



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
NORMAN FORWARD SALES TAX CITIZEN FINANCIAL
OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING

**Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069**

Friday, September 20, 2024 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

The Norman Forward Sales Tax Citizen Financial Oversight Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room at the Norman Municipal Building, on the 20th day of September, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Andy Rieger
Board member Alva Brockus
Board member Andy Sherrer
Board member Cindy Rogers
Board member Linda Price
Board member Misty Grantham
Board member Zachary Simpson

ABSENT

Board member Erik Paulson
Board member Saidy Herrera

OTHERS

Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
Rick Knighton, Interim City Attorney
Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation
Dannielle Risenhoover, Admin. Tech. IV

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM JULY 31, 2024

Member Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2024 meeting. Member Simpson duly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board Minutes from July 31, 2024.

REPORTS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Anthony Francisco gave the report. Sales Tax is down while Use Tax is up. Francisco said, "We are still just a little bit below fiscal year projections for Sales Tax and Use Tax combined." Member Sherrer asked how Norman's tax revenue compared to similar cities. Francisco said, "We do monthly comparisons to metropolitan area cities and we are at the low end of average."

Member Rogers questioned the difference in fund balance totals between the original neighborhood park budgets and the revised neighborhood park budgets. Francisco explained that the original budgets reflect money that has been allocated to the projects and the revised budget reflects money that has actually been appropriated to a project during various fiscal years.

Chair Rieger asked Francisco about the effect the removal of the State Grocery Sales Tax would have on cities. Francisco said, "There is no intended effect on cities' sales tax but our concern is that merchants that are collecting the tax for the City, won't make a differentiation between state verses municipality. For the most part, it appears to be working out ok."

Member Brockus made a motion to approve the Financial Reports and Member Price duly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board Financial Reports

3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COUNCIL ACTIONS

Anthony Francisco pointed out that the Griffin Park Project and the Adult Wellness and Education Center Project have been closed out and finalized.

The addition of Pickle Ball Courts at the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) is expected to increase the YFAC membership. The cost of the courts is approximately \$273,000. This payment will come out of the Room Tax Fund.

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

No Ad Hoc Committees met since the last Citizens' Financial Oversight Board meeting; no report was given.

5. PROJECT MANAGER REPORTS

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Olsen gave the report. The James Garner Extension Project and public art display, "Revolutions," is complete and the road is now open to travelers. There is the potential of a stoplight being added along James Garner Avenue, between Acres and Duffy, in the next phase of this project.

A 10-foot, multi-mobile path is being constructed around Max Westheimer Airport. Member Rogers recommended the planting of trees along this path.

The construction at Bentley Park, Falls Lakeview Park, Griffin Park and Sunrise Park is complete. The City is awaiting the public art piece for the Adult Wellness and Education Center. The City is working on installing pickle ball and sand volleyball courts at the Young Family Athletic Center. Member Brockus stated that she has been made aware that there are parents desiring a play area for smaller children at the YFAC. Olsen said there is an Outdoor Master Plan that does have room for a playground, but it isn't budget for at this time. A reading wagon or book exchange nook was brought up as a more immediate and alternative solution. Olsen is hopeful that the YFAC project will close out in October.

Norman's Central Library continues to be closed due to mold and repair issues. Olsen says that the City is diligently working with the Pioneer Library System to get the books out of the Norman Central Library and back into circulation. Member Rogers asked about the role ADG played in construction of the library. Olsen said that ADG's main role was "construction administration". "If there are things that pop up that the architect or the contractor has questions on, they would assist in offering advice on how to direct them or ask the architect for that. Also, they would review documents for us as a consultant," Olsen said.

Member Rogers asked how mediation was going in regards to determining what party or parties were responsible for the construction failure(s) at the Central Library.

Interim City Attorney Rick Knighton replied, "We will probably anticipate a lawsuit in the relatively near future. Once we get the lawsuit filed, there will be another opportunity for us to get all of the defendants together and say, 'Hey, we need to go to mediation or arbitration - some sort of judicial type conference, to see if we can get this resolved sooner rather than later.'"

Olsen said the City has paid \$1 - \$1.1 million, so far, on mold remediation for the Central Library. These payments are coming out of the City's General Fund Emergency Allocation.

It has been determined that there is a market for an equestrian facility in Norman, but the study did not determine a location best suited for this type of facility.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUTURE MEETING TIME(S)

The Board determined that the next meeting will be Friday, November 15 at 3:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Brockus made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Price. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy Rieger, Chair
Norman Forward Sales Tax Citizen Financial Oversight Board