

Item 4, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1, OF THE CITY CHARTER TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FROM NINE MEMBERS TO 11 MEMBERS.

Commissioner Cubberley disclosed he is the Chairman of the Norman Regional Hospital Authority and provided some background on this request. He said Norman Regional Hospital System (NRHS) now has facilities in a regional area and not just Norman. Communities where facilities exist include Noble, Newcastle, Moore, and South Oklahoma City. He said the Board has discussed increasing the membership from nine to 11 to allow for representation from some of the other communities NRHS serves.

Commissioner Vinyard said he would be willing to support the request if it was limited to two members from a community where NRHS has a facility and that Norman retain nine members. At the request of Chairman Thompson, Commissioner Cubberley provided to makeup of the current Board. The Commission directed the City Attorney to prepare language for their consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Hackelman suggested adding language regarding the diversity of the communities NRHS represents.

Discussion took place with Commissioners Cubberley, Pipes and Eller had a conflict when it comes to making recommendations on NRHS since Commissioners Cubberley and Pipes currently service on the Board and Member Eller works as Chaplain at NRHS. City Attorney Walker said there could be a potential conflict that would require they disclose their association, but there would not be a pecuniary conflict since they all serve as volunteers.

Items submitted for the record

1. Current Charter Provisions for Article XX – Reapportionment
2. Reapportionment/Ward Boundary Creation and Review Process

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Item 4, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND THE CITY OF NORMAN FOR EQUITABILITY OF BENEFIT VERSUS BURDEN TO THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES.

Commissioners had asked if Councilmember Petrone could attend tonight's meeting to explain her concerns regarding the relationship between Norman Regional Hospital and the City of Norman. Chairman Thompson said he contacted Councilmember Petrone and her response was what are the city's taxpayers and City government getting in return for the current relationship, e.g., cheaper health care?

Item 2, continued:

YEAS: Commissioners Ali, Bates, Cubberley, Dillingham, Griffith, McBride, Pipes, Stawicki, Vinyard, Williamson-Jennings, Chairman Thompson

NAYES: None

Chairman Thompson declared the motion carried and the minutes approved; and the filing thereof was directed.

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Items 3, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1, OF THE CITY CHARTER TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FROM NINE TO ELEVEN MEMBERS.

Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney, said Norman Regional Hospital System (NRHS) now has facilities in a regional area, not just Norman, and communities where facilities exist include Noble, Newcastle, Moore, and South Oklahoma City. She said the Charter Review Commission (CRC) has discussed increasing the membership from nine to 11 to allow for representation from some of the other communities NRHS serves. She said in the March 2020, meeting, Commissioners asked Staff to draft language to state, "The Mayor, with the approval of the City Councilmembers, shall appoint a Board of Norman Regional Hospital Authority consisting of eleven registered voters who shall serve for a term of three years. At least nine of the board members shall be Norman residents. A maximum of two members may be appointed from other communities in which the Norman Regional Hospital Authority operates at least one facility." She said the CRC also expressed a strong sentiment that board diversity should be a priority and guiding principle for board composition.

Ms. Walker reminded everyone Commissioners Cubberley and Pipes currently service on the Board and Member Eller works as Chaplain at NRHS. She said this disclosure does not prohibit them from participating in the discussion or from voting on the item.

Vice-Chairman Thompson moved to approve the language change to the Charter, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Dillingham;

Items submitted for the record

1. Draft language for Charter Review Commission Article IX –Hospital.

Item 3, continued:

and the question being upon approving the language change to the Charter, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Ali, Bates, Cubberley,  
Dillingham, Griffith, McBride, Pipes,  
Stawicki, Vinyard, Williamson-Jennings,  
Chairman Thompson

NAYES: None

Chairman Thompson declared the motion carried and the language change to the Charter was approved.

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Item 4, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND THE CITY OF NORMAN FOR EQUITABILITY OF BENEFIT VERSUS BURDEN TO THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES.

Chairman Thompson said he spoke with Councilmember Petrone regarding her reason for wanting the CRC to discuss the item and she wanted to know what the city's taxpayers and City government are getting in return for the current relationship, e.g., cheaper health care?

Vice-Chairman Cubberley said over time the hospital has gone from a municipal entity to a public trust for the benefit of community, but the main benefit is the City no longer has to operate the hospital and more importantly, the City is no longer responsible for hospital finances and debt. He said the biggest benefit to the community is control because through appointment of board members the City still has local control over the hospital system. He said the Board makes decisions regarding the hospital and its services and that decision making authority is locally controlled, but at the same time it is community members making decisions for the community. He said the Board is very cognizant of community needs and Council has the opportunity to periodically change the face of the Board through appointments.

Ms. Brenda Hall, City Clerk, said at the last meeting, Commissioner Cubberley highlighted the Norman Regional Health System Community Benefit Report that talks about the benefits to the community and Chairman Thompson asked that this report be included in the next quarterly report to Council.