

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**June 14, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber – City Hall**

A Council work session was held to discuss the following issues: 1) Chicago Great Western Trail Project; and 2) Proposed new City Council Districts.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, Russell Moore, Brian Myers, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach.

Bryan Carter, City Manager; Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director; Chris Connally, Police Chief; Tom Mahoney, Interim Administrative Services Director; Jason Soper, Interim City Attorney; Brady McKinley, Asst. Public Works & Transportation Director; Zack Martin, City Planner; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relation Manager; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #1 – Chicago Great Western Trail Project.** Bryan Carter, City Manager, said the purpose of the meeting is primarily to provide an opportunity for the community to discuss this issue and then for the City Council to discuss how it wants to proceed or if it wants to proceed. The project has not yet been bid. The plan was to bid the project terminating the trail at the end of City property requiring no additional property acquisition. City staff now needs direction on whether to proceed with that bidding process or terminate this portion of the trail and reallocate those funds to another project.

Brady McKinley, Asst. Public Works & Transportation Director, said the project can be bid however the City Council decides. The City forfeited the federal grant of \$200,000 because the stipulation of taking the trail to Blackwell Road was not going to be met. He spoke about the plan to extend the trails throughout the region. He said the available \$85,000 will probably only take the trail to the railroad bridge and additional funds will have to be found to fix the bridge if the trail goes beyond the bridge.

Mr. Carter said there are no legal prohibitions against using the \$85,000 on another project.

John Holland, 5218 Miller Road, said the money could be spent on something more worthwhile; stop it at Cook Road and don't extend it to the railroad bridge.

[Councilmember Madison Davis arrived.]

Pat Jones, 5314 Savannah Avenue, said this time the City put the cart before the horse; it's not the homeowners fault that the City lost the \$200,000.

Travis Smith, 1908 Blackwell Road, said since we know that we don't have money to go to the end of City property, if you don't stop it at the bridge, just put the money to something else; nobody wants it up there.

Mayor McMurray favored abandoning the project and using the money somewhere else; Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis and Gary Roach favored going as far as the \$85,000 would take it; Councilmembers Russell Moore, Marty Novak and Kent O'Dell supported ending the project at the bridge; and Councilmember Brian Myers favored going to the end of City property.

Councilmember Davis said he thinks the Council has approved going to the bridge, stop before the bridge, don't work on the bridge. No objections were expressed to proceeding in this direction.

After the bids are received, the project will come to the City Council for approval.

**Agenda #2 – Proposed new City Council Districts.** Mr. Carter reviewed the changes that City staff made to Proposal 2 to meet the 10% legal requirement on population deviation. Proposals 2 and 3 were displayed on the overhead. Mr. Carter said City staff will need direction from the City Council hopefully on one of these two proposals and if not one of these two proposals, an alternative that City staff could bring back to the City Council.

Kenny Reeder, 4000 River Road, said either proposal is way better than what we have but he advocates for Proposal 2 and is against Proposal 3.

Mayor McMurray and Councilmembers Davis, Myers, Novak and Roach favored Proposal #3. Councilmembers Blessing, Moore and O'Dell favored Proposal #2.

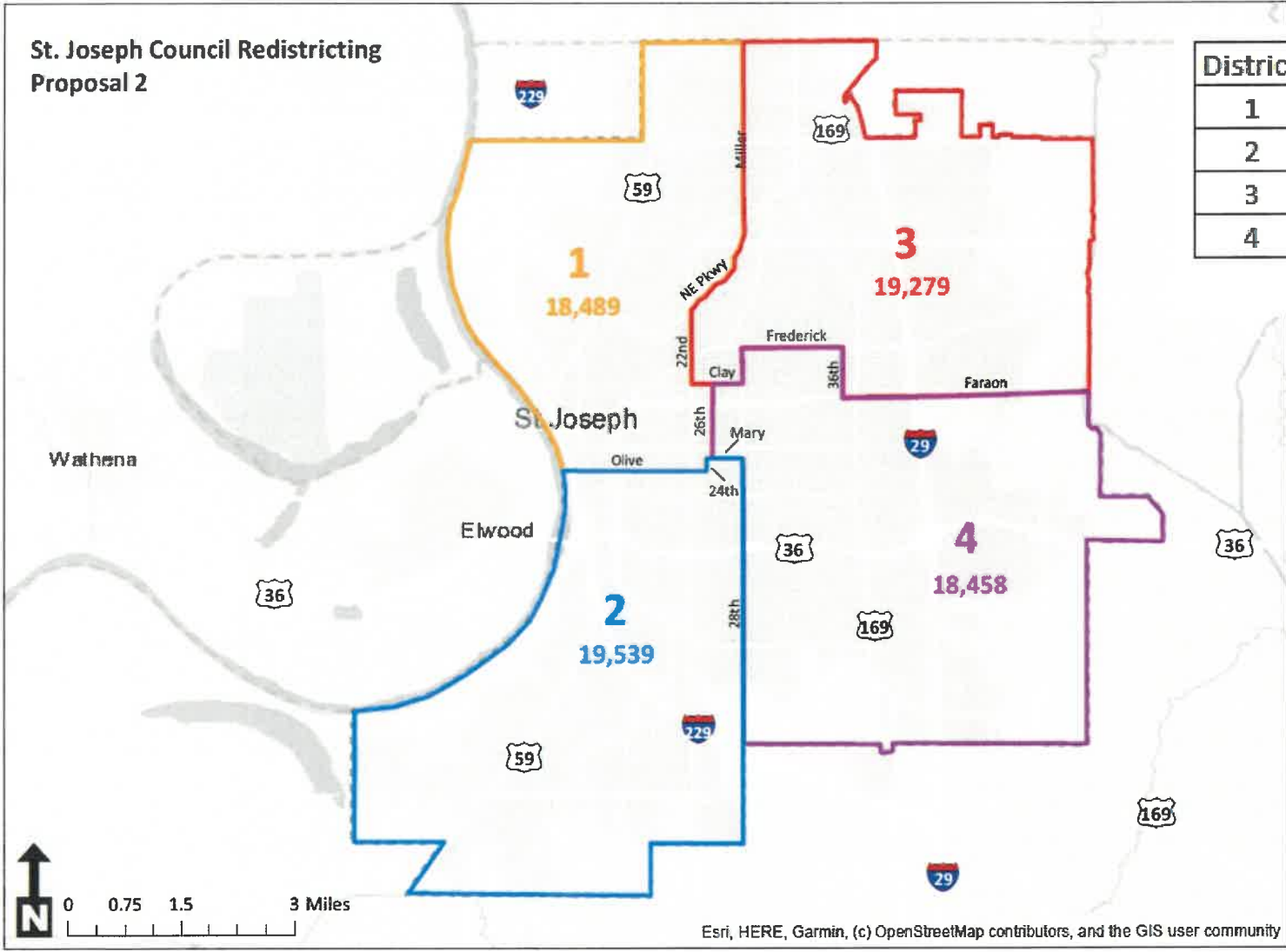
Mr. Carter said City staff is confident that Proposal #2 meets the Constitutional and Charter requirements, it recommends Proposal #3 based on the trueness to the American Community Survey (ACS) data. Notice is required to be published for 3 weeks and then an ordinance will be filed for first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.

**St. Joseph Council Redistricting Proposal 2**

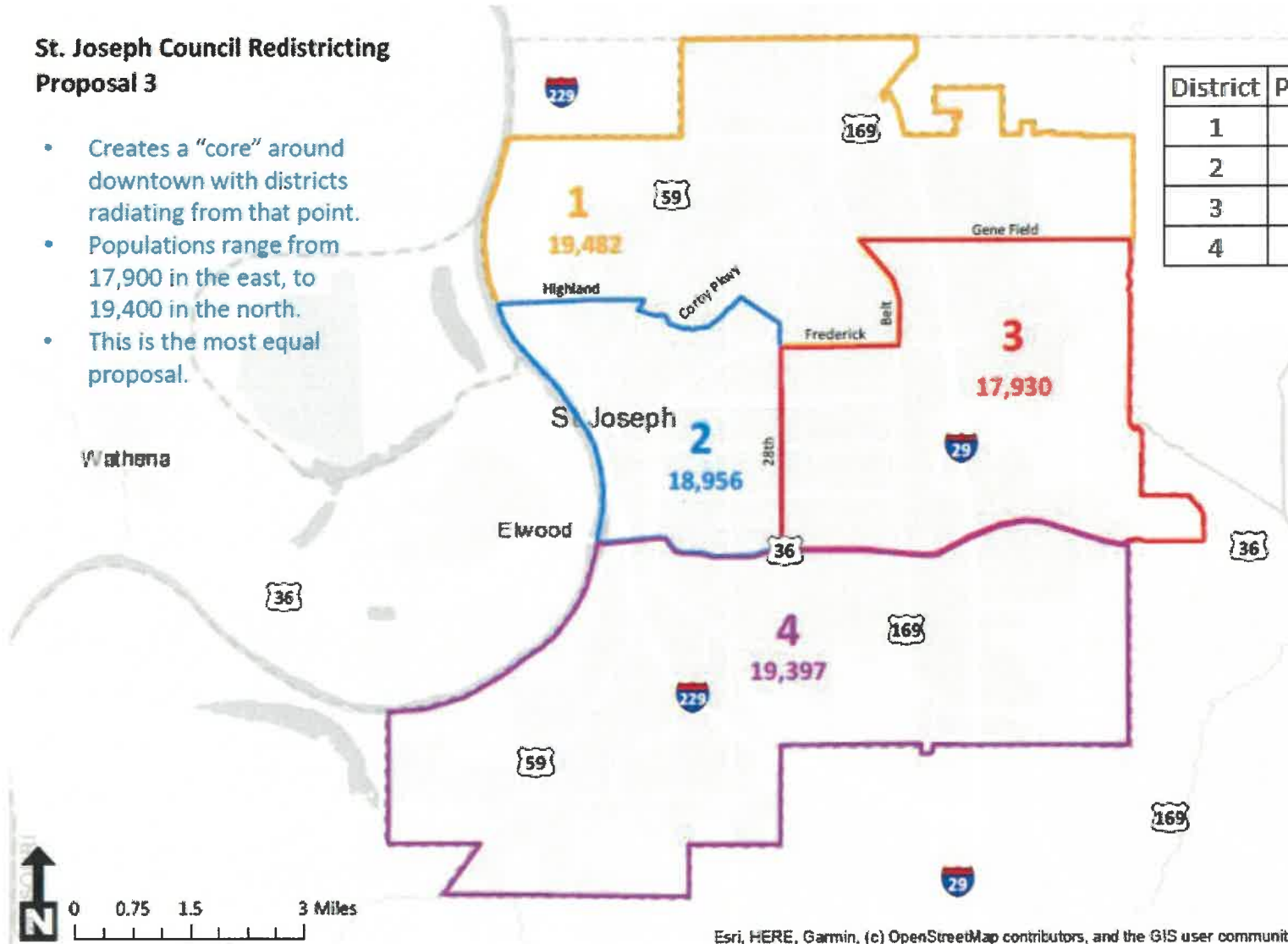


District	Population	Ratio	Deviation
1	18489	24.4%	-2.4%
2	19539	25.8%	3.2%
3	19279	25.4%	1.8%
4	18458	24.4%	-2.6%
		1.4%	5.7%

- More even population distribution.
- Based more on estimates and roof counts.

### St. Joseph Council Redistricting Proposal 3

- Creates a “core” around downtown with districts radiating from that point.
- Populations range from 17,900 in the east, to 19,400 in the north.
- This is the most equal proposal.



District	Population	Ratio	Deviation
1	19482	25.7%	2.9%
2	18956	25.0%	0.1%
3	17930	23.7%	-5.3%
4	19397	25.6%	2.4%
		2.0%	8.2%

- Less even population distribution.
- Based more on ACS data rather than roof count estimations.

2010 District Map Calculations

District	Population	Ratio	Deviation
1	15757	20.5%	2.6%
2	15384	20.0%	0.2%
3	14746	19.2%	-4.0%
4	14694	19.1%	-4.3%
5	16199	21.1%	5.5%
		2.0%	9.8%

Proposal 2 Calculations

District	Population	Ratio	Deviation
1	18489	24.4%	-2.4%
2	19539	25.8%	3.2%
3	19279	25.4%	1.8%
4	18458	24.4%	-2.6%
		1.4%	5.7%

Proposal 3 Calculations

District	Population	Ratio	Deviation
1	19482	25.7%	2.9%
2	18956	25.0%	0.1%
3	17930	23.7%	-5.3%
4	19397	25.6%	2.4%
		2.0%	8.2%