

**APRIL 20, 2017**

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Zac of Santa Maria Foursquare Church gave the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

Councilmember Moats led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Patino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilmembers Boysen, Cordero, Moats, Waterfield, and Mayor Patino

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

City Manager Haydon, City Attorney Trujillo, Director of Community Development Ng, Assistant City Attorney Sinco, Deputy City Manager Stilwell, and Chief Deputy City Clerk Garietz.

Demographer Douglas Johnson with the National Demographic Corporation.

Translation provided by CAD Technician Jose Hernandez and resident Carlos Escobedo.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**

There were no requests to speak.

**COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS FOR DISTRICT ELECTIONS.** The City Council considered public input pursuant to California Elections Code §10010 regarding potential draft maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts.

City Attorney Trujillo explained that the hearing was the third in a series of five public hearings regarding district elections. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the City Council adopted a resolution of intention to transition to district elections. The adoption of this resolution meant that no California Voting Rights Act litigation could be initiated for 90 days and any attorney fee award could not exceed \$30,000. The next public hearing will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Minami Community Center during the regular City Council meeting. The City has received and posted 17 maps. Demographers Douglas Johnson and Jason Levitt combined duplicate maps for ease of consideration. Staff is requesting that the City Council reduce the number of maps to a manageable number of alternatives. The demographer will take suggestions from the Council regarding district composition characteristics and the number of districts preferred. It should be noted that the Planning Commission has requested that the districts each contain a portion of the Downtown Specific Plan. Council was also requested to provide direction to staff regarding the sequence of elections.

Mr. Douglas Johnson, Demographer, explained that the next elections would be November 2018 and November 2020. The process of selecting maps must be done taking Federal requirements into consideration such as maintaining equal populations in each district, following the Federal Voting Rights Act, and ensuring there is no racial gerrymandering. The goal is to respect communities of interest, keep the districts compact and contiguous, respect voter requests, and allow continuity in office. When the 2020 Census is carried out, future growth in Santa Maria will also be taken into consideration for districting. Given that the general population of Santa Maria is Latino, care must be taken not to "pack" a Latino population into a district, thus wasting their votes on one seat.

Mr. Johnson indicated that five maps had been submitted prior to the availability of population statistics, and that these should be eliminated from consideration as they do not meet the population requirements. Mr. Johnson reviewed the rest of the maps, the majority of which split the City into four districts. He commented on the population balance of each map along with the compactness of the districts. Three of the maps offered a 5-district option. However, this option would not be able to include the Downtown Specific Plan in every district.

Written Communications

Chief Deputy City Clerk Garietz indicated that written correspondence from the County Elections Office explained their preference for Maps M, N, and P believing those maps would have minimal impact on precincts and voters. City Clerk's Office staff also received an email from City Manager Haydon stating that Councilmember Moats had requested that his map submission (Map K) be withdrawn from consideration. An email was received from Kathleen Sharum in support of the 4-district map (Map G) that was submitted by CAUSE.

Copies of the map submissions, emails, and correspondence were submitted to the Demographer as they were received, and uploaded to the City's website.

Public Hearing

Mayor Patino opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

Glenn Morris, representing the Chamber of Commerce, encouraged Council to consider including a portion of the Downtown Specific Plan in each of the proposed districts. He also requested that Maps M and G be considered as a significant portion of the Downtown was included in each district and all four districts in each map touched on Broadway.

Sara Galindo stated her preference for Map G, CAUSE's 4-District map citing the popular division of Broadway and Main Street.

Abraham Melendrez also supported Map G, and commented on the involvement of youth in the City in the district elections process.

David Dennis spoke in support of a 4-District Map with the division of districts at Broadway and Main Street.

Eva Didion also spoke in favor of a 4-District Map with a division at Broadway and Main Street.

Laura Henderson spoke in favor of Maps G and I, citing the division at Broadway and Main Street. She expressed concern that Map L divided the Allan Hancock College Campus and Map Q placed more central parts of the City with residents living out near Blosser.

Hazel Davalos, representing CAUSE, spoke in favor of Map G citing the 4-District Map divided at Main and Broadway. She also expressed concerns with maps that had uneven representation of low-income voters with the more affluent voters. She stated she also supported Maps I, J, and K.

Elizabeth Schneider expressed interest in using Main and Broadway as the dividing lines for districts and encouraged the Council to approve Map G, CAUSE's 4-District Map.

Jen Zornow spoke in favor of Maps G and I with the split at Main and Broadway.

Robert Dickerson spoke about the map he submitted (Map D) saying he believed it was important that Councilmembers consider the City as a whole and that was the reasoning behind his proposed far north/far south reaching districts. He commented that he had created the map prior to the Planning Commission's submission of the letter requesting that a portion of the Downtown Specific Plan be in each district and he felt that, with a little adjusting, his map could meet that request while maintaining the north/south ranging districts.

Jessie Funes expressed interest in Map G, CAUSE's 4-District Map with the Main Street/Broadway division.

Hector Sanchez spoke in favor of Maps G and I based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Janet Cruz spoke in favor of Maps G and I based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Kate Adams spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway and said she was encouraged by the audience participation.

Mary Jacka reminded everyone that a representative from a specific district would still be able to represent the City as a whole. There would not be just one Councilmember representing just one district, but rather someone who knew the concerns of a district while voting on all City issues. She also spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Joana Barrera spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Judy Burch spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Jayne Baxter spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway and suggested adjustments being made on the far sides of town to even out the populations.

Innes Ruiz spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway. She also suggested that future maps make Main Street and Broadway darker for easier reference.

Jennifer Lopez spoke in favor of a 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Yolanda (no last name given) spoke in favor of a 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Helen Galvan spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway and suggested that Main Street and Broadway be made darker on future maps.

Hector Ramirez spoke in favor of the Main Street/Broadway division.

Minga Ceja commented she was happy to see people in the community working together on this issue, particularly the local youth. She spoke in favor of Map G based on the 4-District Map with a division at Main Street/Broadway.

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt, President of the Santa Maria/Lompoc NAACP, spoke in favor of the Main Street/Broadway division into 4-Districts.

Mayor Patino closed the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Boysen asked what the populations would be if Santa Maria were broken into four quadrants at Broadway and Main Street.

Demographer Johnson responded that maps G, I, J, L, and N demonstrated the public's interest in the division of four districts at Broadway and Main Street. He added that demographers are held to the laws dictated by the Supreme Court, so while the public's input was important and had been taken into consideration where possible, the demographers still had to follow the law when drafting maps. He referred the audience to the summary chart at the end of the staff report to see that the NDC map examples did not dilute the Latino populations across the City and that the CAUSE map G might be considered by some to actually "pack" the Latino populations instead.

For example, using the CAUSE Map G, District 1 would be 73 percent voting age Latino and that could be considered "packing". In contrast, Map N demonstrated three Latino majority seats.

Councilmember Boysen indicated the Council could start reducing the number of maps to consider by removing from consideration the 5-District maps as no one had expressed an interest in them. Then, the maps with wide population differences could be eliminated.

Councilmember Moats pointed out that Maps G and I would place all four Councilmembers in the same district which would make the 2018 election impossible and leave only one Councilmember on the Council. He recommended excluding those two maps along with Maps D and L (demonstrating vertical and horizontal districts) which appeared to have a lack of communities of interest. He suggested considering Maps M, J, H, and N.

Councilmember Cordero explained that the map process would be like a blanket that's too small for a bed. Not everyone would be able to get the coverage they wanted no matter how the districts were split. However, he pointed out the final map would not change Main Street and Broadway in any way geographically and residents could continue to consider those the center of town.

All Councilmembers were in agreement that each district should contain part of the Downtown Specific Plan.

City Manager Haydon summarized Council's comments with the criteria that was important to their decision: equal district populations; a preference for four districts instead of five; continuity of government; and that each district contain part of the Downtown.

Councilmembers Waterfield and Cordero agreed they liked Map N where all four districts intersected at Main and Broadway.

Councilmember Moats commented that he did not see any common interests in District 3 of Map N. Discussion ensued regarding some of the limitations Councilmembers believe they would face representing one district versus the best interests of the entire City.

Mayor Patino asked which maps could be excluded because they did not meet the rules regarding population.

City Manager Haydon responded that Maps A, B, C, E, and F would be excluded. The desire to keep the Downtown in all four districts would eliminate Maps D, L, and M. The 5-District maps that could be excluded were Maps O, P, and Q. This would leave Maps G, H, I, J, and N for Council's consideration. However, he did note that Maps I and G paired all the Councilmembers in one district and that Map J paired Councilmembers Waterfield and Cordero in one district. Pairing Councilmembers Boysen and Moats into one district could not be avoided due to the proximity of their residents.

Councilmember Cordero pointed out that, on Map H, all four districts might not touch Main and Broadway, but they did touch the downtown which would meet the request of the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Moats expressed concern that Map H was an example of gerrymandering.

Demographer Johnson responded that the non-compact shape of Map H was a trade-off that avoided placing three Councilmembers in one seat using the business corridor on the south side to connect two neighborhoods.

There was general consensus of the Council to eliminate Maps G and I due to the pairing of all four Councilmembers into one district which would go against the continuity of government, leaving Maps H, J, and N for consideration at the next public hearing.

Councilmember Cordero asked to postpone deciding on the sequence of elections until the Council could learn more about the various ramifications of their decisions from the Demographer and City Manager Haydon.

Demographer Johnson said he would put together a table demonstrating the impact of each potential seat with each election to be posted on the City's website so the public could see the impact of possible scenarios. He also said it was important to consider voter turnout given that the City of Santa Maria follows a State-wide cycle. Council would need to consider if they wanted a seat to be filled during a Presidential cycle when voter turnout would be higher or on an "off" year when voter turnout would be lower.

Councilmember Boysen remarked that when he is up for re-election in 2018, Councilmember Moats could run against him. Should Councilmember Moats lose, he would still retain his seat on the Council until his term ended in 2020.

Demographer Johnson added that if Councilmember Moats ran and won the seat, he would create a two-year vacancy that Council would have to fill by appointment.

City Attorney Trujillo indicated that the staff report recommends that the proposed districts where Councilmembers Boysen and Waterfield reside be the two district seats up for election in November 2018.

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
SANTA MARIA CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 20, 2017**

Mayor Patino requested more information on renters and renters' rights as a couple of the maps had demonstrated districts with a dense population of renters.

**REPORT BY CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Haydon noted that the next regular City Council meeting regarding district elections would be Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Street.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Patino declared the meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Date                      May 2, 2017

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Rhonda M. Garietz  
Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Santa  
Maria and ex officio Clerk of the City Council

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Alice M. Patino  
Mayor of the City of Santa Maria

ATTEST:

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Rhonda M. Garietz, CMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk