



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE

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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Conference of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, will meet in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 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.

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, relation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please call 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Mayor Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 3 Robert Bruce
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Brandon Nofire
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager
Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney
Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney
Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager
Mr. Jason Olsen, Parks and Recreation Director
Mr. Chris Mattingly, Utilities Director
Mr. Scott Sturtz, Public Works Director
Mr. Clint Mercer, Chief Accountant
Ms. Kimberly Coffman, Budget Manager
Ms. Jamie Meyer, Interim City Clerk
Mr. Mitchell Richardson, Recreation Manager
Mr. Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician

AGENDA ITEMS

1. UPDATE REGARDING THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE NORMAN FORWARD PROGRAM.

Mr. Jason Olsen, Parks and Recreation Director, presented an update regarding the financial status of the Norman Forward Program. He reviewed the original and revised project budgets and noted that the majority of Norman Forward projects have been completed or are near completion. He stated that the program is now primarily focused on the remaining pay-as-you-go projects.

Mr. Olsen identified the remaining projects as including Canadian River Park, Saxon Park, neighborhood park development, neighborhood park renovations, and trail development. He then reviewed financial projections prepared in coordination with Finance, noting that with conservative growth assumptions and current debt service schedules, the program could end with an estimated remaining fund balance of approximately \$11 million after completion of the remaining authorized projects, which were estimated at approximately \$22.7 million.

Mr. Olsen presented a preliminary list of potential Norman Forward-eligible projects that could be considered if excess funds remain available. Possible projects discussed included:

- Purchase of the Sutton Wilderness property currently leased from the State;
- Acquisition of property for a future softball/football complex;
- Addition of a multi-purpose gym at the Adult Wellness and Education Center;
- Replacement of kidspace and/or construction of a Miracle Field at Reaves Park;
- Playground and restroom improvements at Griffin Park;
- Pond and restroom improvements at Andrews Park;
- Improvements related to the Young Family Athletic Center, including a weight room addition or payoff of existing debt;
- Ruby Grant trail and cross-country course upgrades;
- A new feature at Westwood Family Aquatic Center; and
- Systemwide park signage and wayfinding improvements.

Item 1, continued

Mr. Olsen explained that the projects were presented for discussion only and were not listed in any order of priority. He stated that staff intends to gather input from Council, the Parks Board, and the Citizen’s Financial Oversight Board before bringing recommendations back for final Council consideration. He also noted that some funds may need to be reserved for maintenance or replacement of Norman Forward improvements as facilities age.

Council discussed the projected remaining balance and confirmed that any excess Norman Forward funds must be used only for Norman Forward-authorized purposes. Discussion also included the process for prioritizing future projects, timing of Council decisions, and the possibility of Council submitting individual priorities to staff for review and compilation.

Councilmembers specifically discussed the need for improvements at Andrews Park, including the restroom and associated stormwater and grading work, and noted the park’s importance for downtown events and public use. Council also discussed the Canadian River Park project and the uncertainty associated with land acquisition, as well as questions the public may raise regarding whether any remaining funds could be reserved for the Central Library. Staff advised that library repair is not currently a viable option for these funds due to ongoing litigation and the need to preserve the site as evidence.

Council expressed appreciation for the update and indicated interest in continued discussion regarding project prioritization as additional information becomes available.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor