



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069

Tuesday, October 08, 2024 at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL, NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY, NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, AND NORMAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, October 08, 2024, at 6:30 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.

CITY COUNCIL, NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY, NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, AND NORMAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Heikkila.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PROCLAMATION P-2425-7: A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Rob Gruver, IT Manager, Network Infrastructure and Support, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Council

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4, Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Proclamation P-2425-7 was Acknowledged.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

2. PRESENTATION OF A MEDAL OF VALOR TO SERGEANT DAVID STEVENSON.

Mr. Russ Landon, Chief of Police for The Village Police Department and Third Vice President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, addressed the Council. Mr. Landon explained that each year the Association receives nominations from across the state recognizing the actions of courageous officers. He announced that this year a Norman Police Department officer had been selected for special recognition.

On October 4, 2023, Sergeant David Stevenson was engaged in drug interdiction when a fellow team member was shot. Sergeant Stevenson responded with calm, professional, and decisive action, which directly resulted in saving his partner's life and resolving the incident.

In recognition of his bravery and service, Mr. Landon presented Sergeant Stevenson with the Medal of Valor on behalf of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ward 1 – Councilmember Ball

- Announced the recent opening of Sunset Park, the first "pink park" in Norman.
- Reported the grand opening was a success and encouraged residents to visit.

Ward 4 – Councilmember Grant

- Reminded residents of the upcoming Second Friday Art Walk, scheduled from 6:00–9:00 p.m., with favorable weather expected.
- Reported attending the Original Townsite Neighborhood Cleanup the previous Saturday. The event was well attended, with items such as a shopping cart and numerous bags of trash removed.
 - Neighborhood residents may visit sn.normanok.gov for more information on events and organizing efforts.
 - Other residents may search Keep Norman Clean to register their neighborhoods for future cleanups.
- Announced Fall Residential Cleanup dates:
 - Monday service has already passed.
 - Tuesday through Friday polycart services: October 5, 12, 19, and 26.
- Announced the Norman First American Gala in celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day:
 - Theme: Reclaiming Our Voices and Telling Our Stories
 - Date/Time: October 14, 2024, from 5:30–8:30 p.m.
 - Location: McFarlin Church
 - Tickets available online.

Ward 7 – Councilmember Holman

- Announced a Candidate Forum on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at The Well, featuring candidates for State House Districts 45 and 46 and Senate District 15
- Highlighted the recent Cybersecurity Proclamation, stressing its importance for public safety:
 - Noted that City systems (police, fire, water, wastewater, billing, and traffic control) are increasingly dependent on internet reliability.
 - Stressed the need for both the City and residents to remain vigilant about cybersecurity risks.
- Announced the grand opening of Casa Herrera, a new sit-down Mexican restaurant on Norman's east side.
- Thanked Norman Next for organizing the 40 Under 40 Awards.
 - Expressed gratitude for nomination by Councilmember Matt Peacock.
 - Congratulated City of Norman employee Lora Hoggatt on her nomination.

Mayor Heikkila

- Reported a Norman Police Department lieutenant has been deployed to Florida to assist with disaster relief efforts.
 - Participation provides both support for the impacted area and valuable training for Norman in preparing for future disasters.

CONSENT DOCKET

This item is placed on the agenda so that the City Council, by unanimous consent, can designate those routine agenda items that they wish to be approved or acknowledged by one motion. If any item proposed does not meet with approval of all Councilmembers, that item will be heard in regular order. Staff recommends that Item 3 through Item 18 be placed on the consent docket.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Items 3 through 18 were placed on the Consent Docket.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2024, AND MAY 23, 2024.

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2023, AND SEPTEMBER 5, 2024.

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 30, 2022, AUGUST 22, 2023, DECEMBER 5, 2023, AND SEPTEMBER 17, 2024.

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022, AND AUGUST 23, 2022.

CITY COUNCIL, NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY, NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, NORMAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2023, AND SEPTEMBER 12, 2023.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The minutes were Approved.

First Reading Ordinance

4. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2425-4 UPON FIRST READING BY TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTION 36-201 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN SO AS TO GRANT SPECIAL USE FOR AUTOMOBILE SERVICE STATION IN THE C-1, LOCAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR LOT 3, BLOCK 1 OF SOUTH LAKE ADDITION SECTION 12 OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF. (3301 CLASSEN BLVD.)**

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2425-4 was Adopted on First Reading.

Donations

5. **CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A DONATION VALUED AT \$7,800 FROM DENVER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION FOR FILL MATERIAL TO BE USED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION.**

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The donation from Denver Cemetery Association was Accepted.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,125.49 FROM THE ESTATE OF SANDRA "SANDY" DIANNE MCPHERSON TO BE DEPOSITED TO THE NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.**

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The donation from the Estate of Sandra Dianne McPherson was Accepted.

Contracts

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL PAYMENT OF CONTRACT K-2021-97: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, THE NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY AND GE JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, FOR THE NORMAN FORWARD YOUNG FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER PROJECT AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Final Acceptance and Final Payment of Contract K-2021-97 was Approved.

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2425-39: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND G&S SIGN SERVICES, L.L.C., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$171,645 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WAYFINDING SIGNS PHASE 3 ON 24th AVENUE WEST, 12th AVENUE EAST, TECUMSEH ROAD, AND A PORTION OF CLASSEN BOULEVARD AND MAINTENANCE BOND MB-2425-16, PERFORMANCE BOND B-2425-19, STATUTORY BOND B-2425-20 AND RESOLUTION R-2425-44, GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS TO G&S SIGN SERVICES, L.L.C.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Contract K-2425-39 and the accompanying bonds were Approved and Resolution R-2425-44 was Adopted.

9. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2425-56: A PROJECT MAINTENANCE, FINANCING, AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROJECT J3-6951(004)AG, STATE JOB 36951(04), TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF 36TH AVENUE NW WITH BART CONNER DRIVE, RESOLUTION R-2425-45, AND BUDGET TRANSFER AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Contract K-2425-56 was Approved and Resolution R-2425-45.

10. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2425-57: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND DIRECTV, L.L.C, FOR THE PROVISION OF INTERNET PROTOCOL ENABLED VIDEO SERVICES AND THE PAYMENT OF A PROVIDER FEE TO THE CITY FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Contract K-2425-57 was Approved.

11. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AWARDING CONTRACT K-2425-60: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND MUSCO SPORTS LIGHTING, L.L.C., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$145,000, MAINTENANCE BOND MB-2425-22, PERFORMANCE BOND B-2425-29; AND STATUTORY BOND B-2425-30 FOR THE YOUNG FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER (YFAC) OUTDOOR SPORTS COURT LIGHTING SYSTEM PROJECT, ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION R-2425-50, GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Contract K-2425-60 and the accompanying bonds were Approved and Resolution R-2425-50 was Adopted.

Resolutions

12. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-47: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA REQUESTING THAT \$73,985.80 BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE REIMBURSEMENTS-REFUNDS ACCOUNT TO THE CAPITAL STRIPING ACCOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL STREET STRIPING PROJECTS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-47 was Adopted.

13. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-51: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS TO REMOVING OBSTACLES TO HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING TO UPDATE THE ZONING CODE AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, CREATION OF A NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERN BOOK AND ASSOCIATED PRE-APPROVED PLANS, A PARKING STUDY, AND CREATION OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTION PLAN; EXPRESSING ITS COMMITMENT TO SEEK FUNDING FOR LOCAL LEVERAGE (\$200,000) IF SUCH GRANT IS AWARDED AND PROJECTS APPROVED.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-51 was Adopted.

14. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FROM CONGRESSIONALLY-DIRECTED SPENDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000 AS ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR USE ON WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Community Project Funding from Congressionally-Directed Spending was Accepted.

15. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-36: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS, APPROPRIATE WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FUND BALANCE AND REDUCE SEWER EXCISE TAX FUND APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONTRACT K-2324-66 FOR THE NORMAN WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY DEWATERING CENTRIFUGE IMPROVEMENTS TO UTILIZE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROCEEDS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-36 was Adopted.

16. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-37: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND REDUCE WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CONTRACT K-2324-172 FOR WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY (WRF) AERATION BLOWER REPLACEMENT TO UTILIZE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY COMMUNITY GRANT FUND PROCEEDS.

Acting as the Norman Utility Authority

Motion made by Trustee Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Trustee Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Chairman Heikkila, Trustee Ward 1 Ball, Trustee Ward 3 Montoya, Trustee Ward 4 Grant, Trustee Ward 5 Nash, Trustee Ward 6 Hinkle, Trustee Ward 7 Holman, Trustee Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-37 was Adopted.

17. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-42: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, TRANSFERRING \$15,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE LIBRARY BATTERY REPLACEMENT TO THE ADULT WELLNESS AND EDUCATION CENTER ADA DOOR PROJECT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-42 was Adopted.

18. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-54: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN APPROPRIATING GENERAL FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS RELATING TO CONTRACT K-2223-56.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-54 was Adopted.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

19. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-53: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN DIRECTING STAFF TO TERMINATE CONTRACT K-2223-56, A SERVICE AND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FOOD AND SHELTER, INC., FOR OPERATION OF AN EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHELTER, PURSUANT TO ITS TERMS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 1 Ball.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Stephen Lett, Ward 4, opponent
2. Mr. Alan Hatcher, Ward 8, opponent
3. Ms. Jenny Sperling, Ward 1, opponent
4. Mr. John Scamehorn, Ward 1, proponent
5. Ms. Dianna Hutzal, Ward 5, made comments
6. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, opponent
7. Mr. Paul Wilson, Ward 1, opponent
8. Mr. Jae Swainston, Ward 8 made comments
9. Ms. Mayumi Windler, Ward 2, made comments
10. Mr. Bill Hutzal, Ward 5, made comments
11. Ms. Judy Moss, Ward 4, made comments
12. Ms. Lisa Schmidt, Ward 2, made comments
13. Ms. Lindsey Davies, Ward 2, made comments
14. Ms. Stacy Hatcher, made comments
15. Mr. Rob Norman, Ward 3, opponent
16. Ms. Ella Crenshaw, Ward 6, made comments
17. Mr. Rodney Johnson, Ward 2, made comments
18. Ms. Christina Owen, Ward 8, made comments
19. Ms. Lauri Swan, Ward 4, opponent
20. Ms. Kimberly Blodgett, Ward 7, opponent
21. Mr. Michael Blunck, Ward 1, opponent
22. Mr. Russell Rice, Ward 2, opponent
23. Ms. Marguerite Larson, Ward 6, opponent
24. Mr. Zakk Flash Luttrell, Ward 4, opponent
25. Ms. Debbie Burleson, Ward 8, opponent
26. Mr. Mike Davidson, Ward 1, made comments
27. Ms. Jeanette Coker, Ward 4, made comments
28. Ms. Cindy Pope, Ward 8, made comments
29. Mr. William Beegen, Ward 8, made comments
30. Mr. Evan Dunn, Ward 7, opponent
31. Ms. Sue Sanders, Ward 4, proponent
32. Mr. Joseph Ruel, Ward 4, made comments
33. Ms. Cynthia Rogers, Ward 4, made comments
34. Ms. Chelsey Gravel, Ward 4, made comments
35. Ms. Karlinda Gravel, Ward 4, made comments
36. Ms. Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, proponent
37. Mr. Caleb McGee, made comments

Item 19, continued

Motion to amend Resolution R-2425-53, Section 5, to change 30 days to 60 days, made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 7 Holman.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, made comments
2. Mr. Stephen Lett, Ward 4, proponent
3. Ms. Karlinda Gravel, Ward 4, made comments
4. Ms. Chelsey Gravel, Ward 4, made comments
5. Mr. Paul Wilson, Ward 1, made comments
6. Mr. Caleb McGee, made comments
7. Mr. Joseph Ruel, Ward 4, made comments
8. Mr. Michael Blunck, Ward 1, made comments
9. Ms. Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, made comments
10. Ms. Kimberly Blodgett, Ward 7, made comments
11. Mr. Russell Rice, Ward 2, made comments
12. Mr. Rob Norman, Ward 3, made comments
13. Mr. Rodney Johnson, Ward 2, made comments
14. Ms. Jenny Sperling, Ward 1, made comments
15. Ms. Mayumi Windler, Ward 2, made comments
16. Ms. Christina Owen, Ward 8, made comments
17. Mr. Anthony Purinton, Assistant City Attorney
18. Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager
19. Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Voting Nay: Councilmember Ward 1 Ball

Resolution R-2425-53, Section 5, was Amended as stated above.

Motion to not close the shelter if there is no administrator after 60 days, the City would take over the operation made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 7 Holman. (Motion withdrawn)

Motion to postpone Resolution R-2425-53 until October 22, 2024, made by Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman

Voting Nay: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Ball, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2425-53 was Postponed to October 22, 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Homelessness – Resolution R-2425-53

Diana Hutzell, Ward 5, presented data analysis from 32 months of consecutive Norman Police Department daily arrest logs, covering January 2022 through September 30, 2024. The dataset included over 14,500 criminal offenses among both housed and unhoused individuals. She reported:

- Drug and alcohol-related offenses: 34%, consistent with the annual average.
- Offense increases (2022–2023):
 - Housed offenses increased 8.3%.
 - Unhoused offenses increased 18.4%.
- Offense increases (2024, year-to-date through September):
 - Housed offenses up 1.8%.
 - Unhoused offenses up 21.5%.
- Location of offenses in 2024 (by arrest address):
 - Housed: 32% at businesses, 32% at residences, 30% on roadways.
 - Unhoused: 48% at businesses, 21% on roadways, 14% at residences.
- Arrest increases (2022–2023):
 - Housed arrests up 7.4%.
 - Unhoused arrests up 17.7%.
- Arrest increases (2024 year-to-date):
 - Housed arrests up 3%.
 - Unhoused arrests up 19.5%.
- Per capita data (2024 year-to-date):
 - Average offenses: 1.7 per housed person; 3.1 per unhoused person.
 - Average arrests: 1.1 per housed person; 1.6 per unhoused person.

Ms. Hutzell also noted that at least 30% of annual offenses in Norman are committed by non-Norman residents, with an average offender age of 34–36, not consistent with the student population.

Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, expressed appreciation that the shelter resolution discussion was postponed, urging Council to carefully consider the implications. He argued that voting “no” on the resolution would still result in the search for a new shelter operator, thereby ensuring continuity of services. He encouraged Council to accept Food and Shelter’s offer, praising their expertise and long-standing role in serving Norman’s unhoused population. He cautioned against underestimating Food and Shelter’s knowledge and stressed that continuity of service should be the top priority.

Mayumi Windler, Ward 2, compared the City’s investment in an animal shelter to the lack of permanent human sheltering solutions. She suggested exploring permanent facilities or expanding tiny home initiatives through Food and Shelter. She also proposed placing small numbers of tiny homes within City parks, with residents serving as caretakers.

Rob Norman, Ward 3, supported postponement, stressing the need for amendments to ensure the shelter never closes without an operator and that the City assume responsibility if necessary. He expressed concern that the situation was being treated as a contract dispute rather than a human services issue. He urged the City to repair its relationship with Food and Shelter, possibly through mediation, and emphasized that continuity of operations must be guaranteed under any circumstances.

Miscellaneous Comments, continued

Rodney Johnson, Ward 1, a private investigator, described his professional work in child abuse, custody, fraud, and domestic cases, noting frequent collaboration with law enforcement. He expressed appreciation for recent responsiveness from City staff and the Police Department. He encouraged Council to consider the role of private investigators and other law enforcement-adjacent professions in maintaining community safety. He also supported postponement, urging Council to proceed with professionalism and respect toward the public.

Christina Owen, Wards 4 and 8, supported postponement, citing misunderstandings and misinformation regarding shelter security and operations. She recommended establishing a task force or roundtable to provide Council with accurate information, stressing that many questions raised already have clear answers. She reminded Council that Norman has previously operated temporary shelters and that Food and Shelter originated from church-based efforts. She urged an informed, historically grounded discussion.

Laurie Swan, Ward 4, thanked Council for postponing the vote and urged them to listen to new vendor proposals. Speaking as someone with lived experience, she emphasized that “homeless people are not a monolith.” Each individual has unique circumstances, needs, and challenges. She cautioned against blanket terms like “homeless crime,” comparing it to labeling all housed crimes as one category.

Michael Blunck, Ward 1, expressed relief at the postponement and encouraged constructive dialogue moving forward. He referenced past discussions about potential shelter sites, including Griffin, and stressed the need for depoliticizing shelter operations. He observed that services like waste collection do not provoke public disputes every few months and argued that shelter operations should be handled with similar stability.

Cynthia Rogers, Ward 4, expressed appreciation for the postponement.

Chelsea Gravel, Ward 4, criticized Council’s handling of City business, expressing frustration with repeated late meetings. She highlighted crime and safety issues involving unhoused individuals, recounting a personal incident of being assaulted while walking. She argued that Norman’s resources attract individuals with criminal histories from outside the community, which she described as a public safety risk.

Karlinda Gravel, Ward 4, referenced public statements about frequent disruptive incidents inside the shelter, many not involving police intervention. She raised questions about what qualifies as a “low-barrier” shelter, citing City Care in Oklahoma City as an example with security guards, metal detectors, and restrictions on weapons and drugs. She argued that Norman should seek operators with more relevant experience and noted past budget reallocations, including police funds used for shelter operations.

Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, thanked Council for listening to a range of perspectives, even when expressed with criticism. She reflected on the difficulty of the evening’s tone but emphasized that residents care deeply about Norman’s future. She encouraged Council to approach decisions with compassion and collaboration, especially concerning vulnerable populations.

*

Miscellaneous Comments, continued

Affordable Housing

Paul Wilson, Ward 1, affordable housing. He contrasted Norman's development patterns with larger metropolitan areas, where multi-family housing is prioritized over single-family additions. He emphasized the city's need for approximately 1,000 new homes per year to meet projected demand through 2045. Given land constraints, he encouraged more mixed-use and multi-family housing developments rather than single-family expansions.

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Sustainability

Evan Dunn, Ward 7, shared statistics on Norman's international student population (approximately 1,500 students from more than 40 countries). He highlighted the potential global impact if Norman modeled resource efficiency and sustainability. He advocated for systemic changes in how the community uses resources, linking local decisions to global influence.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor