



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

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

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Study Session of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Study Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:00 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 Larry Heikkila

Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE - WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN.**

Ms. Mary Elizabeth and Mr. Cole Niblett with Garver provided a detailed update on Norman's long-range Water and Wastewater Master Plan. The presentation covered projected water demand growth through 2045, proposed strategies for expanding water supply, contingency planning, and planned wastewater system improvements.

Item 1, continued:

Water Supply Overview:

- Projections show rising demand requiring expanded sources within 7–10 years.
- Recommended approach includes expansion of groundwater wells, maximizing the Oklahoma City (OKC) water connection, and phased implementation of Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR).
- Estimated costs: approximately \$438 million over 20 years, with the bulk allocated to a full IPR system (potentially phased at 5–10 million gallons per day (MGD) to manage costs).
- Contingency measures include constructing a second OKC connection, expanding existing connections, and considering Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) if IPR proves infeasible.
- Conservation measures such as smart meters, block rate structures, and public education were discussed as complementary strategies.

Wastewater System Overview:

- Norman's existing Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) is rated for 16 MGD and is in good condition, with capacity expected to meet projected needs through 2045 (approximately 17 MGD).
- Alternatives for constructing new northern or eastern WRFs were reviewed; however, high life-cycle costs make continued reliance on the existing facility the most cost-effective solution for the next 20 years.
- Planned projects focus on expanding trunk mains, addressing inflow and infiltration issues, and adding regional lift stations to support future growth.
- Estimated 20-year investment totals approximately \$476 million, with \$339 million designated for eastern conveyance network improvements and \$62 million for WRF upgrades.

Council Discussion:

Councilmembers asked about options for raw water purchases from Lake Hefner, conservation policies, and potential incentive programs for retrofitting fixtures. There was support for expanded metering and rate structures to encourage efficient use. Emphasis was placed on the importance of balancing growth projections with flexible, demand-driven implementation of major projects. Councilmembers asked about incremental capacity expansion, funding mechanisms (including connection fees), and how the plan aligns with growth projections from the AIM Committee. It was also acknowledged that efficiencies from modern construction and conservation may alter demand projections.

Council expressed appreciation for the detailed planning effort, acknowledged the high costs involved, and agreed on the importance of phased, demand-driven implementation. There was general support for pursuing IPR as a long-term water supply strategy, maintaining the existing WRF as the primary wastewater facility, and continuing to explore conservation and policy tools to reduce future demand.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor