12. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEALS:

12.A. Transition to District-Based Elections for Councilmembers.

- PowerPoint Presentation by City Staff.
- Revised Exhibit B to Ordinance - District Boundary Map for City of Napa District-Based Elections for Councilmembers (Identifying Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4) submitted by Demographer, Paul Mitchell, refining street names and geographic locations such as State Hwy 29 and Napa River.
- Email from Ron Rhyno received on May 5, 2020. *
- Email from Napa County Progressive Alliance received on May 5, 2020. *

*EMAIL WILL BE READ INTO THE RECORD BY CITY STAFF DURING THE MEETING.
Transition Timeline

• **January 2** – Received petition letter.
• **February 11** – Adopted Resolution of Intent (R2020-017) declaring City’s intent to transition from at-large elections to district-based elections for Councilmembers.
• **February 25** - First public hearing to consider input from the public before maps were drawn.
• **March 4** – Second public hearing to consider input from the public before maps were drawn.
• **March 8** – Held two community workshops to provide an opportunity for members of the public to draw proposed district boundary maps.
Community Workshops

Transition Timeline Continued

• March 10 – Four draft maps were posted on City’s webpage.

• April 21 – First public hearing to consider draft district boundary maps and the proposed sequence of elections, received input from the public and the Council, and introduced an ordinance establishing a district-based election system.

• April 28 - Second public hearing to consider draft district boundary maps and the proposed sequence of elections, received input from the public and the Council, and introduced an ordinance establishing a district-based election system.
Council Action on April 28, 2020

- Adopted District Boundary Map (Plan A1)
- Selected Sequence of Elections for Councilmembers:
  - Election in 2020: Districts 2 and 4.
  - Election in 2022: District 1 (Alessio) and District 3 (Luros)
- Introduced an ordinance to establish District-Based Elections for Councilmembers
Questions from Council to Staff?

Invite Public Input Regarding:
* District boundary map (Plan A1)
* Sequence of elections of Councilmembers
* An ordinance to establish district-based elections for Councilmembers

Recommended Action

• Approve the second reading and final passage, and adopt an ordinance establishing district-based elections for Councilmembers by amending Napa Municipal Code Title 1 to add a new Chapter 1.10 (“District-Based Elections”), and approving the district boundary map and sequence of elections for Councilmembers.
Intending You All and City Staff safety, wellness and enduring health!

Current thoughts re Redistricting:
1. A professor once told a group of us graduate students: “If you want to solve a problem, you need to live with/in the question WHY?”

2. From 1850 [?] to present Napa City Councils have had two New Majority [minority] Council members. WHY?

3. By contrast American Canyon has had: Leon Garcia, Brenda Knight, Belia Ramos, Miriam Aboudamous, Kenneth Leary and [?]. WHY?

4. From 2003 to 2020 the California Voting Rights Act was not responded to by the prior and current Napa City Councils until a lawsuit was posed. WHY?

5. What is it about Napa Valley culture and governance that Waits? ...WHY?

6. What is it about the unincorporated islands including the former Pueblo de Salvador (now West Pueblo/Linda Vista; -- and West Pueblo/West Park, such that both the City and the County have allowed them to languish behind the prioritized new City Hall and Fire/Police Station and County Jail? WHY?

7. Why is the City approving a “clean and simple” districting map that violates the expressed intent to assemble ‘communities of interest’ e.g. the four areas of Browns Valley to include West Pueblo/Linda Vista; and West Pueblo/West Park. WHY?

Comments: 4+1 City governance worked in yr 1900 with population of 4,036; in 1920 with population of 6,757; and 1950 with population of 13,579; but not in 2020 with a population of 80,000 – unless the expectation is that the City council has experiential knowledge of our diverse communities: OR we will continue to be required to come to the Council with questions and recommendations. WHICH?

Respectfully submitted,
Ron
Good evening, Napa City Council:

Congratulations on changing to district elections!

We would first like to thank the leaders of La Union Indigena whose partnership with us at the beginning enabled us to initiate the districting process in the first place.

We thank our attorney, Scott Rafferty, whose extensive work, from pre-letter research through final advocacy, reflects his passion for voting rights.

We also thank city staff for the exemplary public outreach and transparent process, demonstrated by the large volume of public comment, which has been posted online.

Although we did not endorse the council-selected map, we are pleased with the outcome for several reasons:

- First and foremost, the upcoming 2020 election will be a legal one.
- Second, district elections will help level the playing field for grassroots candidates who are highly qualified yet not backed by monied interests or the political establishment.
- Third, every part of Napa is now guaranteed to have a representative who will better understand and give greater attention to his or her district.
- Fourth, the city pioneered more inclusive ways of gaining public input, including using simultaneous translation in English and Spanish and remote participation. We hope the city considers these best practices and continues to use them post-districting and post-COVID-19.
- Fifth, the public has become aware of the long-neglected obligation of the city to annex county islands of underserved and disenfranchised populations surrounded by the city. We specifically request the council direct city staff to prepare for council consideration a petition to LAFCO to annex the West Pueblo/Linda Vista and
Lastly, the experience gained by the city and public in creating districts under the California Voting Rights Act has better prepared all of us to tackle next year’s decennial redistricting using 2020 census results. The city made easy-to-understand districts using strong physical demarcations its priority. In 2021, we believe there should be consideration given to maintaining communities of interest, including ethnicity and socio-economic status, to strengthen the voting power of disadvantaged communities.

We are encouraged the council appears to be considering the establishment of an independent redistricting commission. We remind the council about the demographer’s advice that for the public to accept the map created by a commission, the final decision must rest with the commission. We also refer the council back to Exhibit D in Scott Rafferty’s petition letter that described a method of using a retired judge and a specific set of criteria to ensure commission members are free of political influence, representative of the city’s diversity, and competent. We ask the council to direct city staff to prepare for council’s consideration the establishment of an independent redistricting commission, and its procedures and standards in time for the 2022 election.

We, again, thank you for changing to district elections and look forward to seeing the impact on the electorate and city governance generally in 2020 and beyond.

Respectfully,
Amy Martenson, Chris Malan, Gary Orton, Devra Dallman, Beth Nelsen, and Valerie Wolf
EVENING SESSION:

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEALS:

12.A. Transition to District-Based Elections for Councilmembers.
   - Email from Scott Rafferty received on May 5, 2020.*

*EMAILS READ INTO THE RECORD BY CITY STAFF DURING THE MEETING.
Tonight, city of Napa restores district elections after 106 years of at-large voting. I hope that, in time, Mayor Teichel and each of you will look at this reform as a key part of your legacy to the City. By proceeding this year, when there are two open seats on the council, the council ensures that two new members - elected by district - will participate in redistricting - or in the decision to appoint an independent commission to redistrict. Napa was the first city to comply with the new Fair Maps Act, which became effective in January. In 2021, cities and counties throughout the state will look to the City of Napa as the pioneer that modeled a number of best practices. You have also had the benefit of one of the state's most talented demographers, Paul Mitchell, who managed well-attended workshops and presented a variety of maps. I also want to commend City Clerk Tiffany Carranza, not only for heroic efforts at organizing workshops with full translation, but also for posting every single public map and public comment. And you enjoyed a great wealth of public participation. City Manager Steve Potter found a calling at the pulpit during the Spanish mass at St. John the Baptist. I always ask cities and school districts to reach out to Latinos and other minorities at their places of worship, but usually without success. Mr. Potter set a whole new standard. MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO COMMEND MY CLIENT FOR REACHING OUT TO THE MOST MARGINALIZED LATINO POPULATIONS IN THE CITY. So, congratulations to all for a job well done.

Scott Rafferty