



City of Blaine
Anoka County, Minnesota
Minutes - Final
City Council

10801 Town Square Dr.
Blaine MN 55449

Thursday, March 8, 2012

8:00 PM

Council Chambers

This is a Special Meeting pursuant to provision Section 3.01 of the Blaine City Charter

Meeting Number 12-17

1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Ryan.

Quorum present.

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Olson, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Al Thorp, Senior Engineering Technician; Jane Cross, City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

Present: 7 - Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, Councilmember Swanson, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Bourke, Mayor Pro Tem Kolb and Councilmember Herbst

12. ADMINISTRATION

The Following Item is Scheduled for First Reading

12.1 [ORD 12-2246](#)

**AMENDING CHAPTER 26, SEC. 26-1, COUNCIL MEMBER
ELECTION WARDS, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE
CITY OF BLAINE**

Sponsors: Cross

City Clerk Cross stated on February 21, 2012, the Minnesota Supreme Court issued a redistricting plan establishing congressional, senate and legislative districts. She stated the cities were advised that April 3, 2012, was the deadline for establishing election wards and voting precincts. She stated the City of Blaine is in the 6th Congressional District with the exception of south of 85th Avenue between Coral Seas Street and I35W, which is located in Ramsey County, and is in the 4th Congressional District. She stated the City is divided into three legislative districts 37A, 37B and 38A. Clerk Cross stated in order for the City to comply with the April 3, 2012, deadline, the ordinance establishing council election wards is being presented for first reading at this special Council meeting and the new Council election wards become effective August 14, 2012. She stated second reading will take place at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on March 15, 2012.

Richard Edison, Chair of Charter Commission, stated the Charter Commission met on February 27, 2012, to review the new district map and the Charter Commission recommends approval.

Councilmember Clark stated on a preliminary map that the City Council looked at showed the area between 125th Avenue to 109th Avenue east of Lexington Avenue was included in District 2 and on this map, that area is included in District 3. He asked why the change was made. Charter Commission Chair Edison replied there is a boundary at Lexington Avenue that the City cannot cross. City Clerk Cross replied Lexington Avenue is the dividing line between 38A and 37B and that area would have been its own precinct with fifty voters and nowhere to vote. She stated a precinct cannot be split due to the legislative line, so the precinct was made larger to create a new precinct with 300 to 400 people.

Councilmember Kolb noted the three districts do not look proportionate on the map and asked how the lines were drawn. City Clerk Cross replied the district lines are drawn by current population in order to be equal in numbers. She stated the City also has to plan for anticipated growth and redistricting happens every ten years.

Councilmember Kolb restated the redistricting map is based on population. City Clerk Cross noted District 1 has the airport.

Councilmember Kolb asked how the residents will know what district they are in. City Clerk Cross stated the Anoka County auditors will mail notifications to residents.

Mayor Ryan asked about new election equipment for 2012. City Clerk Cross replied new equipment is expected to be purchased in December 2013 for the 2014 elections.

Councilmember Herbst stated the new districting map will be included in the City's newsletter. City Clerk Cross replied the new districts will be published on the City's web site, in the City's newsletter, and a postcard mailing will be sent by or before July 20, 2012. She stated the City has new polling places at Brookhall and the Minnesota School of Business.

City Clerk Cross stated absentee voting will start at City Hall on June 29, 2012.

Councilmember Kolb asked how many members are on the Charter Commissioner. Charter Commission Chair Edison replied there are nine members.

Declared by Mayor Ryan that Ordinance 12-2246, "Amending Chapter 26, SEC. 26-1, Council Member Election Wards of The Municipal Code of the City of Blaine," be introduced and placed on file for second reading on March 15, 2012.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Herbst, seconded by Councilmember Hovland, that this meeting be Adjourned. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.