adalia Gonzalez.

Mayor Gonzalez opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. He then read the notice of public hearing aloud, and turned the meeting over to Rolando Rios.

Mr. Rios reviewed his preliminary report with Council and explained how the census is used to determine districts. Mr. Rios told Council his report is just a draft and he will move the district lines around to try and keep everyone in the district they represent and reside in.

He told Council if he gets the street addresses for each Council member he can get the lines redrawn.

City Attorney Tom Cate asked Mr. Rios about using the computer program designed for drawing the district lines. Mr. Rios invited Council members to come by his office to use this program for drawing up district lines.

Council discussed why the redistricting came about and how it has been done since 1996 when the city settled the lawsuit and agreed to go to single member districts.

Mr. Rios told Council that in some of the smaller communities exceptions were made and waivers were given to allow more people to run for office.

The City gave Council copies of the TML redistricting guidelines and asked them to read this material.

Council members agreed to visit Mr. Rios' office to get district lines redrawn. This item will be placed on the December agenda.

Alderman Emery made the motion that the public hearing be adjourned. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.