

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Special Work Session Minutes**  
**January 17, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

Ifiok Inyang, Redistricting Committee Member  
Kate Kelly, Redistricting Committee Member

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager  
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk/Director of Administrative Services

**Absent**

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Special Work Session to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Agenda Approval**

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Discussion Items**

1. Ordinance 2023-OR-02 regarding Ward Boundaries

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the redistricting process. Mayor Thompson discussed the proposed ward boundary maps and the populations of each ward.

CM Smith asked for clarity regarding a multifamily building that had been included in Ward 1. Mayor Thompson discussed the population of the building.

Mayor Thompson discussed the options available to the Council with regard to moving forward with the redistricting process.

Mayor Thompson discussed the ideal population range for each ward as it related to the proposed ward boundaries.

CM Smith noted that redistricting was a combination of both art and science and Mayor Thompson agreed. Mayor Thompson discussed the Redistricting Committee's population estimate for the Pilot House.

Mayor Thompson noted that there were certain areas in Town where the Census response rate was likely lower than other areas of Town.

## 2. Ordinance 2023-OR-03 regarding Ward Boundaries

Mayor Thompson discussed the differences between the two maps of the proposed ward boundaries and the legal requirements of redistricting.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns related to Oglethorpe Street and Riverside Drive being divided into multiple wards. Mayor Thompson discussed potential adjustments to the proposed ward boundaries and the impact to the populations in each ward. CM Faulx stated that he was open to the minor boundary adjustments between Wards 2 and 3 related to Riverside Drive. Mayor Thompson discussed potential ward boundary adjustments related to Oglethorpe Street. There were no objections to the minor adjustments to the proposed ward boundaries.

CM Faulx stated that he appreciated the work of the Redistricting Committee and noted that redistricting was not an easy process.

Mayor Thompson discussed the split of the two parks located near Town Center. CM Smith discussed his thoughts regarding the parks being located within one ward. CM Faulx stated that he was not opposed to the minor ward boundary adjustment.

CM Smith asked how residents were notified of their change in ward and Mayor Thompson discussed the outreach efforts related to the redistricting process.

Mr. Inyang asked about the Council's priorities with regard to the ward boundary maps and CMs Smith, Faulx, and Lingua discussed their priorities.

Mayor Thompson stated that he would make the modifications that were discussed during the meeting. There were no objections.

Mayor Thompson thanked the members of the Redistricting Committee for their work.

Mayor Thompson noted that a mid-cycle redistricting may be needed if the new buildings in Riverdale Park Station were built prior to the next regularly scheduled redistricting.

Resident Leo Dorsey, via chat message, thanked Mayor Thompson and the Redistricting Committee for their work.

CM Lingua also thanked Mayor Thompson and the Redistricting Committee for their work.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.