

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Rapid City, South Dakota
C/SAC – 3rd Floor EAST Conference Room
2:00 P.M., Friday, November 4, 2011

Finance Officer Pauline Sumption called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. with the following committee members present: Bonny Petersen, Jordan Mason, Don Jarvinen, Julie Pearson and Dave Janak; and the following members arrived during the course of the meeting: None; and the following were absent: Laurette Pourier

Others present included: Ritchie Nordstrom, Blaise Emerson, Wade Nyberg and Sharlene Mitchell.

Motion was made by Mason, second by Petersen and carried to **adopt the agenda**.

Motion was made by Janak, second by Petersen and carried to **approve the minutes** of the October 28, 2011 meeting.

Sumption addressed the concerns regarding setting ward boundaries without regard to the seated council persons. Nyberg outlined the law dealing with county commission seats that are impacted by a ward boundary realignment noting that there is no corresponding law for city aldermen. Nyberg presented his opinion that the court would determine an alderman disqualified should the new boundaries place them outside the ward they were elected to serve. Nyberg recommended retaining the seated aldermen in the wards they were elected to represent. Discussion followed regarding the impact of moving ward boundaries on the seated aldermen. In response to a question from Petersen, Nyberg advised that the City would be unable to create an exception to State law by ordinance. Motion was made by Pearson, second by Mason to amend the goals to accept the City Attorney's opinion and establish ward boundaries with respect to the seated alderpersons. In response to a question from Nordstrom, Nyberg addressed the impact a change in ward boundaries would have on a seated alderman should the new boundary place that alderman outside the ward he/she was elected to represent. Sumption indicated that an alderman is disqualified should they move out of their elected ward noting that a change in ward boundary would also disqualify the alderman. Discussion followed regarding the information provided by the State with regard to the ward boundaries and seated aldermen. Sumption suggested seeking direction from the City Council, seeking an opinion from the Attorney General and referring the issue to the SDML for action. Pearson advised that the intent of the current motion is in the best interest of the citizens by retaining the seated alderperson. Motion to amend the goals to accept the City Attorney's opinion and establish ward boundaries with respect to the seated alderpersons carried.

Jarvinen presented WardmapDJ3 for consideration noting that the ward configuration retains the seated aldermen. Discussion followed regarding the population impact of the area north of the Civic Center on the ward boundaries. Petersen noted the request she had received to bring the Silver Street area west of the Interstate into the Ward 4 boundary. In response to a question from Mason, Pearson advised that the City redraws the ward boundaries every ten years. In response to a question from Mason, Sumption addressed the manner in which newly annexed properties are assigned ward/precinct. Sumption clarified that the annexation must occur before an area can be considered for placement in the ward boundaries. The Committee continued review of the DJ3 ward map. Motion was made by Pearson, second by Janak and carried to submit Ward Map Committee2 to the November 16, 2011 Legal & Finance Committee.

Sumption recommended that the next committee meeting be scheduled following the November 21, 2011 Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, motion was made by Mason, second by Pearson and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 p.m.