



**City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall**

Council in attendance: Mayor Jo Brown, Councilor April Bunker, Councilor Jay Chandler, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Paul Trudel, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor Vincent Ribas, Councilor Valerie Blake, Councilor Ted Starkweather and Councilor Bob Desrochers (on the phone).

Absent: N/A

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, City Clerk/Tax Collector Michelle Stanyan, and members of the public.

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:01 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Brown.

Agenda Item I: Discussion on ward line changes due to the Decennial Census

Mayor Brown started off by saying that this is a workshop meeting and stated that City Manager Milner would be giving a brief slide show presentation about the options for ward line changes that will be discussed at this meeting.

Mayor Brown stated that after the presentation the council would discuss first and then the public would be able to voice any of their opinions as well.

The council will need to decide on which change to go with by June 6th.

City Manager Milner gave a quick presentation. (The slide show is attached to the end of these meeting minutes.)

A change is necessary based on the decennial census. One option would be to change the ward lines to even out the population in all 3 wards. There are a few different ways this can be accomplished. Maps showing the possible ward line changes were included in the slide show and were also printed in a much larger scale and posted in Council Chambers for everyone to take a look at.

Another option would be to eliminate ward lines and make Franklin a city at large.

The council discussed the different options. The majority agreed that the best option would be to make the change as simple as possible at this time so that residents are not more confused with where they need to vote.

Councilor Zink mentioned that the last time Franklin made ward line changes was in 1995 since the population numbers were compliant until the 2020 census.

There was discussion about eliminating ward lines and being a city at large. This would allow for one voting spot, or possibly two, and would be simpler and cheaper. The council would like to hear from the public about their thoughts on this option as well.

Mayor Brown turned the discussion over to the public.

The majority of the public seemed to be for going at large and eliminating ward lines all together due to the simplicity and cost benefits.

If changing the ward lines, moving Mountain View Estates from ward 3 to ward 2 would most likely be the cleanest shift, according to some residents.

Mayor Brown thanked the public for all of their comments and urged them to talk with their neighbors and contact their councilors to voice any opinions since they will be voting on this change soon.

City Clerk Stanyan stated that she came from another municipality with a similar population to Franklin, but it was a town so they did not have any wards. Voting costs were not as high due to less staff, less spent on tabulators, less supplies, less annual maintenance fees on the machines due to lower quantities. She also mentioned that if anyone wanted to see any statistics or had any questions whatsoever, she would be happy to answer and can be reached at the clerk's office, by email or by phone.

Mayor Brown stated that any charter change would go on the October ballot with January 1st, 2023 being the effective date so that it doesn't interfere with any of the 2022 elections.

If eliminating ward lines were added to the ballot and voted against that would bring everything back to where we are now without any change, which needs to be done.

The plan is to change the ward lines to comply with the census for now and then decide on whether or not the ward lines are eliminated afterwards, before the next census.

Mayor Brown stated again that a decision needs to be made by June 6th, 2022, at the latest so it would be best to come to a consensus in May on the ward line changes.

Councilor Trudel stated that maybe a public hearing on this could be added to the May City Council meeting.

Councilor Zink did mention that two public hearings are required before voting on the ward line change.

Mayor Brown agreed and stated that there would be two more chances for the public to speak on this subject. There will be a public hearing at the City Council meeting on May 2, 2022 and the second public hearing is to be determined. There will also be an email blast on this as well.

The maps will remain in Council Chambers as well so that people can come in and take a look at them.

Agenda Item II: Other Business

No other business was discussed.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Dzujna and seconded by Councilor Ribas. All in favor.
Motion PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Jones



What does tonight look like?

- Mayor – 5 min
- PowerPoint Informational Presentation – 15 min
- Council comments – 20 min
- **Interactive Discussion on Maps – 20 minutes**
- **Public comments/questions – 1 hour**

Why is this discussion necessary?

- Decennial Census
- Constitution
- COVID affect
- Our Numbers by Ward
- Franklin Charter

Ward 1	3001
Ward 2	2607
Ward 3	3133

Options?

- All Options require a charter change
- Ward Line Change
- Move Ward Lines from Charter to Code
- Remove Ward Lines

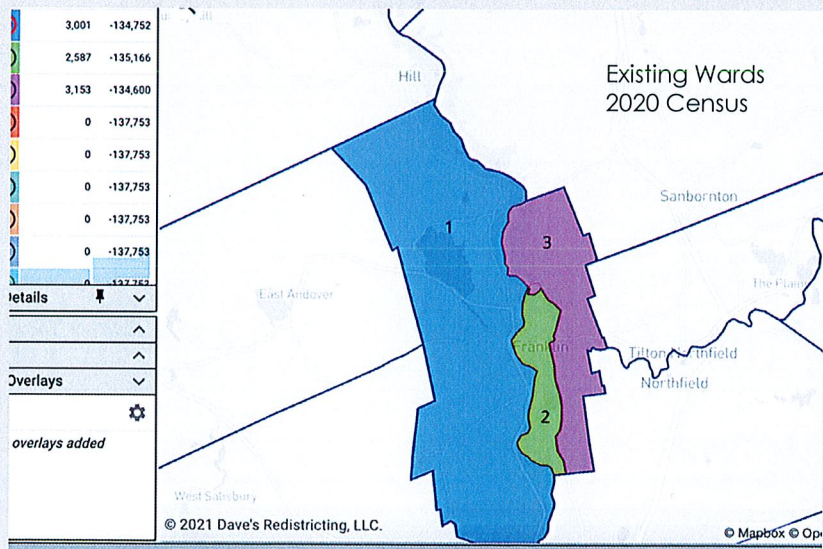
Considerations for Moving Forward

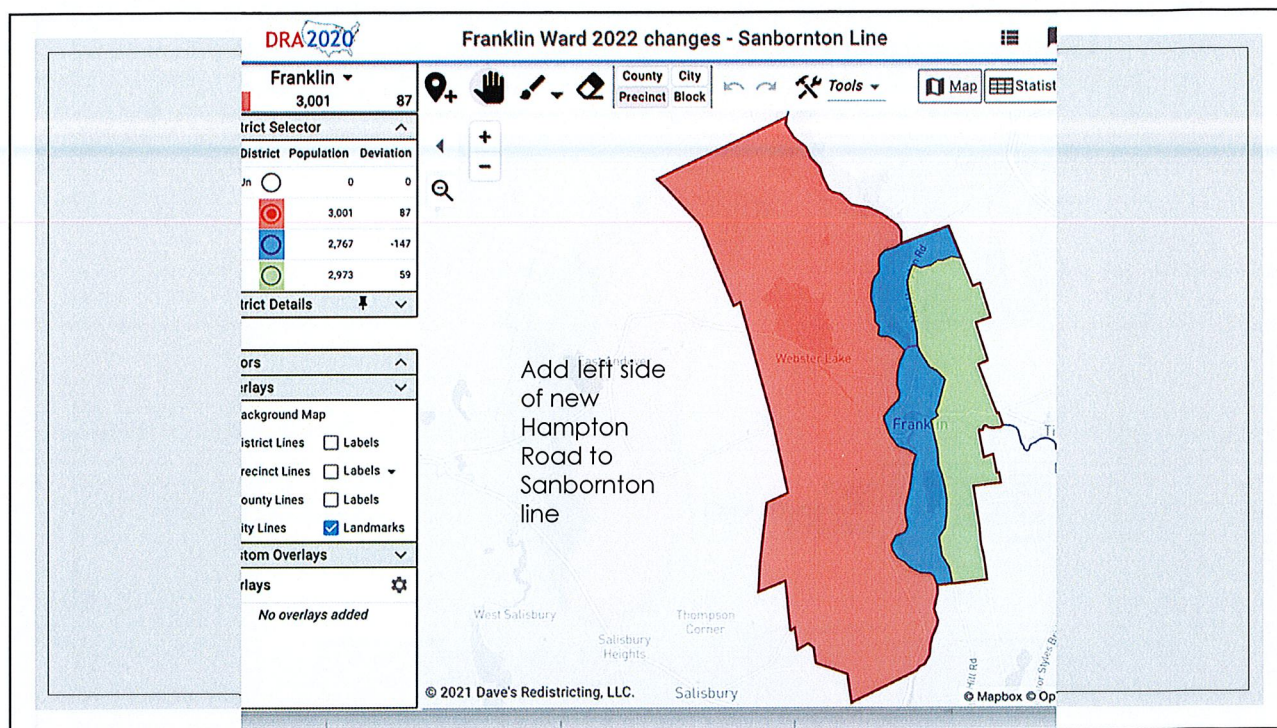
- Ward Change This Year
- Consider other Options before the next Census

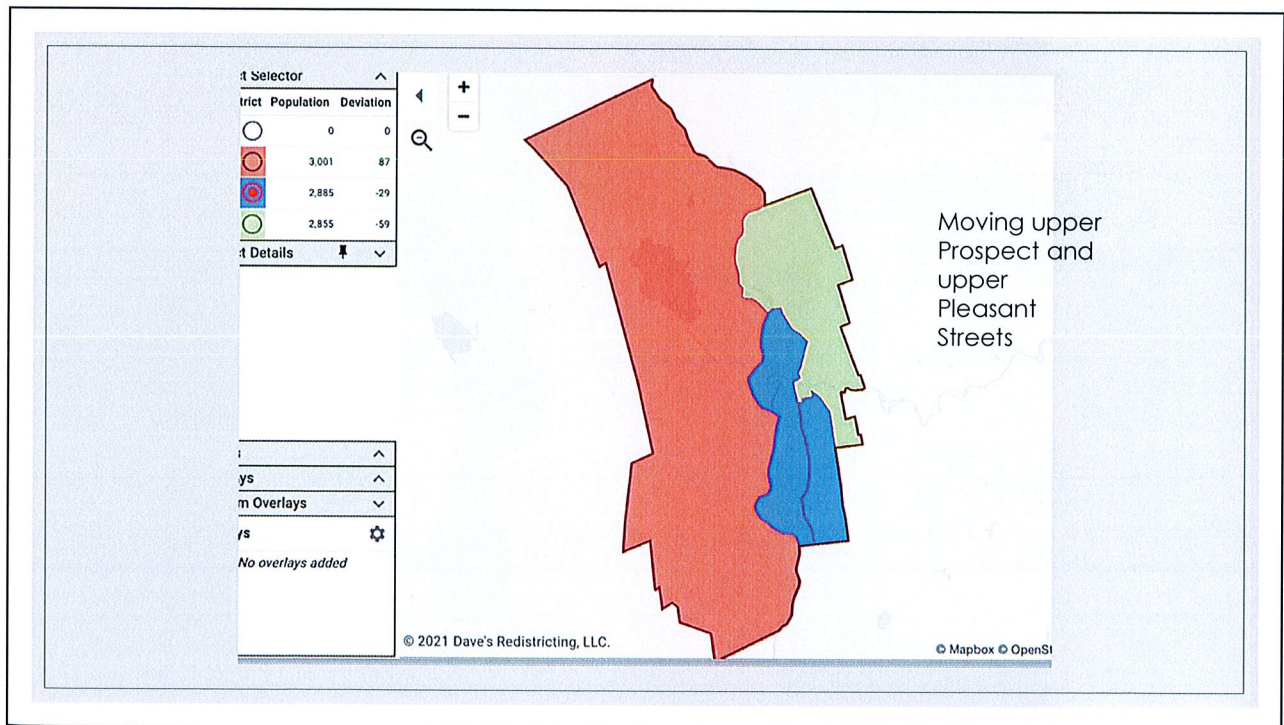
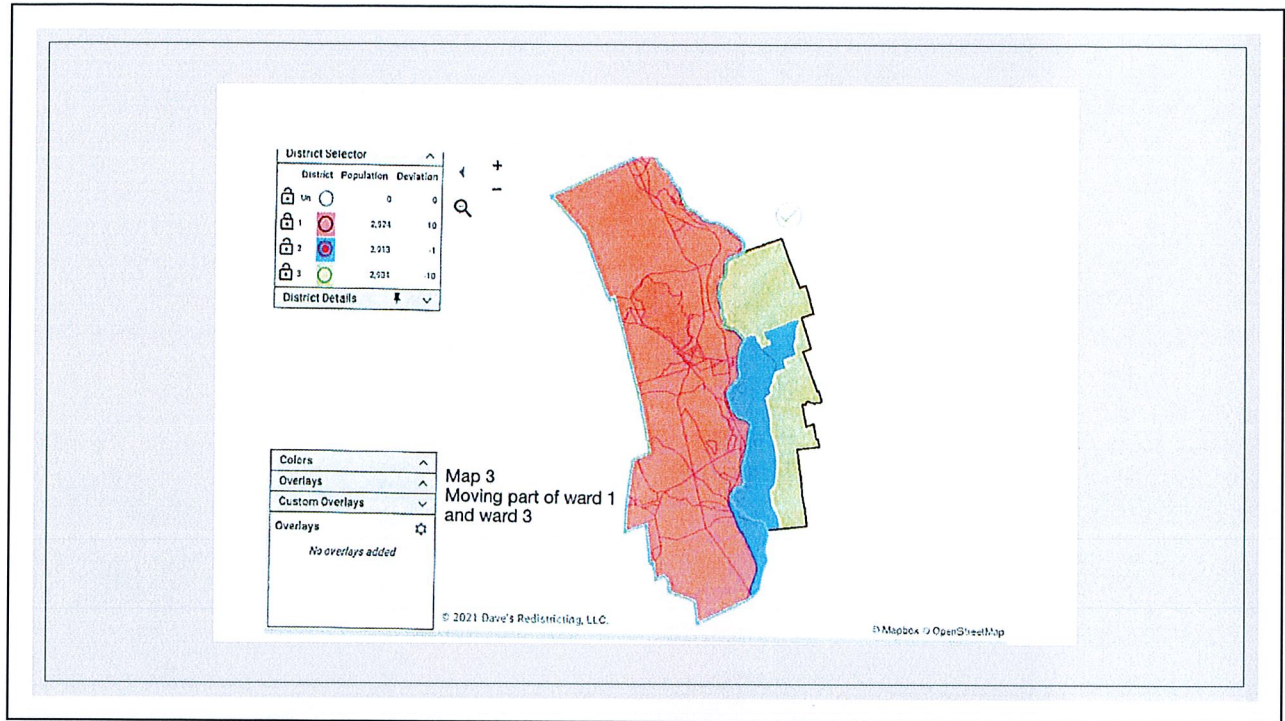
Timeline

- June 6, 2022 Meeting

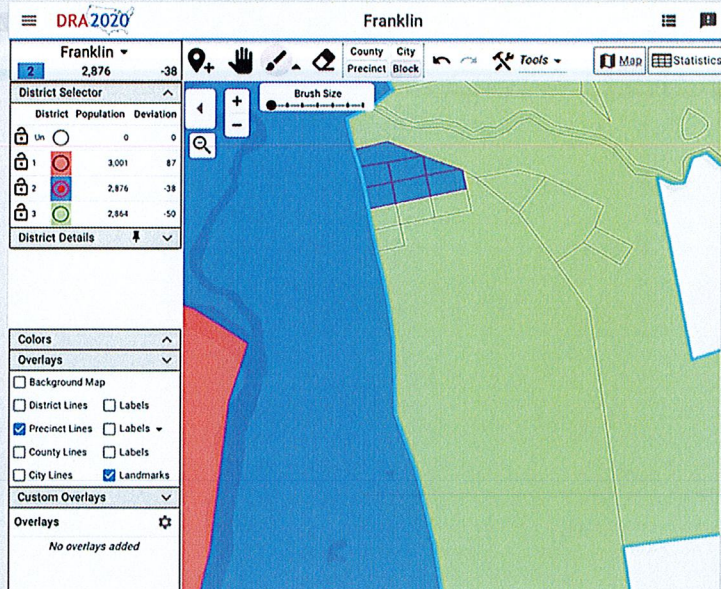
Maps – Suggested Changes







Moving bottom
part of Pleasant,
Oak, Orchard,
Pine Highland
and Elm.



Council Comments