

PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF ASHLAND

PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN
FEBRUARY 6, 2012
4:00 P.M.

A Public Hearing was held on the Proposed Redistricting Plan for the City of Ashland on February 6, 2012 at 4:00 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium. Attendees were asked to sign in upon arrival (roster attached). Notices for the public hearing were posted at Ashland City Hall, Ashland Water Works, Ashland City Library, Ashland Housing Authority and the Ashland Post Office. An ad for the Public Hearing was published in the Clay Times-Journal, a notice was faxed to AL 100 Radio and the notice was posted on the City's website. Special invitations were sent to the minority contacts (list attached).

Mayor Larry J. Fetner called the meeting to order. Ms. Dawn Landholm, of East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission was introduced and the hearing was turned over to her.

Ms. Landholm explained the procedures (copy attached) that were used in making the correction or changes on the proposed redistricting map. Ms. Landholm explained the basic reasons for doing "redistricting". The first is to insure equal representation that means that each person has equal access to their city council member and to do that it is important that each district is equal in population. The target number for each district is 407. This number was obtained by taking the total number of residents and dividing by five (5) districts. The Department of Justice wants the districts to be as equal as possible with there not being more that a ten percent (10%) difference between the largest and smallest districts. The number two reason is to insure that minorities have representation on the city council if there is a large enough minority population to do so and in Ashland there is a large enough of the population that two of the city districts are minority majority districts. The target goal for minority majority districts is by being between sixty to sixty-five percent (60-65%) minorities.

Ms. Landholm used copies of the current and proposed redistricting maps for display and explanations were given as to how the 2010 Census numbers were used and which Census "blocks" were moved to make changes in population numbers and minority numbers. She went on to explain that changes were made in a work session held January 10, 2012 with the Mayor and City Council Members and that council members present were in agreement with the changes that needed to be made. Changes were made using her computer by moving different census blocks. After changes were made the percentage of

deviation between the largest and smallest district was slightly over eleven percent (11%) and the two minority districts were 60.61% in District 1 and 57.03% in District 2, but after trying different scenarios this seemed to be the closest to the target goals for both. Ms. Landholm feels like these changes can be justified to the Department of Justice for approval.

Ms. Landholm also stated that she had sent information to the Alabama Democratic Conference for them to put into their system to see what changes they felt could be made.

After Ms. Landholm's presentation, Mayor Fetner opened the floor for questions or comments.

Mr. Ben Street asked of Ms. Landholm the boundaries of District 2 on Alabama Highway 9. There are no boundaries of District 2 on Alabama Highway 9. It was explained the portion of 2nd Avenue South that was moved from District 1 to District 2.

Mr. Billy Joe Smith asked if the move affected him or was he still in District 1. He was told that the portion of 2nd Avenue South where his residence is located is still in District 1.

Mr. Dot Craig stated that he was in District 2 on the previous redistricting plan and asked if he was moved to another district. Ms. Landholm stated that no one was moved from District 2 only Census blocks from other districts were moved into District 2.

Mr. Craig went on to ask about the streets that were added to District 2 from District 1 and District 3. Ms. Landholm used the display of maps to point out the streets moved. Mr. Craig also asked about how the voters will be notified if they were moved to a different district.

At this time, Donna Bennett, Asst. City Clerk stated that they would work on the best way to contact everyone that had changes whether it is through the Registrar's office, mail or personal contact with each voter affected.

Mr. Paul Ballard asked about the section beyond Alabama Highway 77 South that was moved to District 2 and the boundaries of it. Ms. Landholm and Charles Foster pointed out the changes on the map.

It was noted that the maps would stay on display at City Hall until all changes are made, an ordinance is passed and the Department of Justice has approved the plan.

Ms. Landholm explained that even though this is the last public hearing, there will be another chance to comment on the changes after the council has approved the plan and sent to the Department of Justice. Comments at that time will be sent directly to the Department of Justice. Also the minority contacts that received invitations to attend the Public Hearings will be contacted for their opinions by the Department of Justice.

There being no further questions or comments, the hearing was adjourned.

Mayor

Attest: _____