



Town of Indian Trail
Minutes of Town Council
Special Meeting
February 5, 2014
Indian Trail United Methodist Church
7:00 P.M.

The following members of the governing body were present:

Mayor: Michael L. Alvarez

Council Members: David Cohn, Christopher King, Gordon Daniels, and Gary Savoie.

Staff Members: Town Manager Joe Fivas, Town Attorney Keith Merritt and Communications Coordinator Lindsey Edmunds

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alvarez called the meeting to order and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Alvarez requested Council make a motion to move Item 3, Public Comments, to Item 2 to hear them prior to the Resolution rather than after and Item 2 to Item 3.

Chris King made a motion to approve moving Item 3, Public Comments, to Item 2 and Item 2 to Item 3. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Paul Frost, a resident of Stallings and recently served as Council Member on Stallings Town Council. He stated that he is against redistricting. He has 4 young children, he feels this redistricting is ill timed and not in the best interest of the students. However he acknowledges there is a problem as the schools are in need of a long term solution but redistricting isn't it, it's a quality of life issue and feels the Resolution should seek an end to redistricting.

Terese Biancardi, Indian Trail stated she moved here from Missouri and the first thing they looked at in North Carolina is the schools for her two kids, a Senior and Seventh Grader in Weddington schools. Ms Biancardi stated that the redistricting was a shock for her family, they moved here six years ago and the neighborhood had just been redistricted. This is the third time that her neighborhood will be redistricted in ten years. She is a former teacher and feels it isn't healthy for kids, it's psychologically detrimental to be unsure of their future, friends, schools, etc. Redistricting affects both the children that are staying and leaving, it's a burden for students that participate in sport; their kids would be a greater distance on busier roads; dangerous to make kids ride on school buses longer. Ms. Biancardi urged Council, as a community to pass the resolution that will help stabilize our community and our children and give them a future that is well deserved, while providing an opportunity for the County Commissioners and School Board to look for long term solution.

Christy Gaines from Providence Hill subdivision stated that she has lived here 18 years, has paid a lot of taxes, has never moved. She has 2 kids; one in Weddington High School and one in Weddington Middle School who are very involved. She feels the redistricting has crushed her family because her children will be leaving kids they've gone to school with for ten years. The bullying has already started, this has torn apart the community, and her neighborhood is landlocked by Mecklenburg County. Twenty Three kids that are affected, 3 of which are in high school and feels it's harder when in high school. Ms. Gaines thanked Council for their time, effort and energy in saying no to this redistricting

Lance Simpson is from the Callenwood Development in Indian Trail. He urged the Town Council to join other communities against redistricting. He moved in 2005 for the schools, the kids attend Weddington schools; they love Weddington schools and Union County for the opportunity and growth. The current redistricting has too many questions and provided statistics pertaining to additional miles they will travel and the dangers that presents. He stated that the Board of Education says that overcrowding is an emergency but he disagrees suggesting that they take the time to use money provided by Board of Commissioners to create long term plan to resolve the problem.

David Drehs, Indian Trail supports Council to pass this resolution. His reasons are different, his son graduated from Sun Valley High School, he is a big proponent of democracy and when you get this many citizens being so active is when it's time for the elected officials to reconsider. He is pleased with comments tonight feels there is a big disconnect between the Board of Education and the citizens they are supposed to service. His son went through redistricting twice, he feels the time to do this is when schools open. Mr. Drehs stated that it's time for the Board of Education and County Commissioners to say that the people don't like it and would be a good thing for communities to not redistrict.

Kielly Fundikum, a resident of Indian Trail stated if you are trying to change something, the community is against it, take that step and pay attention to what they're saying. You may disagree with some of the points, other factors but if the people would prefer something else she feels Council should think of a more collaborative solution.

Council Member Daniels presented the Resolution and explained its intent. He stated that the residents requested we do this and feels it's important to hear their request. Mayor Alvarez read the Resolution for the audience. Council discussed this matter and unanimously approved the passing of the Resolution. **(COPY ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

APPROVED:

Michael L. Alvarez Mayor

Attest:

Peggy Piontek, Town Clerk