

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 10, 2021 Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass and Via Video Conferencing Application ZOOM

Social distancing guidelines and the video conferencing application ZOOM are actions were taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Video conferencing capabilities were utilized to allow individuals to address the City Council. Public participation is valued and citizens wishing to express their views on any topic or agenda item can electronically submit a Citizen Participation Form in order to register to speak by going to <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CouncilCitizenParticipation> or scanning the QR code provided on the Agenda, or if attending the meeting in person register before the meeting begins. Using the same form, citizens can also provide written comments to the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The Mayor will read the comments and they will be summarized in the minutes of the meeting.

On the 10th day of November 2021, the City Council of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in Workshop Meeting at 9:15 a.m., at the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center with social distancing guidelines and using the video conferencing application ZOOM, and notice of meeting giving time, place, date, and subject was posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Patrick R. Rios
Mayor Pro-Tem J.D. Villa, Ward 2 - *Via ZOOM*
Council Member Katy Jackson, Ward 1
Council Member Brad Brundrett, Ward 3
Council Member Andrea Hattman, Ward 4

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Carruth
Assistant to City Manager Kimberly Henry
City Secretary Teresa Valdez
Director of Finance Katie Griffin
Parks & Leisure Services Director Rick Martinez
Director of Public Works and Building Services Mike Donoho
Information Technology Director Bob Argetsinger

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Opening Agenda

1. Call to Order.

With a quorum of the Council Members present, the Workshop Meeting of the Rockport City Council was called to order by Mayor Rios at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, in the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass, Rockport, Texas, and via video conferencing application ZOOM.

2. Citizens to be heard.

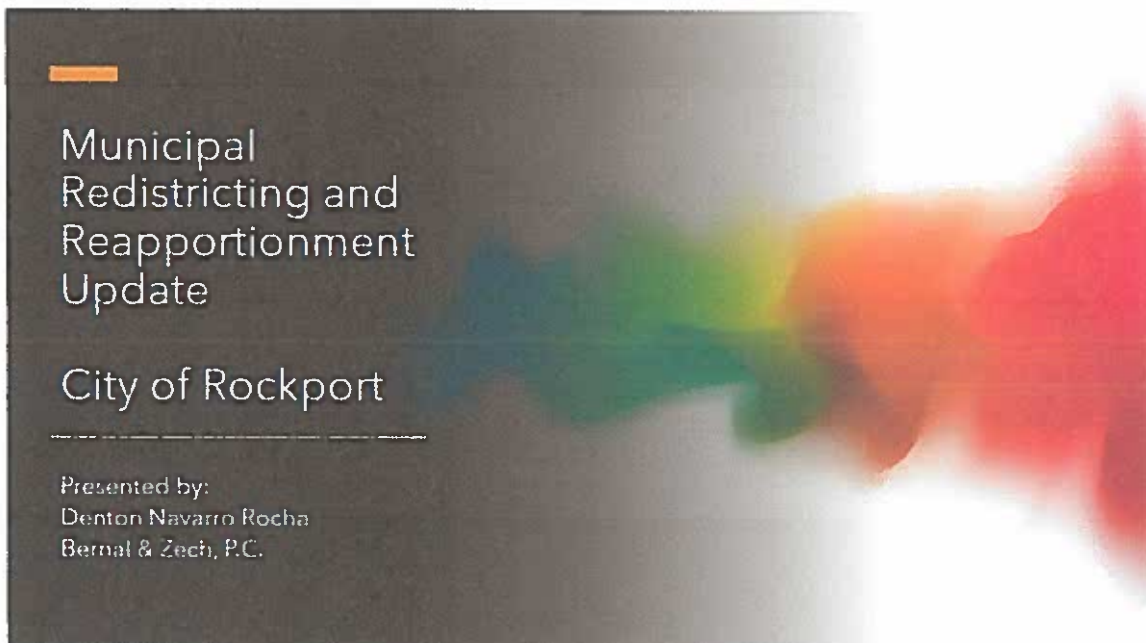
At this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from the audience from persons who have signed the speaker's card located on the table in the back of the Training Room of the Service Center and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins, or written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is not on the agenda, will be read by the Mayor and summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Council and who have registered using the Citizen Participation Form will have up to three minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited, disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

There were no citizen comments.

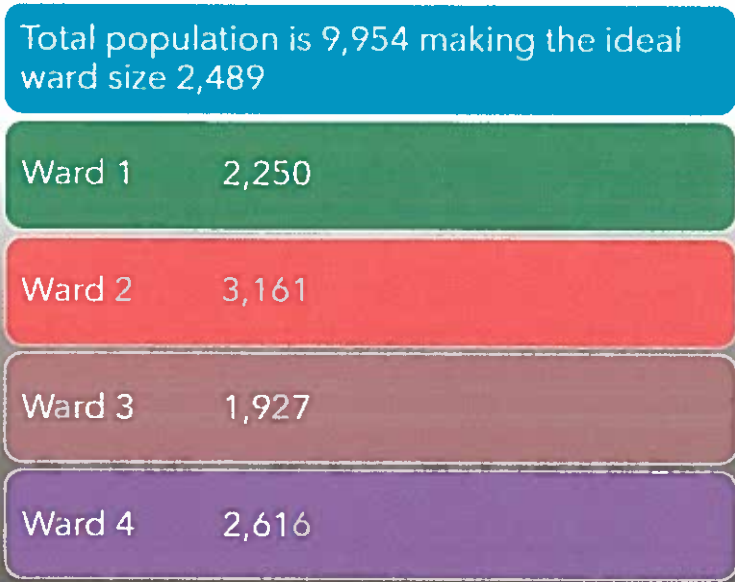
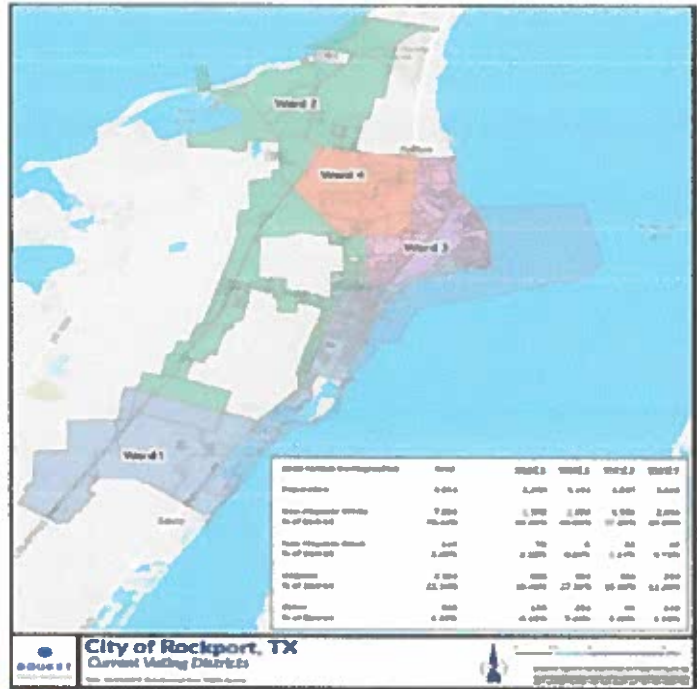
Workshop Agenda

- 3. Deliberate and act on map options for the redistricting process. Workshop topical discussion and possible action items will include possible re-alignment and re-apportionment among the four wards and the review of different mapping options, as well as review of the minority population distribution that complies with federal guidelines.**

City Attorney Dan Santee reviewed the PowerPoint presentation (below) given at the October 26, 2021, City Council meeting.



New Data and Current Map



Population by Ward

Calculating Deviation

Ward 2

The ideal ward population is 2,489

The current ward population is 3,161

This tells us we are 672 persons above the ideal size

That establishes a deviation of +26.9% for Ward 2



Calculating Deviation

Ward 1

The ideal ward population is 2,489

The current ward population is 2,250

This tells us we are 239 persons below the ideal size

That establishes a deviation of -9.6% for Ward 1

Calculating Deviation

Ward 3

The ideal ward population is 2,489

The current ward population is 1,927

This tells us we are 562 persons below the ideal size

That establishes a deviation of -22.6% for Ward 3



Calculating Deviation

Ward 4

The ideal ward population is 2,489

The current ward population is 2,616

This tells us we are 127 persons above the ideal size

That establishes a deviation of +5.1% for Ward 3

Calculating Deviation

Ideal Size	Ward 1 Total Population	Ward 2 Total Population	Ward 3 Total Population	Ward 4 Total Population	Deviation
10,000	9,500	10,000	10,200	10,300	8%
	↓	↓	↓	↓	
	500 Less	Exact	200 more	300 more	
	↓	↓	↓	↓	
	-5.00%	0.00%	+2.00%	+3.00%	
+3.00% + (-5.00%) = 8.00%					
Highest Positive Percent + Highest Negative Percent = Maximum Deviation [(Total Population – Ideal Size) / Ideal] * 100					

Rockport Maximum Deviation Calculation

- Take the deviation of +26.9% for Ward 2
- Add it to the deviation of -22.6% for Ward 3
- Giving us a maximum deviation of 45.5%
- The maximum deviation allowed is 10%



Application of Mandatory Criteria

No Discrimination

Not packed: Doesn't push minority voters into few super-concentrated wards to dilute voice

Not cracked: Doesn't split minorities into small pieces across several wards to dilute voice

Application of Discretionary Criteria

Contiguity

- A ward is contiguous if all the lines that create it are connected.
- A ward consisting of two or more unconnected areas is not contiguous

Compactness

- Geographic - shape of the ward
- Functional - based on factors
- Following Lines of Political Units
- Following Geographical Boundaries
- Communities of Interest
- Travel within the Ward



Next Steps

- Maps of the current ward will be reviewed with the new census data
- New proposed maps will be drawn based upon census data and council input following the mandatory and discretionary criteria
- City Council will adopt new ward maps by ordinance
- A change in a boundary of a territorial unit of a political subdivision other than a county from which an office of the political subdivision is elected is not effective for an election unless the date of the order or other action adopting the boundary change is more than three months before election day. Tex. Elec. Code, § 276.006

Mr. Santee stated the ideal Ward size has a population of 2489. Mr. Santee said the City's deviation from that is 45.5% and the City is going to have to redistribute population. Mr. Santee explained that almost 1/4 of the City population is Hispanic, and it was not possible to have a majority of the Hispanic population in a ward. Mr. Santee presented map options for the redistricting process (next page).

Council Member Brundrett asked why we were using the population of 9978 but on Census.gov it shows the population as 10,070.

City Manager Kevin Carruth said Census.gov uses algorithms to project population but we have to use actual census data.

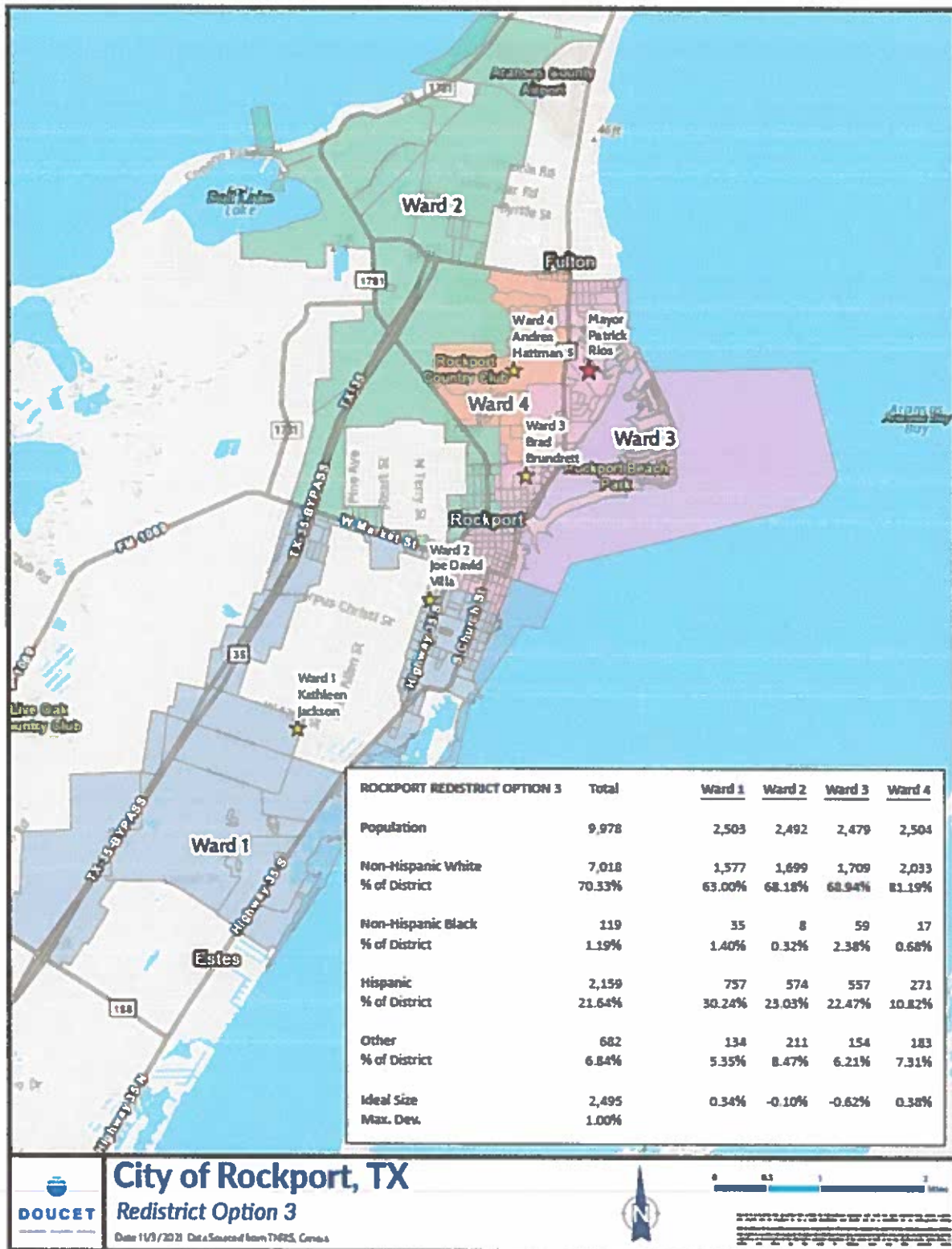
Mr. Santee stated he will confirm the population numbers.

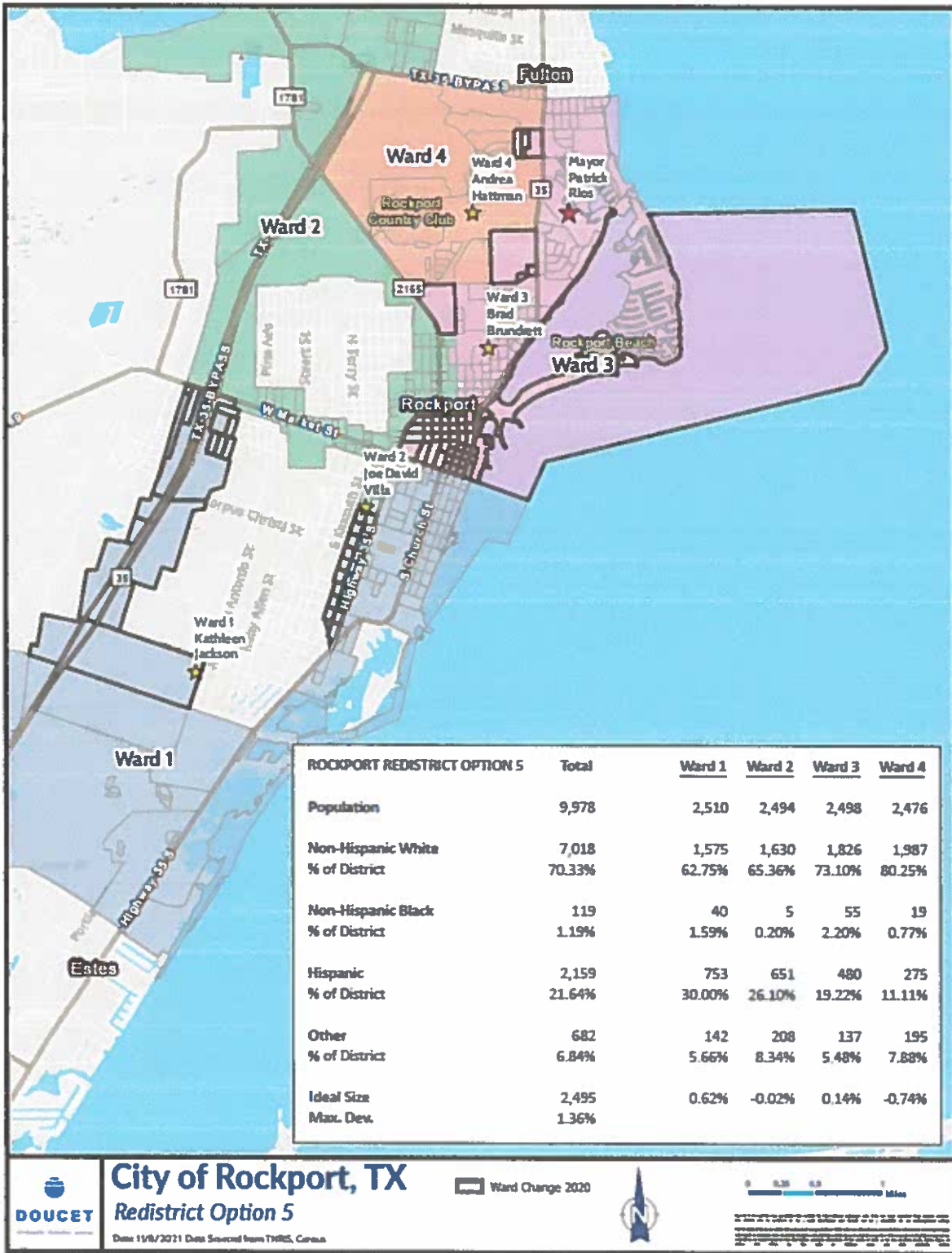
Discussion was held among Council and Mr. Santee regarding the options presented, the importance of not breaking up neighborhoods between Wards, and the potential growth areas in the City.

Mr. Santee said maps that include population numbers in every census tract will be prepared and emailed to staff to be emailed to Council Members where they can identify things and then additional map options will be prepared based upon the discussions held today and information received from Council Members. Mr. Santee stated the maps have to be adopted 90 days before the May election and the goal is to adopt them in January at the latest.

City Secretary Teresa Valdez said the redistricting could affect people filing for a place on the ballot; the first day to file for a place on the ballot (January 19, 2021).

Mayor Rios said it was important to have the maps in place before the filing period.





Mr. Santee suggested the Council keep an item on their Agendas going forward to discuss the map options for the redistricting process. Mr. Santee expressed this is going to take a few tries.

4. Adjournment.

At 11:06 p.m., Council Member Jackson moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hattman. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:





Patrick R. Rios, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Valdez, City Secretary