

CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
August 30, 2021

7:00 pm

City Hall - Armand A. Bolduc City Council Chamber

This meeting will be held in person in the notified meeting room. In conformance to NH RSA 91-A, a quorum of the board's members must be physically present in the meeting room for the meeting to start and/or continue. The public can choose to attend and participate in person or by Zoom. If something occurs that disables access to Zoom, the meeting will continue regardless, and members of the public or board members using Zoom will have no recourse. Choosing to use Zoom is done at the individual's risk. Using Zoom requires the use of an enabled device.

To participate on Zoom, use the following link:

[Zoom Link](#)

Webinar ID: 856 6925 9234

Password: 034426

To listen only: Call 1-312-626-6799 Using this option ONLY allows you to listen to the meeting with NO opportunity to participate.

To view this meeting: YouTube under the City of Laconia website: [www.youtube.com/laconianh](http://www.youtube.com/laconianh)

If any board member is using Zoom, they must identify their location and who else is in the room with them. If at least one board member is on Zoom, all votes taken must be by roll call vote. The meeting will continue even if the member's Zoom connection is lost.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
3. **RECORDING SECRETARY**
4. **ROLL CALL**
5. **STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**
6. **CITIZENS REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - 7.A. **Discussion on moving a Charter question to a public hearing to be added to the November 2, 2021 Municipal Ballot**

Documents:

## 8. **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting facility is ADA accessible. Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodations, please contact Cheryl Hebert, Meeting ADA Coordinator, at City Hall by calling (603) 527-1265 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

## STAFF REPORT

8-30-21

**Topic:** Proposed ballot question for a Charter Amendment

**Discussion:** The City is required to review and make adjustments to its ward boundaries, if needed, after the release of the 10-year Federal Census data. Because of Covid-19, the data which is usually released in the spring was delayed until the summer this year. Detailed local data is still not available at this time.

The recommended changes to ward boundaries will not be completed in time to place the matter on the municipal election ballot on November 2 as would be the norm. Not having the question on that particular ballot will necessitate the City holding a special election, most likely in January, for this one specific item.

To avoid the cost and inconvenience of holding this special election, an alternative approach to approving ward boundaries is being proposed. This approach would have the City Council set boundaries after a duly noticed public hearing and with a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority vote threshold.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact in moving this question to the November 2021 ballot. If the question is approved by the voters, the City will not have to incur the cost of holding a special election in all six wards.

**Staff Recommendation:** Move this question to a public hearing on September 13, 2021.

**This report submitted by:** Scott Myers, City Manager

**Proposed motion:**

*"I move to schedule a public hearing on September 13, 2021, during the regular Council meeting to gather public input prior to any action being taken."*

## CHARTER CHANGE

**Shall the City of Laconia approve the charter amendment printed below?**

Amend Article I by adding as Section 1:05, to read as follows:

“The six wards shall be constituted to have as equal population as is practicable. To achieve that goal, starting upon the issuance of the results of the 2020 census, and every 10 years thereafter upon receipt of the federal census results, the City Council shall promptly initiate review of the ward boundaries to determine if redistricting is necessary. Any necessary changes to the ward lines shall, as near as is practicable, ensure that the wards have equal population.

If the City Council determines that ward redistricting is necessary upon receipt of the federal census results, then the City Council shall promptly undertake and enact such redistricting of ward boundaries in the form of an ordinance, which shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all elected members of the City Council after a duly advertised public hearing posted in two public places at least seven days in advance of such hearing.”

Any changes so enacted shall thereafter appear as revisions to Charter Section 1:02.