

ORDINANCE NO. 2002-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO THE CITY'S WARDS FOR PURPOSES OF ELECTING COUNCIL MEMBERS; ESTABLISHING STAGGERED TERMS FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS WITHIN WARDS; AMENDING SECTIONS 2.06.020, 2.06.030, 2.06.040 AND 2.06.050 OF THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, in Ordinance No. 91-10, codified at Chapter 2.06 BIMC, the City Council established three wards in the City for purposes of electing council members, known as the North Ward, the Central Ward, and the South Ward; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.12.180 and BIMC 2.06.080 provide that the representation of each ward in the City Council shall be in proportion to the population as nearly as is practicable; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.12.180 also provides that wards shall be redrawn as provided in Chapter 29.70 RCW; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 29.70 RCW provides that after receipt of federal decennial census information, the City Council shall prepare a plan for redistricting the City's internal districts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 29.70.100(4), the plan must be consistent with a number of criteria, including that (1) each district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to each and every other district, (2) each district shall be as compact as possible, (3) each district shall consist of geographically contiguous area, (4) population data may not be used to favor or disfavor any racial group or political party, and (5) to the extent feasible, district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest; and

WHEREAS, the City received the federal decennial census information for the City; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with RCW 29.70.100, the City provided public notice of its proposed redistricting plan and on August 14, 2002 held a public hearing on redistricting; and

WHEREAS, at the hearing, the public had the opportunity to comment on, and the Council considered, proposed redistricting plans that involved no wards, three wards, four wards, or seven wards; and

WHEREAS, all of the public comments supported use of the three or four ward system, with the majority favoring the three ward system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that in order to meet both the requirement that the representation on each ward be in proportion to the population and that the wards be as nearly equal in population as possible, and also meet the other criteria of RCW 29.70.100(4), the City should retain the three ward system but revise the boundaries of the three wards and establish one "at-large" council position; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the three ward system, with the boundaries as revised in this Ordinance, establishes wards with boundaries that (1) generally follow existing precinct boundaries and keep intact natural and historical communities, (2) result in more even boundary lines, (3) require the fewest changes to existing ward boundaries, (4) retain larger wards, so that a larger pool of candidates exists, resulting in fewer uncontested elections, and (5) has only one "at-large" position, resulting in lower total election costs at the primary election stage; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the redistricting plan contained in this Ordinance meets the criteria of RCW 29.70.100(4); and

WHEREAS, previously, when two council positions in the same ward have been up for election in the same year, there have not been enough candidates for a contested election; and

WHEREAS, in order that only one council position in each ward is elected at each election, which increases the likelihood of contested elections, it is necessary to stagger the terms of office of the council positions assigned to the Central and South Wards; now, therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND,
WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 2.06.020 of the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

The North Ward shall consist of voting precincts 321, 328, 330, 332, 335, 340 and 345 ~~as they existed on February 28, 1991,~~ which generally is that territory within the city limits lying north of Koura Road and east of Miller Road, south along Miller Road to and along the south edge of precinct 321, then north along Sportsman Club Road to State Route 305, and then east along the south boundary of precinct 328 (which follows Murden Beach Drive due east until it meets the Puget Sound) lying north of a line extending along Koura Road from Manzanita Bay to Rolling Bay.

Section 2. Section 2.06.030 of the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

The South Ward shall consist of voting precincts 310, 312, 314, 317, ~~320 and 325, and 333~~ except that portion of precinct 333 lying north of Wyatt Way and East of Finch Road as they existed on February 28, 1991, which generally is that territory within the city limits lying south of Koura Road and west of Miller Road, south along Miller Road and Fletcher Bay Road to and along High School Road then south along Finch Road to lying south of a line extending from Port Orchard Bay along High School Road to Weaver Avenue, lying west of a line extending from High School Road along Weaver Avenue to Wyatt Way, lying north of a line extending from Weaver Avenue along Wyatt Way and along Wyatt Way to the western terminus of Wyatt Way, and lying west of a line extending from the western terminus of Wyatt Way to the centerline of Eagle Harbor.

Section 3. Section 2.06.040 of the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

The Central Ward shall consist of voting precincts 301, 302, 303, ~~304, 305,~~ those portions of 314 lying east of Finch Road and south of Wyatt Way but north of Eagle Harbor, 315, ~~320 322, 328 and 333 as they existed on February 28, 1991,~~ which generally is that territory within the city limits lying between the North Ward and the South Ward.

Section 4. Section 2.06.050 of the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

~~The North Ward and the South Ward shall~~ Each ward shall be represented on the city council by two council members, and one council member shall be elected from the City at large ~~the Central Ward shall be represented on the city council by three councilmembers.~~ City council position numbers ~~4 and 5~~ 1, 4 and 5 shall be assigned to the Central Ward; city council position numbers 2 and 7 shall be assigned to the North Ward; and city council positions ~~numbers~~ 3 and 6 shall be assigned to the South Ward. City council position number 1 shall be elected from the City at large. A council member residing in the Central Ward on the effective date of the ordinance amending this section who is reassigned to election at large may serve out his or her unexpired term of office. Councilmembers residing in the Central Ward on the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter and assigned to one of the other two wards may serve out their unexpired terms in the ward to which they are assigned.

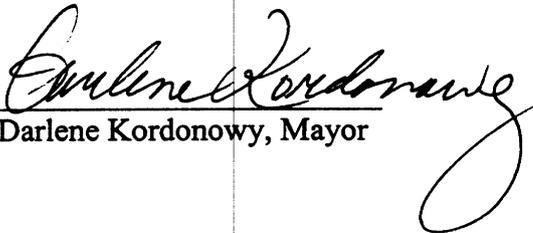
Section 5. For the term of office commencing in January 2004 only for council position number 3 (elected in the November 2003 election), the term of office shall be two years. Upon completion of this two-year term of office, the term of office for council position number 3 shall return to being four years.

Section 6. For the term of office commencing in January 2006 only for council position number 4 (elected in the November 2005 election), the term of office shall be two years. Upon completion of this two-year term of office, the term of office for council position number 4 shall return to being four years.

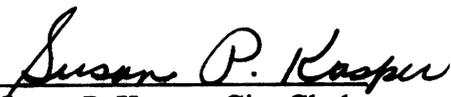
Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force on and five days after its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED by the City Council this 28th day of August, 2002.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 3rd day of September, 2002.


Darlene Kordonowy, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:


Susan P. Kasper, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Rod P. Kaseguma, City Attorney

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK :
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL :
PUBLISHED :
EFFECTIVE DATE :
ORDINANCE NO.

July 24, 2002
August 28, 2002
September 4, 2002
September 9, 2002
2002-25

At Large - Michael Pollock

