



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 5/8/2025

REQUESTER: City of Norman

PRESENTER: Elisabeth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2425-31: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING CHAPTER 20 ("LICENSES AND OCCUPATIONS"), SECTION 20-1910 ("PREMISES MAINTAINED"), AND TO SECTIONS THROUGHOUT CHAPTER 30 ("SUBDIVISIONS") OF THE CODE, IN ORDER TO UPDATE DEFINITIONS, TO UPDATE AND ADD REFERENCES TO THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, TO REQUIRE A 30-ACRE MINIMUM LOT SIZE FOR RURAL CERTIFICATES OF SURVEY WITH AN URBAN RESERVE LAND USE DESIGNATION, TO UPDATE LANGUAGE TO ENSURE COMPATABILITY WITH THE AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ITS VARIOUS INCLUDED MASTER PLANS, AND TO CLARIFY OR CORRECT LANGUAGE, INCLUDING FOR ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman released a Request for Proposal (RFP-2223-29) in September of 2022, seeking proposals from qualified consultants for professional services to prepare the following documents for the City of Norman:

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
- Housing Strategy Plan;
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update;
- Stormwater Master Plan Update;
- Water Hydraulic Modeling Update;
- Wastewater Master Plan; and
- Sanitation Master Plan.

The citywide proposal will develop an all-encompassing vision for the community that can be supported by all. To facilitate this objective, the City of Norman is seeking to update its Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Stormwater Master Plan, Water Hydraulic Modeling, and

develop Wastewater and Sanitation Master Plans to ensure improvements to the City's infrastructure align with the vision and policies of the new Comprehensive Plan. The technical lead of the Comprehensive Plan project is Jane Hudson, Director of Planning and Community Development.

As set forth in the RFP, Public Engagement was designed to address three key tasks:

Task 1 – Norman Today – Where are we now?

This process was designed to consist of a review of background documents, economic and development trends, hazard mitigation and environmental constraints, land use inventory and urban design, transportation, public facilities and infrastructure, and housing and neighborhoods.

Task 2 – Norman Tomorrow – Where do we want to go?

This process was designed to review the vision and future land use opportunities, or constraints and develop goals and principles based on community engagement and understanding where we are today.

Task 3 – Norman Tomorrow – How do we get there?

This process was designed to develop Plan Elements for the various included master plans, utilizing the overarching goals and principles to define the program and design of the city and outline the specific plan elements and systems that guide the City's future, thus creating a cohesive strategy across the city and departments, and for all of the included individual masterplans.

Through the RFP process, a team consisting of seven City Staff members and two citizen members selected RDG Planning & Design, Inc. Contract K-2324-46 with RDG was approved by City Council on July 25, 2023. The final scope included all of the proposed individual master plans except that it was determined that the City did not require a Sanitation Master Plan update at this time. Thereafter, and on September 26, 2023, K-2324-46 was amended to include services for the creation of a Parks Recreation and Trails Master Plan, again bringing the total number of included master plans to seven.

An Ad Hoc Steering Committee to work with the City and its consultants in creating the "Area and Infrastructure Master Plan" ("AIM Norman") was originally appointed by Resolution R-2324-52 on August 22, 2023, and its membership and procedures finalized by Amendment 1 to R-2324-52 on November 14, 2023. The Steering Committee, and its appointed individual Sub-Committees for Housing, Stormwater, Water/Wastewater, Transportation, and Parks, have worked tirelessly to offer input and guidance on the creation of the seven AIM Norman master plans now submitted for the Planning Commission's review and consideration.

With these seven plans, two sets of code revisions by ordinance are also brought for consideration and review. These ordinances are proposed in order to implement amendments that will primarily: (a) revise and redefine terms relating to former master plans in order to ensure consistency with the AIM Norman plans; and (b) set forth the very first incremental code amendments incorporating elements of the AIM Norman plans. In some cases, incorrect numberings or other errors and inconsistencies in these provisions are addressed along with the more substantive changes.

DISCUSSION:

Ordinance O-2425-31 amends sections of Chapters 20 and 30 of the Norman Municipal Code. The primary purpose of these amendments is to address the transition period between the adoption of the new AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan and the revision of the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations within the municipal code. These amendments chiefly address language referencing or relating to Norman's Comprehensive Plan(s). The Planning Commission's consideration of these code amendments was postponed from April 10, 2025 to May 8, 2025, which is also the date that the Planning Commission will consider Resolutions adopting the seven AIM Norman Master Plans. These amendments are also planned to be set on the City Council agenda for final vote at the same time the Resolutions adopting the seven AIM Norman Master Plans are presented for a vote.

Per these amendments, the definition for "Comprehensive Plan" will be amended to refer to the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan, which collectively includes the seven individual master plans. Additionally, sub-definitions for each individual master plan have been included as follows:

- "Land Use Plan" which refers to the AIM Norman Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
- "Transportation Plan" which refers to the 2025 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update;
- "Wastewater Master Plan";
- "Water Utility Master Plan";
- "Parks Master Plan," which refers to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan;
- "Housing Plan," which refers to the Housing Strategy Plan; and
- "Stormwater Master Plan," which refers to the Stormwater Master Plan Update.

Various references to previous Transportation, Parks and Land Use Plans are also updated within this ordinance. Section 20-1910 of the code previously utilized language taken directly from the previous Land Use Plan. The language is amended to now refer to areas compatible with the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan.

Additionally, this ordinance implements an amendment to Section 30-105 ("Relation to Zoning"), adding a reference to the Comprehensive Plan which matches language already found in 30-301 ("The Preliminary Plat – General). However, where the Subdivision Code or Zoning Ordinance already directly address and allow (or do not allow) a particular manner or element of development, the more specific provisions of the Municipal Code will control under Oklahoma law. City Staff is already in the process of planning comprehensive revisions to the Zoning and Subdivision portions of the City Code in order to more fully implement the Comprehensive Plan therein.

Finally, one substantive change is proposed by this ordinance, in order to implement the first stage of the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan. Section 30-606, which sets forth an exception to platting requirements allowing Rural Certificates of Survey ("COS") in A-1 and A-2 zoning districts, is being amended to add a specific reference to properties classified as Urban Reserve land use, and requiring those properties, in accordance with the plan, not be subdivided into less than 30-acre lots. City Staff plan to expand the reach of this particular element of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in future amendments to the Subdivision Code and Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, language has been amended in 30-606 in order to clarify the rural areas available for COS subdivision in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance O-2425-31, a companion item on this agenda to Ordinance O-2425-32 and Resolutions adopting the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan and its various included Master Plans, implementing amendments to Chapters 20 and 30 of the Norman Municipal Code in order to accommodate the adoption of the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plans.