

WRIGHTSVILLE

YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**PLANNING MEETING**

**DECEMBER 16, 2024**

Borough Chambers \* 601 Water Street \* Wrightsville

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The Planning Meeting of the Borough of Wrightsville governing body convened at 6:30PM on Monday, December 16, 2024. Council President Giandalia called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***In attendance:*** Council President Giandalia, Vice President Lyle, Councilwoman Barrett, Councilman White, Councilman Gromling, Mayor Slenker, Secretary Hoff

***On phone:*** Councilwoman Ferrari (later joined in person)

***Absent:*** Treasurer Sahd, Solicitor Ruth, Engineer McCoy

President Giandalia relayed to those in attendance the purpose of this meeting is to finalize the working and logistics on ward survey that will be sent to all borough properties based on information available to staff.

**PATRONS:**

Cora Rowe:

Ms. Rowe asked, “why not allow Sara and Alicia to continue with the reapportionment process?”. No discussion was held.

Melodie McDonald:

Mrs. McDonald noted to those in attendance:

“ Can’t wait until next year for all new people”

“People don’t want Eric on council”

“I’m still gong door-to -door when survey is sent”

Abby Duncan:

Miss Duncan relayed to those in attendance, “This is ridiculous, so much time wasted, Eric is a sore loser and the people in his ward voted him out.”

Ed Sipes:

Mr. Sipes relayed to those in attendance, “Wrightsville’s problem is Eric.”

## **SURVEY DISCUSSION:**

President Giandalia read aloud the logistics to those in attendance and members of council:

### Survey logistics for consideration

1. Borough staff will address each envelope with individual address labels – information will be extracted from VUB software that the Authority uses to mail water bills. We can eliminate the Hellam Township customers.
  - Rental units – Borough staff will work with the tax collector to ensure to the best of our knowledge (according to tax records) that the rental units receive enough survey forms for all tenants currently residing in the rental property.
2. No survey monkey will be completed. Only paper surveys will be mailed. Too many variables to work out with IT and logistic operations to meet a deadline of January 31, 2025.
3. We will match the individual survey to the property address when envelopes are mailed to ensure that the number on the survey form matches the address it is being sent to. (for checks and balances once the survey forms are returned)
4. All return envelopes will be stamped with the following stamps: “confidential and survey”. Once the envelopes are returned, we will keep them in a secure location/lockbox if preferred until Friday, January 31, 2025.
5. The deadline should be earlier on January 31<sup>st</sup>- perhaps **noon** to ensure that staff can have all the surveys secured in one location before office staff leaves for the day.
6. Costs: Estimated cost of mailing envelopes = \$552. If return envelopes are pre-stamped add an additional \$552.
7. Tallying survey results:
  - Suggestion: Have **ALL** council members present on **Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00pm** – prior to the Regular Council meeting at 6:30pm to tally all surveys received. Peter to oversee the process??

Council President Giandalia also provided council with a table that would be sent along with survey.

Councilwoman Barrett relayed to those in attendance that she felt that the table should not be sent with the survey and to keep the process simple.

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance that she thinks the survey is too wordy and likes the format of the survey that she saw and was sent in 2008 – it was small and short.

VP Lyle read the table aloud to those in attendance:

	<b>Three (3) Voting Districts (PROPOSED)</b>	<b>Three (3) Wards (CURRENT)</b>
<b>Number of council members</b>	Seven (7) total. Four (4) elected in one election cycle. Three (3) elected in next election.	Six (6) total. Each ward has two (2) council members. In each election, one (1) member from each ward is elected.
<b>Who can run for office?</b>	All borough residents can run for any of the seven (7) seats available on council, regardless where they reside.	Residents are limited to running for one (1) of two (2) seats in the ward in which they currently reside.
<b>Polling/voting locations (NO CHANGE)</b>	Three (3) voting districts provides for three (3) polling/voting places.	Three (3) wards three (3) polling/voting places. You vote in your ward.
<b>Redistricting and on-going costs</b>	None required, and therefore no cost. There is a single boundary (entire borough), and no redistricting will be required now or in the future.	Under Pennsylvania Law, ward redistricting is required after each census. This requires specific skills from professional services, at a cost, to create the maps and collect information from York County and the Department of State. Residents' wards may change.

Councilwoman Barrett relayed to those in attendance that she thinks the table is not neutral. VP Lyle asked, “what is not neutral?” Councilwoman Barrett noted that the following is incorrect: “Under Pennsylvania Law, ward redistricting is required after each census. This requires specific skills from professional services, at a cost, to create the maps and collect information from York County and the Department of State. Residents’ wards may change”

After discussion, council members agreed upon removing the last row from the table and making a minor change to survey wording (in red font).

Councilman Gromling made a motion to approve the survey and table as follows:

The Borough of Wrightsville is currently divided into three (3) wards. Each ward elects two (2) council members. This method is called “Election by Ward.”

The Pennsylvania Borough Code also allows for “Election at Large,” where all voters in the Borough can vote for all council members. If this method is chosen, the Borough Council would increase from six (6) to seven (7) council members.

The Borough Council is asking for your feedback on whether to keep the current Election by Ward method or switch to Election at Large.

To share your opinion, please fill out the form below. You will need to:

1. Provide your first and last name
2. Provide your property address within Wrightsville Borough
3. Indicate whether you prefer Election by Ward (keeps things as is) or Election at Large (change to a new system)

The Borough Council encourages all residents (18 years or older) to participate, whether you rent or own your home, and regardless of whether you are a registered voter.

The survey is open to all Wrightsville Borough residents (18 years or older). Please submit your completed survey to the Borough Office by 12:00p.m. on January 31, 2025.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
First and last name

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address

UNIQUE ID \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to maintain the present Election by Ward voting system in the Borough

I would like to abolish the wards and utilize an Election at Large voting system in the Borough

	<b>Election at Large</b>	<b>Election by Ward</b>
<b>Number of council members</b>	Seven (7) total. Four (4) elected in one election cycle. Three (3) elected in next election.	Six (6) total. Each ward has two (2) council members. In each election, one (1) member from each ward is elected.
<b>Who can run for office?</b>	All borough residents can run for any of the seven (7) seats available on council, regardless of where they reside.	Residents are limited to running for one (1) of two (2) seats in the ward in which they currently reside.
<b>Polling/voting locations (NO CHANGE)</b>	Three (3) voting districts provides for three (3) polling/voting places.	Three (3) wards three (3) polling/voting places. You vote in your ward.

VP Lyle seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***Administration & Finance:***

No report.

***Public Works:***

***Public Safety:***

No report.

***Community & Economic Development:***

No report.

***Parks & Recreation:***

No report

***Personnel:***

No report

***Complaint Committee:***

No report

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

No report.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Gromling made a motion to adjourn the December 16, 2024, Planning Meeting of the governing body of Wrightsville Borough. VP Lyle seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammie Hoff  
Borough Secretary