

November 8, 2021

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
November 8, 2021**

The city council of the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota met for a special meeting in City Council Chambers on Monday, November 8, 2021 at the hour of 5:30 o'clock p.m. with Mayor Bochenski presiding. Present at roll call were Council Members Weigel, Dachtler, Weber, Mock, Kvamme, Sande, - 6; absent: Vein - 1.

Mayor Bochenski announced that anyone wishing to speak to any item may do so by being recognized prior to a vote being taken on the matter, and that the meeting is being televised.

**ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4814, ENACTING CITY CODE
SECTION 4-0203 RELATING TO THE PROCESS FOR
CHANGING THE NUMBER AND BOUNDARIES OF
WARDS AND PRECINCTS**

An ordinance entitled "An ordinance to enact Grand Forks City Code Section 4-0203 regarding changing the number and boundaries of wards and precincts", which was read and passed on its first reading on Monday, November 1, 2021, and upon which public hearing had been called for his evening.

Mayor Bochenski opened the public hearing, there were no comments and the public hearing was closed.

City Attorney Gaustad explained that this ordinance will add to City Code the process that the city uses to change the number and boundaries of wards and precincts. It does not set the boundaries, just the process to be used for making a change.

Council Member Weber confirmed that this is codifying the process that the City has used in the past and as a Home Rule City, City Council has the authority to do this. Gaustad stated that was correct.

It was moved by Council Member Weber and seconded by Council Member Sande that this recommendation be approved. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Bochenski declared the motion passed and the ordinance adopted.

**INTRODUCE ORDINANCE AND GIVE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL
OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND DESIGNATING
BOUNDARY LINES OF WARDS AND PRECINCTS FOR ELECTIONS**

The staff report from the IT Director, City Attorney, and Finance Director relating to redistricting update, with a recommendation to adopt an ordinance establishing and designating the wards and precincts for elections.

Adam Jonasson, IT Director, provided information to City Council on a fourth option – Ponderosa that was developed based on feedback from the last meeting. Option Ponderosa does set boundaries that would leave all Council Members within their wards and still is within ratios for balance of population between wards.

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Timeline for approval of the boundary lines was discussed. It was noted that the time available for this process was shortened from a normal process due to the late release of the census data, which pushed back the redistricting at the state level, which must be completed before the city can review their boundaries. Debbie Nelson, County Auditor, provided information to the City Council on the process that she needs to complete once the city has established their boundaries and the need for having the city information as soon as possible so that the County can meet their deadline to get information to the state. It was discussed that with the next census, it would be helpful to have more time for review and an opportunity to review and information on the criteria to be used in the redistricting so they had a better understanding before getting the alternatives to evaluate.

Council Member Dachtler asked if there was a possibility of a shift in the boundary in the Oxford/Princeton area, as the current Ponderosa Option would divide the neighborhood which has an active association between two wards and leave a few single family homes in a different ward. Council Members were in favor of staff reviewing the area to see the impact of a shift in the boundary line to keep the single family homes in the same ward, and it was noted that if that wasn't possible, Ward 1 and 2 have teamed up when needed to address issues and residents could still count on good representation.

Council Member Weber commented that he doesn't believe the process should be modified just to accommodate council member addresses, and that he appreciated the work of staff and setting up parameters to make this process less political than in the past.

Staff will continue review of the boundaries and it was noted that changes could still be made prior to final adoption of the ordinance.

It was moved by Council Member Weigel and seconded by Council Member Kvamme to adopt Option Ponderosa.

Council Members requested that information be posted on the website and distributed through social media, in addition to the required legal publication so that the public would be informed of the proposed change prior to the final adoption.

Upon call for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Weigel introduced an ordinance entitled "An ordinance that amends existing boundary lines of wards and precincts and establishes and designates such boundaries lines for City of Grand Forks precincts", which was presented, read and passed on its first reading.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Council Member Weigel and seconded by Council Member Weber that we adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Approved:

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor