

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 31, 2012**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present at the meeting were Mayor Paul, Vice-Mayor Luis and Councilmembers Caletka, Hattan and Starkey. Also present were Mellgren Planning Group consultant Scott Burton, Town Administrator Lemack, Town Attorney Rayson and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING**

*Ordinance First Reading (Second and Final Reading to be held at a later date)*

3.1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, SECTION 2-41, ENTITLED "QUALIFYING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES" BY RE-DELINEATING GEOGRAPHICAL QUALIFYING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Paul stated everyone would view proposed redistricting maps and Council would consider the new maps they had not discussed previously. The first two: 2A and 2B had been endorsed by the District Boundary Review Board (DBRB); the second two: 2C and 2D had been provided by Councilmember Starkey and had not been endorsed by the DBRB. A fourth plan: 2BR1, had been submitted by Vice-Mayor Luis and had not been reviewed by the DBRB.

Mr. Rayson read the ordinance by title.

Mr. Burton displayed plan 2A and described the districts. He said the plan did meet the population deviation requirement for less than 10%. It also met the compactness requirement. He stated the DBRB had approved this plan for presentation to Council.

Mr. Burton described plan 2B, which addressed some DBRB members' concerns about communities of interest in Districts 3 and 4. The plan met the requirements for compactness and population deviation. This plan had been recommended as the DBRB's second choice.

Plan 2C was the result of Mr. Burton meeting with Councilmember Starkey to address concerns she had regarding the displacement of communities in Plan 2B. Mr. Burton had offered to meet with any Councilmember or Mayor Paul to review any plan, which he would review for compliance with all requirements. Plan C met requirements for population equality and compactness. Plan 2D was also devised when Mr. Burton met with Councilmember Starkey and focused on respecting existing district boundaries. Mr. Burton stated it also met population equality and compactness tests, and respected existing communities of interest.

Mr. Burton explained that DBRB member Chris Love had submitted an additional proposal and he had reviewed it and determined it met the requirement for population equality. This plan had not been presented to the DBRB.

Mayor Paul opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Gail Stage, Majestic Groves resident, asked for a definition of communities of interest. Mr. Rayson explained that this described neighborhoods such as mobile home parks, ethnic enclaves and subdivisions like Majestic Groves. The goal was to keep these areas intact in a district. Ms. Stage said she was concerned about how Mr. Love's plan and Plan 2B dealt with Majestic Groves and Long Lake Ranches West, which was "not necessarily the same type of equestrian community that it used to be 20 years ago when I moved in." Ms. Stage said she had been happy with Councilmember Starkey's representation and many people in her community wanted additional information about the redistricting. She asked for copies of the maps she could distribute to other members of her community who were unable to attend this meeting. Ms. Stage said her community loved Robbins Lodge and the trails, but "we do not associate ourselves with Southwest Ranches, with some of the communities that are further west."

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Chris Love, DBRB member, explained that plan 2A's existing line was from to 136<sup>th</sup> to 133<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. This split a mobile home community of interest, and swapped communities between districts 3 and 4. Plan 2B addressed this by keeping the line where it was so the mobile home community was not split. Some of district 3 was moved into district 4 to provide population equality. Plan 2B-1 was his attempt to improve the population equality, which was the board's main goal. He stated of all the plans being considered, plan 2B-1 had the best population equality. This plan also kept communities of interest intact.

Ramona Meyers said her residence had been switched from district 2 to district 1 in the last redistricting. She asked Council to adopt a plan that would move the fewest number of people.

Esther Gonzi said three of the four proposals moved many people from district 2 to district 1. She stated the coming March election would be her first opportunity to vote and the first three plans would make her ineligible to vote for another two years.

Richard Meyers said many people in Park City were not citizens and could not vote.

Mr. Burton explained that population data was created specifically for creating the new plans. They were required to focus on population equality, communities of interest and geographic integrity, which related to compactness and contiguity. Mr. Burton informed Council that most best practices for redistricting was based on total population, which was taken from U.S. census data.

Mayor Paul believed the DBRB had diligently worked with the purpose of doing what was best for the community. They had followed the criteria to create plans that were legally defensible.

As no one else spoke, Mayor Paul closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Councilmember Starkey described her rationale for her plans 2C and 2D. She said she had heard comments and concerns from Council and residents regarding plan 2B. Councilmember Starkey stated many of her residents had been upset that they would be shifted into another district. She described the shifts that would take place under plan 2B and said this plan moved thousands of people unnecessarily.

Councilmember Starkey had tried to draw her plans to respect existing district boundaries, which was the fourth criterion in the Town Charter. She felt that plan 2B did not respect existing district boundaries or communities of interest. Councilmember Starkey described how she had re-drawn the boundaries to balance populations.

Vice-Mayor Luis said Councilmember Starkey's plan affected 6,921 people; Plan 2B affected 2,260 people and plan 2BR1 affected 1,810 people. He related the story of two state legislators who had been affected by state redistricting, and said they had accepted the new boundaries and moved on. He felt people were considering what affected them, not what affected the community.

Councilmember Caletka estimated that 20% of the town's population would be affected by plans 2A and 2B. He agreed that the state legislators' districts had been changed, but pointed out that their existing homes had not been considered in the redistricting, and that was being considered here. Councilmember Caletka said this could not be done to favor the incumbents, but he believed the DBRB had done that. He was also concerned that the new proposals from the DBRB were just gerrymandering the districts back to the way they had been prior to the last redistricting. Councilmember Caletka said the DBRB had an overall goal, "based on the language that they used, including the language that violated Sunshine because it wasn't on the record at the meeting the other night; the language that was used, it was very clear that there was a goal in mind, and that's not what you're supposed to have." He later indicated that this goal was to move Pine Island Ridge.

Mr. Burton informed Council that 7,404 people would be moved under plan 2A.

Mayor Paul recalled voting against plan 2B, but said she did not see how plan 2C or 2D improved on the numbers. She thought plan 2A was the most compact, but it did split one of the mobile home communities.

Mr. Burton explained that the problem was the shift in population in the neighborhoods since the last redistricting. He said it would be nice if everyone could stay in their districts, but they could not. Mr. Burton had deferred to the DBRB and the Council regarding communities of interest.

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Councilmember Starkey asked Mr. Burton if he had respected the town charter's fourth criterion to respect existing district boundaries when he first drafted plans; she felt that his map 1 had respected existing district boundaries. She thought the DBRB had "different interests and wanted to see different things after that." Mr. Burton replied that the minimal change to existing districts had been in plan 4, but this had been rejected by the DBRB.

Mr. Burton reported that over the six or seven meetings of the DBRB, they had reviewed multiple scenarios and the key criteria had been to attain population equality and compactness.

Vice-Mayor Luis asked Council to consider 3A. Mayor Paul stated the purpose of this meeting was to consider 2C and 2D and any other new plans. If they elected to go with a new plan at this meeting, this would constitute a first reading and a special meeting for a second reading must be held.

Mr. Rayson explained that under the charter, there were four criteria to trigger a redistricting: the town's geographical boundaries changed by 10% or more; the town's population changed by 10% or more; a single annexation caused the town's population to increase by 5% or more or the passage of at least five years since the previous review of the town's boundaries. The second and fourth criteria currently applied. Mr. Rayson said the charter required equalization of the districts within constitutional standards of less than 10%. He acknowledged that they did what they could to preserve communities of interest and contiguity.

Councilmember Starkey said they were discussing how the redistricting should be done, not why. She referred to plan 3A, and noted that districts 3 and 4 stayed the same, but moved residents from district 2 to district 1. Councilmember Starkey stated residents of Pasadena Estates were very concerned about switching districts, which is why she had developed plans 2C and 2D.

Mayor Paul reminded Council that they had always prided themselves on representing all residents.

Councilmember Hattan asked Mr. Burton which plan followed all four requirements. Mr. Burton explained that where the decision became subjective was when considering communities of interest and respecting existing boundaries. He stated most court cases were brought based on population equality and compactness.

Councilmember Caletka thanked Councilmember Starkey for developing the new plans.

Councilmember Caletka made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starkey to adopt plan 2D.

Council discussed variations on prospective plans.

In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Paul - no; Vice-Mayor Luis - no; Councilmember Caletka - yes; Councilmember Hattan - yes; Councilmember Starkey - yes. (Motion carried 3-2)

Council set a November 14 date for the second reading.

Mayor Paul recommended that the next redistricting should be handled by Council, not an advisory board.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk