



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 27, 2023

REQUESTER: Erinn Gavaghan, Norman Arts Council

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2223-54 UPON FIRST READING BY TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA REPEALING ARTICLE 2-111-2, ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

Article 2-111-2 of the City Code creating the Art in Public Places program was adopted in 2007 to set up a mechanism by which City of Norman water service customers could opt to donate money to the Art in Public Places Fund by including an additional amount of money with the utility bill payment. It created a Public Arts Board to oversee the selection, purchase, commission, acquisition and placement of public art in the City of Norman. The Board reports to the Norman Arts Council, who was charged with expending the monies collected according the ordinance.

Erinn Gavaghan made a presentation to City Council last fall asking for some modifications to the program to make it run more efficiently and effectively. Council supported these modifications and directed Staff to work on an ordinance.

DISCUSSION:

Since the initial direction last fall, there have been discussions about how best to accomplish the program changes. Additionally, an increase in the Transient Guest Room Tax was proposed during the winter of 2022/2023, approved by Council in February and by the voters in May, which necessitated a review of the contract to determine if any changes should be made to address the additional funding. In examining the contract, which had not been updated for many years, Staff saw an opportunity to achieve Council's direction related to the Art in Public Places Program through its contractual arrangement with Norman Arts Council. These changes will make it easier for the Norman Arts Council to manage the program in a way that works best for them while allowing both parties to be more nimble if modifications are needed. The contract amendment will be on Council's agenda when this ordinance is scheduled for Second and Final Reading.

Ordinance O-2223-54 repeals the Art in Public Places Program in its entirety in favor of providing for the program in the Norman Arts Council contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provided Council approves the related contract amendments, Staff recommends approval of Ordinance O-2223-54 upon Second and Final Reading.