Agenda Report

Date: June 9, 2015

To: Jeffrey W. Collier, City Manager

From: Nancy Mendez, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Adoption of Voting Districts

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the City Council conduct second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 3033 establishing the boundaries and numbering of four council districts.

BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2014, voters approved a Charter amendment establishing four district-based Council member seats and a directly-elected Mayor position. On October 14, 2014, the City Council approved a community participation plan developed by consultants from Compass Demographics and Arellano Associates, along with City staff, to gather public input on district boundaries. The City conducted the participation plan and held public hearings on October 14, 2014; December 9, 2014; and April 20, 2015.

On May 26, 2015, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3033 establishing boundaries for and numbering four voting districts (Attachment A). Pursuant to the adopted charter amendment, Districts 1 and 3 will hold elections in April 2016 and Districts 2 and 4 elections in April 2018. One Council member will be chosen from each district only by the voters residing in that district. The remaining Council member will be a directly elected mayor serving a term of two years. Elections will continue to be staggered so that two Council members and the mayor will be selected at one election and the remaining two Council members and the mayor will be selected at the next election.

These districts will remain in effect until changed by action of the council as provided for in the charter amendment. A redistricting process will be undertaken in 2021, if necessary, after the 2020 Census information becomes available.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is minimal fiscal impact for ordinance publishing costs. The City Council previously approved up to $117,000 for public outreach costs and expert consultant costs in Districting Process account 100-15-151-303-619000-605900.

Agenda Item: 7.D

Submitted by:

Nancy Mendez
Assistant City Manager

Attachment: A – Ordinance No. 3033

ORDINANCE NO. 3033

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES FOR BY-DISTRICT ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

WHEREAS, Whittier's City Charter, originally enacted in 1955, was amended by vote of the electorate in June 2014 to provide for by-district elections of its city council. Ordinance No. 3011 as approved by the electorate established a directly elected mayor and divided the City into four (4) council districts, to be established by the city council in the manner provided by law;

WHEREAS, following certification of the charter amendment, the council directed staff to retain a districting expert and to hold and publicize a number of both individual and public meetings throughout the city to study the communities of interest, natural boundaries, geographic, topographic and population data, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory; and

WHEREAS, the city council held public hearings on October 14, 2014, December 9, 2014, and April 20, 2015 to take public comment on, study, discuss and act on selection of the appropriate district boundaries taking into account all requirements of federal and California law.

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section 2.04.040 of the Whittier Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.04.040 - Qualifications.

A. A person is not eligible to hold office as mayor unless he is at the time of seeking nomination or appointment to office an elector of the city. If, during his term of office he moves his place of residence outside of the city limits or ceases to be an elector of the city, his office shall immediately become vacant.

B. A person is not eligible to hold office as council member unless he is at the time of seeking nomination or appointment to office an elector of the city, residing in the district from which he is appointed or elected. If, during his term of office he moves his place of residence outside of the district boundaries or ceases to be an elector of the city, his office shall immediately become vacant. However, no council member shall be deemed to have moved outside of his district as a result of district boundary changes which may occur during his term of office. Any council member who is no longer a resident of the district from which he was appointed or elected shall continue to serve until his term is complete or the office otherwise becomes vacant.

SECTION 2: Section 2.04.050 is hereby added to the Whittier Municipal Code:

2.04.050 – District Boundaries.

The council member districts of the city shall have the following legal boundaries:

District 1. The region bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of Broadway and City Boundary, and proceeding easterly along Broadway to Comstock Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Comstock Avenue to Wardman Street, and proceeding easterly along Wardman Street to Painter Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Painter Avenue to Whittier Boulevard, and proceeding westerly along Whittier Boulevard to Washington Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Washington Avenue to Putnam Street, and proceeding northerly along Putnam Street to Greenleaf Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Greenleaf Avenue to Danbrook Drive, and proceeding easterly along Danbrook Drive to Shoemaker Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Shoemaker Avenue to Block Boundary, and proceeding easterly along Block Boundary to Somerset Street, and proceeding easterly along Somerset Street to Addington Street, and proceeding easterly along Addington Street to Painter Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Painter Avenue to City Boundary, and proceeding westerly along City Boundary to the point of beginning.

District 2. The region bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of City Boundary and Broadway, and proceeding easterly along City Boundary to Block Boundary, and proceeding southerly along Block Boundary to Penn Street, and proceeding westerly along Penn Street to Painter Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Painter Avenue to Wardman Street, and proceeding westerly along Wardman Street to Comstock Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Comstock Avenue to Broadway, and proceeding westerly along Broadway to the point of beginning.

District 3. The region bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of City Boundary and Block Boundary, and proceeding easterly along City Boundary to Colima Road, and proceeding northerly along Colima Road to Whittier Boulevard, and proceeding westerly along Whittier Boulevard to Catalina Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Catalina Avenue to Mar Vista Street, and proceeding westerly along Mar Vista Street to Catalina Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Catalina Avenue to Precinct Boundary, and proceeding northerly along Precinct Boundary to Block Boundary, and proceeding easterly along Block Boundary to the point of beginning.

District 4. The region bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of Penn Street and Painter Avenue, and proceeding easterly along Penn Street to Block Boundary, and proceeding easterly along Block Boundary to Precinct Boundary, and proceeding southerly along Precinct Boundary to Catalina Avenue, and proceeding southerly along Catalina Avenue to Mar Vista Street, and proceeding easterly along Mar Vista Street to Catalina Avenue, and proceeding southerly along

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Catalina Avenue to Whittier Boulevard, and proceeding easterly along Whittier Boulevard to Colima Road, and proceeding southerly along Colima Road to City Boundary, and proceeding westerly along City Boundary to Painter Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Painter Avenue to Addington Street, and proceeding westerly along Addington Street to Somerset Street, and proceeding westerly along Somerset Street to Block Boundary, and proceeding westerly along Block Boundary to Shoemaker Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Shoemaker Avenue to Danbrook Drive, and proceeding westerly along Danbrook Drive to Greenleaf Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Greenleaf Avenue to Putnam Street, and proceeding southerly along Putnam Street to Washington Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Washington Avenue to Whittier Boulevard, and proceeding easterly along Whittier Boulevard to Painter Avenue, and proceeding northerly along Painter Avenue to the point of beginning.

These district boundaries are depicted on a boundary map attached hereto as Exhibit A. These boundaries will remain in effect until amended by ordinance.

Nothing herein shall affect the terms of office of the five members of the city council in office at the time this section takes effect, who shall continue in office until their terms expire.

SECTION 3. Any provision of the Whittier Municipal Code or appendices thereto inconsistent with the provisions of the Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies and no further, are repealed or modified to that extent necessary to affect the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. Should any section, subsection, clause or provision of this ordinance for any reason be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, it being hereby expressly declared that this ordinance, and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase hereof would have been prepared, proposed, approved, adopted and/or ratified irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases of this ordinance be declared invalid.

SECTION 5. The Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk-Treasurer shall attest to the passage of this Ordinance. The City Clerk-Treasurer shall cause the same to be published once in the official newspaper within 15 days after its adoption. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

_____
FERNANDO DUTRA, Mayor

Attest:

_____
KATHRYN A. MARSHALL
City Clerk-Treasurer

Exhibit: A – District Boundaries Map

Whittier City Council Voting Districts