

The Special City Council Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, on live stream. Mayor Parham called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr  
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith  
Council Member W. Howard Myers  
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.  
Council Member Darrin Hill  
Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee  
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Council Administration:

Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson  
City Manager Stuart Turille  
City Attorney Anthony Williams

**2. DISCUSSION AND/OR CONSIDERATION:**

- a. A consideration of revised City Council Ward Maps following population changes identified in The 2020 Census.

**BACKGROUND:** Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Virginia specifically requires any locality that conducts elections by district to change its district boundaries every 10 years in the year ending in one. Districts must be drawn using U.S. census data.

The United States decennial census is the primary data source on population, age, and race used in redistricting. The 2020 census, conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce through the Census Bureau, is the twenty-fourth census in U.S. history, and it will also be used to redraw congressional, state legislative, and local election districts.

There are two basic pieces of information needed to redraw election district lines: population data (Section 4.2) and maps (Section 4.3). The Census Bureau provides both.

The Constitution of Virginia Article VII. Local Government, Section 5. County, city, and town governing bodies, requires that the governing body of each county, city, or town shall be elected by the qualified voters of such county, city, or town in the manner provided by law; If the members are elected by district, the district shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory and shall be so constituted as to give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district; that when members are so elected by district, the governing body of any county, city, or town may, in a manner provided by law, increase or diminish the number, and change the boundaries, of districts, and shall in 1971 and every ten years thereafter, and also whenever the boundaries of such districts are changed, reapportion the representation in the governing body among the districts in a manner provided by law; that whenever the governing body of any such unit shall fail to perform the duties so prescribed in the manner herein directed, a suit shall lie on behalf of any citizen thereof to compel performance by the governing body.

The 2020 Census population is 34,013, and the average Ward population for each of the seven (7) wards is

\*Audio available upon request.

4,859, with a 10% range being 5% above (5,034) - 5% below (4,905). Wards 1 and 2 are above the range, and Wards 6 and 7 are below the range. To establish Wards that are within the range, all Ward boundaries and populations will need to be adjusted. The Wards must be contiguous and compact. Additionally, observable boundaries should be used (roadways, waterways, greenways, etc.), and a goal of maintaining intact neighborhoods has been identified.

The most recent decennial population figures for each locality, as adjusted by the Division of Legislative Services, are to be used. Beginning with the 2021 redistricting, any person incarcerated in a federal, state, or local correctional facility within the Commonwealth is to be counted as a resident of the locality where his address at the time of incarceration is located.

A new requirement for the 2021 redistricting is that a Geographic Information System (GIS) map that shows the district boundaries must be sent to the local elected board, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Department of Elections, and the Division of Legislative Services.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council approves an amendment to the City’s Ward Map.

Council Member Hill made a motion to adopt the ordinance proposed with the proviso that Exhibit A, to the ordinance incorporate the ward boundaries of Map 10. The motion was seconded by Council Member Westbrook. There was discussion among City Council Members. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham: Voting No: Wilson-Smith

**22-ORD-11 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PETERSBURG WARD MAP.**

**22-ORD-11A AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 46, ARTICLES III AND IV, SECTIONS 46-61 THROUGH 46-67 AND SECTIONS 46-91 THROUGH 46-98 OF THE 2000 CODE OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, AS AMENDED, SUCH AMENDMENTS CHANGING THE ELECTION WARD BOUNDARIES SINGLE PRECINCT BOUNDARIES, AND POLLING PLACES FOR THE CITY.**

**3. ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

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Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

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Mayor

\*Audio available upon request.