



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 04/18/2022

**REQUESTER:** Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

**PRESENTER:** Heather Poole, Assistant City Attorney

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, GRANTING, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF EASEMENT E-2122-60: TO OKLAHOMA GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (OG&E) FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC SERVICE IN REAVES PARK AS PART OF THE NORMAN FORWARD REAVES PARK RENOVATION PROJECT.

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### BACKGROUND:

In October 2015, Norman citizens passed the NORMAN FORWARD initiative, funding various quality of life projects through a ½% sales tax increase over 15 years. The NORMAN FORWARD Initiative included authorization for a project to renovate Reaves Park to remove the city's Park Maintenance operation and construct new youth baseball fields and make Reaves Park the home to all youth baseball and softball activities. This project is part of a multi-park plan that will also result in Griffin Park being able to add several more soccer fields once the baseball and softball operations have moved to Reaves. Both the Reaves and Griffin Projects are well underway now that the new Park Maintenance facility has been constructed at the North Base land, next to the new Bus Maintenance facility.

On February 9, 2019, City Council approved Contract K-1819-132 with Flintco Construction to provide construction manager at-risk (CMaR) services for the Reaves Park Renovation Project, along with the Griffin Park Phase 3 Construction Project. Since that time, the Griffin Phase 3 project has been completed; and the Reaves Park Renovation project was bid for construction and is in progress, with expected completion in winter 2022-23.

### DISCUSSION:

As part of the Reaves Park project, the old overhead electric service lines for the old Park Maintenance facility were removed and replaced with new underground electric service for the new youth baseball/softball fields restroom and concession building and lights. The new underground service will also feed the power rack for the vendor power outlets in the middle of the park by the rental pavilions. Many events and festivals utilize this service for their vendors. The recent Medieval Fair used the power in the middle of the park, as they do each year. The following events in the park will be the Juneteenth event, followed by the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fest—which both utilize the vendor power pedestals during their celebrations.

The relocation of the electric service to be underground requires an easement from the City of Norman to OG&E. The City of Norman owns the entire park where the service will be installed, and OG&E has engineered an alignment and prepared an easement request (attached) to allow them to proceed immediately with the work in this time between major city-sponsored events. They have been working with the City of Norman and Flintco to coordinate this work at this time to minimize disruption to the annual events in the park. The nightly baseball/softball activity in the park will not be affected by this conversion of overhead power to underground, as other service lines serve them on the north and southeast ends of the park.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council grant the easement to OG&E in order to provide underground electric service to the areas of Reaves park identified herein as part of the NORMAN FORWARD Reaves Park Renovation Project. The alignment of the easement is specified in the attached easement, located entirely within the bounds of Reaves Park.