



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, July 11, 2025 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 at 201 West Gray, Norman, on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 3:30 PM and notice of the agenda 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

Board member Alva Brockus
Board member Andy Sherrer
Board member Linda Price
Board member Zachary Simpson
Board member Shanon Buckingham

ABSENT

Chairman Andy Rieger
Board member Cindy Rogers
Board member Erik Paulson
Board member Christopher Housman

OTHERS

Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
Jacob Huckabaa, Finance Technician
Dannielle Risenhoover, Admin. Tech. IV
Anthony Purinton, Asst. City Attorney
James Briggs, Park Development Manager

Member Price acted as Chair for the meeting and declared that a quorum was present. Member Buckingham was welcomed to the Board.

MINUTES

1. **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR
POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM May 9, 2025**

Member Brockus made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2025 meeting. Member Simpson duly seconded the motion. Hearing no objections to the approval of the minutes from May 9, 2025, the motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Forward Citizen Financial Oversight Board Minutes from May 9, 2025

REPORTS

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

Anthony Francisco gave the report. Francisco reviewed the Financial Reports in detail, highlighting that the City is 1.28% below the combined and adjusted, sales tax projections for fiscal year 2024-2025; use tax is 17% above the combined and adjusted revenue projections for fiscal year 2025; and the combined sales and use tax projections for revenues were 2.36% below original projections and .57% above adjusted projections. “Basically, what that means,” Francisco said, “is that we have not had to make any real drastic adjustments as Norman Forward. As we get closer to the end date of Norman Forward, we’ll continue to monitor those things to see if we do have to make any changes or cancel any projects because revenues have not met projections. For this Board, that’s one of your major tasks though – to make sure we’re staying within what we need to do and make recommendations to Council if we do have to make some major changes.” July 2025’s sales tax was down approximately 4.5% compared to the July 2024 sales tax revenue. Francisco believes that this difference is indicative to “a very slow, current economy”. He states that most Oklahoma cities, that are comparable to Norman, are also experiencing a decrease in their sales tax revenue; however, their revenues aren’t down as much as Norman’s.

Francisco reviewed the expenditures for each Norman Forward project.

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

Items submitted for the record:

Norman Forward Citizen Financial Oversight Board Financial Reports

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

The Board reviewed Council’s approval of Contract K-2425-42 between the City of Norman and Multisports, LLC for the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) outdoor pickleball courts construction project and the final payment of \$13,642.10.

The Board reviewed the final acceptance of Contract K-2425-75 between the City of Norman and Happy Playgrounds, LLC for the William Morgan Park playground project and the final payment of \$227,004.

The Board also reviewed Council’s appointments to the: Americans with Disabilities Act Committee, Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board, Norman Regional Hospital Authority, and Public Safety Oversight Committee. They specifically took note of the following appointments to the Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board:

TERM: 06-24-25 to 12-22-26: Shanon Buckingham, Ward 4
TERM: 06-24-25 to 12-22-26: Christopher Housman, Ward 3

Items submitted for the record:

May 13, 2025, City Council Agenda Item #23

May 13, 2025, City Council Agenda Item #24

June 24, 2025, City Council Agenda Item #3

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

No Ad Hoc report was given.

5. PROJECT MANAGER REPORTS

James Briggs gave the report. Centurion Parkway at Saxon Park is under construction. Construction at Saxon Park includes restrooms, additional parking, and a playground. The construction of Blue Stem Park, located by The Links at Norman apartment complex, will start this summer. The playground at Lions Park will be moved uphill to help avoid flooding issues.

Member Brockus asked if the Norman Regional employee cuts and office closures affected the Young Family Athletic Center's (YFAC) medical facilities. Anthony Francisco said, "In Motion closed, but Ortho Central is doing quite well." In Motion's closure was stated as not affecting the YFAC budget.

Assistant City Attorney Anthony Purinton spoke regarding the City's purchase of Griffin Park. "We expect to have acquired that (Griffin Park) by the end of the month," Purinton said. The purchase does not include Sutton Wilderness or any Griffin property south of Robinson Street. "Five hundred thousand and six cents is what we have spent in lease payments so far," Purinton said. "If they (the State Department of Mental Health) approve it, which I think they will, then we'll get those lease payments as a credit."

Anthony Francisco added, "This Board recommended to the Council that if the purchase price for Griffin moved beyond \$2.4 million that the General Fund of the City would pay for whatever was remaining. As we have moved toward a final purchase price, the Council has moved toward, more of, 'use the full \$2.4 million of Norman Forward money and find the difference somewhere else;' so, just know that your recommendation as it relates to the difference between whatever we pay and \$2.4 million – give it up." Francisco and his staff have been charged with finding the money to pay the difference between the purchase price of Griffin Soccer Park and the \$2.4 million that is available in the Norman Forward Fund for this purchase.

The purchase contract for Griffin Soccer Park is approximately \$3.3 million. The City of Norman has sent the State Department of Mental Health an offer letter. The State Department of Mental Health has approved what is essentially the term sheet; but, the formal contract has not yet been signed. "From my understanding, the (State Department of Mental Health) Property Trust Board has a meeting on the 18th of this month, if they do approve it then it will go to Council, and we'll be under contract. Technically, we are waiting on the paperwork to be signed," Purinton said.

Francisco stated, "Nine hundred thousand is approximately what I am charged to find. This Board should know that one of the larger portions of that \$900,000 we're going to recommend

to come from the Griffin Soccer Park construction project money that's left over, which is about \$250,000.”

The Board showed concern regarding the \$2.4 million Griffin Soccer Park funds being paid out at an earlier date than anticipated and this potentially affecting timely completion of Norman Forward pay-as-you-go projects.

Member Brockus suggested advising Council of the following: “We understand the gravity of the situation, we understand the financial challenges all the way around, our concern is that because we’re moving this forward, we’re risking some additional projects. If you’re going to use this money and take what is left over on the Griffin project, we’re ok with that, but we want you to be aware...Norman Forward is not a piggy bank, and we are putting some other projects on the line to do this. We, as this group, will continue to do our job, we will continue to work with the bottom line, continue to make sure things get pushed forward; but, because we’re moving this up, because the City is not seeking funds from other sources to accommodate it, we see potential problems down the road.”

It was agreed that Member Brockus and Member Sherrer would work together in crafting an email to Council Member(s) regarding the above-mentioned feelings about the purchase plans for the Griffin Soccer Park and that Member Sherrer would also attend the City Council Conference on July 22 to speak on the topic.

Francisco confirmed that the following points were true with the Board Members:

- The Board wants to buy the land.
- The Board wants Norman Forward to contribute to buying the land.
- The Board is concerned about the timing of buying the land.
- The Board is concerned about the pay-as-you-go projects that they are on the hook to complete.

Purinton reminded the Board again that the purchase of Griffin Soccer Park does not include Sutton Wilderness; however, the City has a 99-year lease on Sutton Wilderness. Member Simpson suggested that Member Brockus and Member Sherrer convey in their email to the Council Member(s) that Norman Forward won’t have the money, like intended, to purchase Sutton Wilderness after purchasing Griffin Soccer Park.

There were no updates on the City of Norman Central Library.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Member Brockus thanked City staff for all their efforts, Member Price welcomed new Board Member Shanon Buckingham, and Anthony Francisco stated what a wonderful job Anthony Purinton has done working with the State Department of Mental Health regarding the proposed purchase of the Griffin Soccer Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Brockus. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 PM.

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