



# CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE

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

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM

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## MINUTES

The City Council Conference of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Conference in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM, 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.

### CALL TO ORDER

### PRESENT

Mayor Stephen T. Holman  
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery  
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock  
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya  
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant  
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash  
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle  
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett  
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF SECTION 24-308, *PEEPING TOMS*, FROM THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, IN ORDER TO UTILIZE TITLE 21-1171 OF THE OKLAHOMA STATUTES FOR FILING CHARGES.

Mayor Holman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and introduced the first agenda item.

#### City Attorney Overview:

- o Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, explained that repealing the municipal ordinance would allow cases to be filed under state statute, which is more appropriate for felony offenses since municipal courts cannot handle felonies.
- o Subsection 2 of the current ordinance regarding clandestine photographic and video equipment and its designation as a felony would need to be removed because municipal courts cannot adjudicate felony cases.
- o Subsections 3 and 4 largely mirror state statute (Title 21-1171) with minor differences in punishment, which are limited under municipal law.

Item 1, continued:

- Adoption of state statute language ensures that offenses are processed in a court of record and reported to the OSBI (Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation), facilitating tracking of serial offenders.

**Case Study – Robert Howard Bruce:**

- Mr. Rick Jackson, Deputy Chief, recounted the investigation of Robert Howard Bruce, charged with multiple sexual assaults and peeping offenses from 1983–2005.
- Bruce's municipal-level peeping Tom charges previously did not create a permanent record due to municipal courts not being courts of record, delaying identification as a serial offender.
- Arrests made under state statute would have allowed DNA collection and case linkage, which proved critical in solving long-term serial offenses.

**Law Enforcement Rationale:**

- Municipal charges do not consistently report to OSBI, limiting law enforcement's ability to track repeat offenders.
- Repealing the ordinance allows officers to file cases under state statute, ensuring records exist for future investigations.
- Comparison with other cities: Only Oklahoma City and Tulsa currently have courts of record; smaller municipalities like Norman do not. The council is preparing for potential future conversion into a court of record.

**Municipal Court Data:**

- Over the past five years, only three peeping Tom cases were filed:
  - Cody Plunkett (March 2023): Case dismissed due to developmental disabilities.
  - Alan Hooper (March 2024): Multiple indecent exposure reports; deceased September 2024.
  - Unnamed individual (May 22, 2024): Attempted photography offense; resolved without further incidents.
- Repeal of the ordinance would allow similar cases to proceed under state law without losing investigative continuity.

**Council/Staff Discussion:**

- Councilmembers and staff discussed the rationale for state filing and juvenile/adult distinctions.
- Emphasis on capturing records for serial offenders and serious criminal patterns.
- Courtroom remodeling already accommodates a future court of record.

Mr. Knighton summarized that repealing Section 24-308 would not eliminate enforcement capability but would enhance record-keeping and law enforcement effectiveness. Council provided consensus support for moving forward with repeal and subsequent legislation. No objections were noted; Council agreed to proceed with repealing Section 24-308 and pursue filing cases under state statute.

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## 2. DISCUSSION REGARDING RED CANYON RANCH STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, discussed the storm water infrastructure at Red Canyon Ranch, located at the northeast intersection of Tecumseh Road and 12th Avenue Northeast. The detention pond, owned by the Red Canyon Ranch Property Owners Association (HOA), is located in Section 2 of the development. Concerns were raised by neighboring property owners, the Wilsons (700 Riverview Drive, Woodland Hills Estate) and the Bells, regarding silt buildup and modifications to the drainage structure.

### **Design and Function of Drainage Infrastructure:**

- Detention pond designed with a concrete box and dam; water is released via a series of pipes to a tributary of the Little River.
- Water flow is intended to follow pre-established discharge rates; alterations (e.g., a V-notch cut in the concrete box) may accelerate water release beyond design specifications.

### **Issues Identified:**

- Silt accumulation reduces drainage capacity. Approximately two feet of silt has accumulated, lowering efficiency.
- Modifications to the drainage structure without permitting or City notice may contribute to potential water flow issues.
- Lack of ongoing maintenance exacerbates problems, which could lead to future property damage.

### **Legal and Regulatory Considerations:**

- Negligence claims against the HOA are difficult without actual damages.
- Title 11, Section 47107, allows affected parties (Wilson and Bell property owners) and potentially the City to seek injunctive relief for violations of municipal regulations.
- Section 51.4 of the Engineering Design Criteria requires property owners to maintain private storm water infrastructure upon notice from the City; failure to comply could allow the City to perform maintenance at the property owner's expense.
- Current challenges include identifying the party responsible (developer vs. HOA) and mechanisms to recover costs if the City intervenes.

Item 2, continued:

**Proactive Solutions Discussed:**

- Notify the HOA and property owners of required maintenance and allow them the opportunity to correct issues.
- Amend Section 5000 of the Engineering Design Criteria to include penalties for non-compliance similar to Section 6000, providing municipal authority to enforce proper maintenance.
- Require developers to include maintenance schedules in HOA documents for new developments, ensuring long-term sustainability of infrastructure.

**Council Discussion:**

- Council emphasized providing notice to the HOA and property owners before pursuing any legal action.
- Consensus supported a multi-step approach:
  1. Notify responsible parties (HOA and developer) of maintenance requirements.
  2. Allow them the opportunity to correct deficiencies (e.g., silt removal, V-notch repair).
  3. Amend regulations to ensure enforceable compliance for future developments.
- Council noted the importance of proactive measures to prevent recurring issues in new neighborhoods.

Council agreed to move forward with notifying the HOA and property owners, providing them with the opportunity to remediate the issues. Staff will also explore amending Section 5000 of the Engineering Design Criteria to establish enforceable maintenance requirements for future developments.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The Meeting was Adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor Stephen T Holman