



MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Study Session in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building on the 27th day of February, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heikkila called the Meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman

ABSENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

AGENDA ITEMS

1. AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – STORMWATER MASTER PLAN.

Ms. Amanda Nairn, Chair of the Stormwater Subcommittee and AIM Steering Committee Member, opened the presentation. She thanked Staff and committee members for their work, noting the broad expertise of the group, which included representatives from the development community, DEQ, and young professionals in the field.

Mr. Alan Dennis, Garver Engineering, was introduced to present the update and highlighted the uniqueness of updating multiple plans simultaneously. He commended Staff contributions, specifically noting Michele Loundenback, Jason Murphy, and Scott Sturtz, for their roles in implementing and managing stormwater efforts.

Mr. Dennis explained stormwater issues specific to Norman, particularly differences between the Lake Thunderbird and Canadian River watersheds. Priorities for the Thunderbird side include protecting water quality and riparian areas; the Canadian River side priorities include addressing flooding, erosion, and aging infrastructure.

Public Input Summary

- Surveys and open house results showed that ecological preservation ranked as the top priority for citizens (58%), followed by public safety.
- Residents favored maintaining natural riparian zones rather than channelizing storm water.

Accomplishments Since 2009

- Adoption of the Water Quality Protection Zone Ordinance (2011).
- Fertilizer ordinance (2013).
- Completion of major capital improvement projects including McGee drainage improvements, Brookhaven Creek/Main Street culvert replacement, and Lindsey Street drainage.
- Updated Engineering Design Criteria (2023), with new requirements for bridges, stormwater quality measures, and guidance on low-impact development (LID).
- Multiple stormwater quality studies and education programs conducted.

Remaining Needs

- Several projects identified in 2009 remain incomplete.
- Funding challenges persist; previous efforts for a general obligation bond in 2018 were unsuccessful.
- Utility fees currently cover maintenance and water quality programs but not major capital projects.
- Inflation since 2018 has significantly increased the estimated funding gap.

Updated Goals (2025):

- Protecting water quality in Lake Thunderbird and the Canadian River.
- Reducing flood risk through capital improvements.
- Preserving and restoring ecological and riparian areas.
- Expanding public education on stormwater responsibilities.
- Using transparent, collaborative prioritization processes.

Key New Recommendations

- Require runoff quality treatment in all new developments, with heightened requirements near Lake Thunderbird.
- Prevent reductions in Water Quality Protection Zone (WQPZ) widths within the 2045 Reserve Area.
- Install additional water quality monitoring stations.
- Incentivize projects that exceed stormwater requirements.
- Encourage LID practices, particularly for incremental development.
- Continue updating design criteria to reflect new data and climate projections.

Proposed Studies

Updated Goals (2025), continued

- Flood warning system.
- Stormwater infrastructure inventory and condition assessment.
- Low impact development optimization study.
- Geomorphology and sediment transfer study for Lake Thunderbird watershed.
- Rain-on-mesh hydrologic modeling for pluvial flooding.
- Updates to regulatory floodplain mapping.

Council Discussion

- Councilmember Holman asked whether the widths should be expanded beyond current requirements. It was noted that while staff have found current implementation effective, the recommendation is to prevent reductions within the 2045 Reserve Area.
- Councilmember Grant asked about the relationship between the infrastructure inventory and development of a stormwater utility fee.
 - Staff reported that inventory work is ongoing using a newly acquired camera truck, though additional consultant support may be needed to accelerate progress.
 - Once completed, the data could establish repair needs and guide the development of a utility fee structure.
 - A formal study will be required to design the fee system, similar to the consultant-led process conducted during the previous attempt.

* * * * *

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

* * * * *

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor