



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room,
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5 30 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Special Meeting of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, August 19, 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 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Holman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF FLOCK CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Deputy Chief Ricky Jackson, Norman Police Department, provided an overview of the proposed Flock Safety camera system, explaining its function as a license plate reader network used to aid in solving crimes. He introduced Mr. Trevor Chandler, Director of Public Affairs, Flock Safety, for a presentation.

Mr. Chandler continued by stating the cameras would capture license plate numbers, vehicle make, model, and color—not personal or biometric data. Images are retained for 30 days before being automatically deleted unless linked to an active investigation. The system is in use in multiple Oklahoma jurisdictions and across the country.

Councilmember Grant raised concerns about reports showing mixed crime reduction outcomes. She said some cities cite notable decreases in burglary and auto theft, but others (e.g., San Marino, CA; Fort Worth, TX) show no measurable benefit. Concern was expressed about fear-based marketing and the risk of creating a false sense of security.

Deputy Chief Jackson emphasized the Department's real-world results, citing examples where similar technology helped recover missing persons, locate children, and apprehend serious criminal suspects.

Vendor Selection and Alternatives

Councilmember Grant asked whether there was an open selection process and if alternatives were considered. Deputy Chief Jackson said Flock is the industry standard and widely adopted by partner agencies. Other vendors exist, but Flock's integration with surrounding cities provides consistency and investigative value; however, the Police Department remains open to reviewing other vendor options if directed.

Use in Other Jurisdictions

Councilmember Grant asked if any agencies had declined or discontinued use. Mr. Chandler responded that some agencies have stopped using the system, typically due to budgetary constraints, not performance.

Policies and Safeguards/Civil Liberties and Potential Abuse

Some members of Council questioned whether protections are limited to the current Chief's discretion. Deputy Chief Jackson explained that the Norman Police Department follows Lexipol policy standards, which are widely used nationwide and have been upheld in court. He said these policies are designed to endure regardless of leadership changes. Norman Police Department also has a cultural history of avoiding misuse of technology. Mr. Chandler added that Flock provides policy templates from other municipalities, including university towns, and encourages clients to adopt robust safeguards. All searches are logged and auditable, with required justifications for access.

Council stressed the need for safeguards to ensure Norman's values are maintained long term, not only under current leadership. Suggestions included requiring Council or City Manager approval for any future expansion of capabilities beyond license plate reading.

Crime Deterrence vs. Investigative Support

Some Councilmembers noted that cameras may not deter crime, but they can significantly accelerate investigations and improve clearance rates. Flock cited cities that experienced measurable increases in successful case resolutions. It was also noted that many offenders are already captured on other cameras (e.g., Ring, private security systems), but Flock allows faster and more precise investigative follow-up.

Mayor Holman encouraged Councilmembers to review the meeting recording, collect constituent feedback, and submit follow-up questions to Staff or directly to Flock's representative, who shared contact information. No action was taken at this meeting. The matter may return at a future session.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WARD FIVE CANDIDATE SELECTION COMMITTEE AS FOLLOWS:

Motion to Approve was made by Trustee Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Trustee Ward 2 Peacock.

Voting Yea: Chairman Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The appointments were Approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holman adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor