

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

August 21, 2001

6:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Sysyn.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau (late), Cashin, Thibault, and Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Clancy

A report of the Special Redistricting Committee was presented recommending that the proposed amendment to provide for the adjustments to the boundaries for the City's 12 wards with the question and as summarized/explained below, (actual text of Charter Section 5.33 Wards as proposed enclosed with report)

SHALL THE CITY OF MANCHESTER APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY'S 12 WARDS AS SUMMARIZED AND EXPLAINED BELOW?

SUMMARY/EXPLANATION: Section 5.33 of the City Charter describes the perimeter boundaries of the 12 wards that make up the City of Manchester. The proposed changes adjust these ward boundary lines to account for population changes identified in the 2000 census and in accordance with the principle of "one man/one vote". In addition to adjusting the ward boundaries, the proposed amendment provides that a list of all roads and streets contained in each ward shall be kept current and on file in the Office of the City Clerk. If you favor this proposal, vote YES; if you do not favor it, vote NO.

Tenure of Office. This Charter amendment shall take effect June 1, 2002. When this Charter amendment takes effect the incumbents of all elected officials shall continue to hold the same until the expiration of their respective terms.

be accepted and referred to a public hearing to be conducted by the Special Redistricting Committee on Thursday, August 30, 2001 at 6:00 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall, One City Hall Plaza, 3rd floor.

Alderman Wihby moved to accept, receive and adopt the report. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated the only question I have is that is Labor Day weekend and some people like to get away early. Is there a reason we scheduled it on Thursday rather than Wednesday night on that particular week? I think it is Labor Day weekend.

Clerk Bernier replied well August 30 is a Thursday and what happens is by Charter we have so many days that we have to meet after the Committee meeting as well as having a public hearing. Within seven days the Board of Aldermen need to vote whether the question will be on the ballot or not, which would be September 7. You have to advertise it for seven days.

Alderman Vaillancourt responded my question was there are some people who like to get away for Labor Day weekend early. Could we possibly have it that Wednesday instead of that Thursday or are we not within the bounds to do that?

Mayor Baines stated there seems to be a question that four Aldermen cannot be here.

Alderman Lopez stated I don't believe that the Aldermen have to be at the hearing.

Mayor Baines asked isn't the hearing with the Special Redistricting Committee.

Deputy Clerk LeBlond-Kang answered yes. It will be the Special Redistricting Committee conducting the public hearing, not the full Board.

Mayor Baines asked so the Aldermen will not be taking any action that night.

Clerk Bernier answered no that will be done on September 4.

Mayor Baines asked can it be scheduled any other time.

Clerk Bernier answered no because by law we have a required time period.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I just wanted the opportunity to say that regretfully I will lose these voters because I am one of the Aldermen who would be shifting 738 people from my ward to another ward but in fact Ward 12 is building probably 700 new homes so my ward is one of the growth areas of the City. I would regret losing these particular people.

Alderman Levasseur stated as Alderman of Ward 3 the one thing I can say about it is it is the melting pot of the wards of the City of Manchester and one thing that we do like is the diversity that we have in our ward. By moving the district line from the northern part down and taking away the northern section of this ward you have taken away many of our single family homes and will be burdening our ward with mostly multi-family homes. The one thing about my ward is that we have a lot of apartment dwellers. We have a very diverse population of elderly. We have a diverse population of college students. I do not care too much for the taking away of the

northern part of this ward because it takes away from the diversity. I would really appreciate it if we could go back and make that line go back to where it was and keep some of the single family homes to keep the downtown Ward 3 as diverse it had before. Bringing me forward down to Ward 9 is not giving me any single family homes and I think to have a well represented ward you should have a well representation of the population of the properties that are in that ward and I think the way you did it...I think it would have been more appropriate to take Colonial Village and give that to Ward 1 since that is a lot of multi dwellings and Ward 1 doesn't have as many. Will we have an opportunity to make changes or is this it?

Mayor Baines replied they are going to have a public hearing to get input and obviously the Aldermen will have an opportunity tonight and other times to express their concerns either verbally or in writing.

Alderman Levasseur asked as far as notification to the wards, how will that be done, just through the newspaper.

Clerk Bernier asked are you talking about notification on the ward lines.

Mayor Baines stated notifying people of the City of the changes.

Clerk Bernier replied I think it is going in the newspaper on Thursday morning.

Alderman Cashin stated I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Rivard and Mr. Gelinas and Mr. Gardner for the job they have done. I have been there before and I know how difficult it is. Thank you very much.

Mayor Baines replied on behalf of the Board I think we would all like to echo those compliments to each one of you.

Alderman Pariseau stated I would like to just let the Alderman from Ward 3 know that the area that is being proposed from Ward 9 to Ward 3 is a lot of single family homes. You have Jefferson, Hamilton and that whole area that is single-family homes and you have Caron Street and Crowley Street. They are all single family homes. There are a few apartment buildings, but I would say the majority are single family.

Mayor Baines stated again I would urge the Board members to put in writing or to testify at the public hearing in terms of giving additional input to the members of the Committee.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated as you know I took a particular interest in this and it is an amazing and interesting document. I suppose there are about 1,000 different ways this could have been done and originally looking at this I had some concerns. They did make one change because one particular School Board member had been districted out of his ward so they did change this

since we saw it originally. I guess I should say that as far as my particular ward is concerned it was affected very little because we were almost average to begin with as was Ward 3.

Alderman Hirschmann referred to the number he is losing. Alderman Pinard, I think, would be saying good bye to a lot more people. I think this is probably overall not a bad document.

Would I have liked to have seen some more public hearings and more public input in advance, perhaps but then again perhaps this is the kind of thing that has to be done by one person sitting down with a map. I think Frank Thomas is to be congratulated as well as the Committee because I think a lot of this was dealing with the numbers and the geography. Nothing is going to satisfy everybody, but overall it is probably a workable document. I think we should look forward to the comments that we will hear a week from Thursday night.

Alderman Shea stated I was the Alderman who called my School Board member and explained to him that he was gerry mandered out and now he is being gerry mandered in so there is hope. The point is that I think it is great that those of us who had smaller constituencies can expand into a larger constituency and I welcome that hopefully if I am interested in the future Aldermanic seat in Ward 7, but I think that it is fairness and I think that that is the important part about it. I do want to comment that the people, Bob Rivard, Fern Gelinis and Bill Gardner, as well as Frank Thomas and Bob MacKenzie, were very fair and open. It is a tremendous job. I sat down with Bob Rivard tonight and he explained how difficult this was 10 years ago and how difficult it is now. These people are all volunteers and we should express our appreciation for them and I thank you.

Alderman Levasseur asked from a historical perspective, what will the public hearing be like. Does anybody know?

Mayor Baines stated it is not usually a large number of people generally speaking from my recollection. There will be people...you know there are historic associations with wards and polling places that some people become concerned about.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented an on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk