

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Jesup Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber. Mayor Shaw called the meeting to order. Roll call was as follows:

Mayor, Herb Shaw	Present
Commissioner, Don A. Darden	Present
Commissioner, Nick Harris	Present
Commissioner, Raymond D. House II	Present
Commissioner, Geneva Nichols	Present
Commissioner, Ricky Reddish, Sr.	Present (Late)
Commissioner, Bobby Townsend	Present
City Attorney, Mike Conner	Present
City Manager, Onda Woodard	Present
Police Chief, Glenn Takaki	Present

The Lord's Prayer was led by City Attorney Conner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Takaki.

Commissioner Nichols stated she, along with Commissioners Reddish and Townsend, called for a meeting because they were concerned about the status of the Mayor's progress on redistricting and reminded the Council that the Mayor had wanted responsibility for redistricting back in April, 2011.

Commissioner Nichols stated the recently-provided information about District 6, 2010 Census population is incorrect.

Mayor Shaw stated the District 6 population count includes the Federal Correctional Institute inmates.

Commissioner Reddish arrived.

Commissioner House also inquired about the Mayor's progress on the City's redistricting.

Mayor Shaw stated that he has, in fact, been in contact with the local House member and State Senators by e-mails, copies of which he distributed. The Mayor demonstrated where he had sent e-mails or text messages back in May, 2011.

Mayor Shaw said there was some confusion on the part of the House member about getting the City an appointment with the Reapportionment Office. Mayor Shaw stated that the Chairman of the Reapportionment Committee assured him that he would take care of the City's needs.

Mayor Shaw reported two dates have been confirmed to meet with the Reapportionment Office in Atlanta, as follows: Wednesday, July 27th, at 1:00 P. M. or Thursday, July 28, at 10:00 A. M.

City Attorney Conner was asked to explain the redistricting process and explained the redistricting process as follows:

- 1) Obtain and review census data from the Georgia Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office in Atlanta.
- 2) Make an appointment with the reapportionment office to determine whether redistricting is necessary.

- 3) If redistricting is necessary, the reapportionment office works with the City to prepare new district maps.
- 4) The proposed new plan must be submitted to the United States Department of Justice with at least a 60-day comment period.
- 5) Department of Justice could send a comment letter which adds an additional 60-day comment period.
- 6) Any Charter amendment resetting the two voting districts requires two regular meetings on the proposed ordinance, advertise proposed change in the newspaper for 3 weeks, file the proposed change at the Wayne County Clerk's office and the City.

Commissioner Nichols asked City Attorney Conner could the City proceed with the election qualifying period beginning on August 29, 2011.

City Attorney Conner stated the Georgia State Law requires the City to continue with the November election under the old plan if a new plan was not adopted and approved by the Justice Department in time for the elections.

Commissioner Nichols asked City Attorney Conner if the City continues under the old plan, could anyone who loses the election file charges against the City and have a new election.

City Attorney Conner stated that challenges could be made under the One Person, One Vote Rule and Section 5 of the voting Rights Act, and it depends on what they could prove as to whether they could win.

Commissioner Townsend stated for further clarification and up-to-date status of the redistricting schedule, I make the following motion:

Commissioner Townsend made motion seconded by Commissioner House to allow the Mayor to continue his lead on this endeavor, with the City Attorney and City Manager being added to this team. Further, when a date is confirmed in Atlanta to discuss district lines and/or maps that each Commissioner is given the opportunity to attend this meeting to review his/her district lines, maps, etc. that could be proposed for a change. Also, Council will travel to Atlanta to meet with the Reapportionment Office on Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 1:00 P. M., if that appointment date is confirmed by Council.

All Council voted yes.

Council instructed City Manager Woodard to make arrangements for a van for Council to travel to Atlanta.

Meeting Adjourned,

Rose Marcus-Jackson
City Clerk/Treasurer