



Agenda Item: Original Ordinance, Third Reading

Title: Original Ordinance No, 2042, Amending Laramie Municipal Code Chapter 2.04 to Adjust Ward Boundaries to have Nearly Equal Proportions after the 2020 Census

Third and Final Reading. (Introduced by O’Doherty)

Postponed on March 22, 2022, to a Special Meeting on March 29, 2022.

Recommended Council MOTION:

I move to approve Original Ordinance No. 2042 on third and final reading, amending Laramie Municipal Code Chapter 2.04 to adjust Ward Boundaries to have nearly equal proportions after the 2020 Census, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

To remain in compliance with Wyoming State Statutes.

Background:

After the results of the 2020 Census came in it became clear that our current ward boundaries were no longer dividing the city into nearly equal proportions. The City Council held a Work Session on December 28th and held a discussion at the Regular Meeting on March 1, 2022, to begin and continue planning for the ward boundary changes. The legislature is currently in session and additional changes to the proposed redistricting may warrant further changes to the ward boundaries. This ordinance will help the get the process started and prepare us to finalize ward boundaries. Upon passage and publication of an ordinance to rebalance the ward boundaries the ordinance will be forwarded to the Albany County Clerk’s Office for further inclusion in the election processes.

March 15, 2022, the City Council voted for an amendment to replace Map 2.1 with Map Prop 1b. as the ordinance reference for the ward boundaries. The ordinance will reflect this change. No public comments were received during the Public Hearing on March 15, 2022.

March 22, 2022, the City Council voted to postpone Original Ordinance No. 2042 to a Special Meeting on March 29, 2022. We received two written comments (one from the Albany County Clerk and Mike Massie) as well as one comment during the meeting.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

W.S. 22-23-103(a) A city may be divided into wards by ordinance of the governing body of the city. The wards shall be compact in form and as nearly equal in population as possible.

22-23-102. Qualifications of municipal officers.

All municipal offices are nonpartisan, and municipal officers shall be qualified electors residing in the municipality and any ward established under W.S. 22-23-103 or 15-11-105(b).

22-23-103. Division of city into wards; residency.

(a) A city may be divided into wards by ordinance of the governing body of the city. The wards shall be compact in form and as nearly equal in population as possible.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a person shall not be a candidate for the council from a ward for the purpose of meeting residency requirements for the city ward, unless he has been a resident of that ward for at least one (1) year next preceding his election.

(c) In any general election year in which city wards are redrawn but not enacted into law at least one (1) year prior to the applicable filing periods, a person may be a candidate for a ward if he: (i) Is a resident of the city on the date he files an application under W.S. 22-5-204 or a petition under W.S. 22-5-301; and (ii) Has been a resident of the city for at least one (1) year next preceding his election.

(d) A person seeking election from a ward as provided under subsection (c) of this section, including a councilman whose term otherwise would expire as a result of completing his term of office, shall be a resident of the ward at the time he takes office.

(e) Following the redrawing of ward boundaries, a councilman whose term of office does not expire following the next general election shall continue to serve until the completion of his term.

Responsible Staff:

Nancy Bartholomew, City Clerk
Janine Jordan, City Manager
Robert Southard, City Attorney

Future dates are subject to change

Work Session	December 28, 2021
Public Hearing (PH) Held	March 15, 2022
PH Advertised	March 11, 2022
Introduction/1 st Reading	March 8, 2022
2 nd Reading	March 15, 2022
3 rd Reading	March 22, 2022

Attachments: Original Ordinance No. 2042