

MINUTES OF HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

PRESENT: Mayor Jay W. Franson
Councilperson Steve King
Councilperson Kathryn Schramm
Councilperson Claudia Stillman (arrived at 6:25 p.m.)
Councilperson Glen Vawdrey

STAFF PRESENT: Barry Edwards, City Administrator
Winifred Jensen, City Recorder

OTHERS PRESENT: Delona Muhlestein, Cristy Henshaw, Caleb Warnock

EXCUSED: Councilperson Brian D. Brunson

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jay W. Franson at 6:40 p.m. It was called as a work session, and the notice was posted April 11, 2007, and was provided the *Deseret News*, *Daily Herald*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and *Lone Peak Press* on April 24, 2007.

1. Discussion on Election Process

Mayor Franson introduced the discussion of changing the election process by dividing the City into districts and having council members elected from the districts. He explained the original proposal was for five districts. However, following research by the City Attorney and City Administrator another proposal was submitted by the City Administrator for four districts and the option of electing one councilperson at large so there would always be someone running for office for the voters to elect. Also, with four districts this would align with the seven precincts set up by the County.

Discussion followed. Steve King indicated he was in a receiving mode, but looked at his service on the Council as representing the City as a whole wherein districts would be restrictive and he was not as comfortable moving from the system, but he could see the benefits. He wanted to see more representation. He questioned by going with smaller districts whether the City would look like the State Legislature by having to twist arms in order to approve legislation. He later indicated when you get districts you might get candidates who run on issues, i.e. open space. He indicated he would like to obtain more public comment.

Kathryn Schramm indicated a long time ago she wanted to see the City put in voting districts, which was at a time when there were five precincts and five seats for election, with the Mayor being elected at large. She no longer favored the districting process and was opposed to dividing the city into districts process for having four districts and one elected at large as one district would have twice the representation. She also felt it interferes with her democratic right to run for office if there is already someone elected who may reside in the same district. As to

the cost of running for election she felt people are willing to contribute to campaigns. Also, with the growth in Highland she felt there would be a constant need to change districts. She also stated she had received several phone calls and emails and some people felt they would lose their democratic right to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Barry Edwards indicated he had spoken with Brian Brunson on the telephone and Brian was not in favor of districts.

Glen Vawdrey indicated he would only support four districts with one at large and he was not in favor of useless work that doesn't need to be done. He didn't favor districting, but wouldn't mind going to a public hearing process to see what the public wanted. If the public is in favor he would consider it, but if there is not an outcry then he was not in favor. He further felt Highland is too small to be divided into districts and he liked to think he represents everyone in Highland and what is best for most of the people.

Delona Muhlestein and Cristy Henshaw, residents, spoke against the district process for elections, and noted they felt there is more representation by electing all the candidates at large.

Claudia Stillman arrived later in the meeting. She indicated she would support districts because at the last election she observed half of the candidates ran from one area and this doesn't give wide representation.

Motion: Claudia Stillman moved to have a public hearing on May 1 with a proposal for four precincts and plans to elect one candidate at large. Motion was seconded by Glen Vawdrey, and it passed by the following voting in favor: Steve King, Glen Vawdrey, and Claudia Stillman. Kathryn Schramm voted against the motion.

Substitute Motion: Kathryn Schramm moved to present all the options for the election process at a public hearing. The motion died for a lack of a second.

2. Adjournment

Motion: Kathryn Schramm moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Steve King, and it passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.