



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - AMENDED
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Special Meeting of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:00 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.

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 5:00 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 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager
Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Ryan Riddel, Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works
Mr. Sean Rieger, Rieger Sadler Joyce, L.L.C.
Mr. Chad Vincent, Norman Police Department
Mr. Clint Mercer, Chief Accountant
Ms. Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning and Community Development Director
Ms. Daniela Rodriguez, Admin Tech III

Ms. Tiffany Vrska, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. Jamie Meyer, Interim City Clerk
Mr. Travis King, Fire Chief
Mr. Jesse Mitchell, Fire Department

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION R-2526-105 REGARDING AN UPDATED FIRE STATION STUDY TO PERFORM PRELIMINARY DESIGN SERVICES AND A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR VARIOUS FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

Mr. Travis King, Fire Chief, presented a proposal dated March 3, 2026, from Martinez Architects which outlined preliminary architectural design services for several Norman Fire Department facilities, including Fire Stations 1, 5, and 10, Fire Administration, and future stations 11 and 12. The work will include developing preliminary design packages with site and floor plans, elevations, and cost estimates to support planning and budgeting for facility relocations and future construction identified in the City's long-term strategic plan. Services will involve coordination with City staff, site reviews, space programming, conceptual and preliminary design drawings, 3D exterior renderings, and opinions of probable construction cost based on current market data. The proposed cost for Fire Station Number 5 is \$9,500, and the remaining work is estimated to cost \$38,000.

Council discussed increased Fire Department call volumes and staffing needs. Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager, noted that most 911 calls are medical aid responses and that adding a fire engine to Station Number 1 could cost \$7–8 million. Chief King stated that four of the nine stations deploy brush pumper tankers due to lower maintenance costs and confirmed they are staffed with four firefighters. Councilmember Bruce raised concerns about staffing risks, while Councilmember Dixon asked about response times and the possibility of a combined Fire and Police facility with MSTAT. Chief King reported response times are slightly over six minutes and noted smaller brush pumpers can improve maneuverability. Mayor Holman suggested assigning the task of addressing staffing issues to the Public Safety Oversight Committee. Councilmember Gandesbery supported cross-training with other departments, and Mr. Jesse Mitchell, Chief of Training, Norman Fire Department, highlighted recent joint recruit training and similar fire training programs available in other communities.

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE HIRING OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO REVIEW ISSUES RELATED TO SUBMITTING ORDINANCE O-2425-2 TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY.

Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, provided an overview of the potential costs associated with hiring outside counsel and emphasized the importance of selecting an attorney with relevant subject matter experience. He noted that the Oklahoma Municipal League may serve as a resource in identifying qualified legal counsel. Mr. Knighton also discussed oversight considerations for outside counsel, which would vary based on Council's direction.

Item 2, continued

Mr. Knighton outlined additional legal options, including the possibility of a declaratory judgment action being filed against the City, referencing a Notice of Intent to Sue submitted on March 6, 2026, by Robert Norman of Cheek and Falcone, PLLC. He explained that such action could provide judicial clarity on the matter. Alternatively, the City could initiate a declaratory judgment action against Oklahomans for Responsible Economic Development (ORED) to determine whether the issue should be referred to a vote of the registered voters.

Council reached consensus to allow ORED to proceed with filing a declaratory judgment action against the City, as previously indicated in their Notice of Intent to Sue, and to await a judicial ruling before taking further action regarding the ordinance.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES TITLE 25 § 307(B)(4) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION ASSOCIATED WITH AMANDA PAL V. LANDEN HOOPER ET AL., CASE CJ-2026-337 TB.

Motion to adjourn out of the Special Session and convene into Executive Session was made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Councilmember Ward 3 Bruce, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:18 p.m. Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager; Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, Mr. Ryan Riddel, Assistant City Attorney; Major Chad Vincent were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn out of Executive Session and reconvene the Special Session made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Councilmember Ward 3 Bruce, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Executive Session was adjourned out of and the Special Session was reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

The Mayor said the pending litigation associated with Amanda Pal v. Landen Hooper et al., case CJ-2026-337 TB was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor