



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069
Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

The Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, will meet in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 4:00 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 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heikkila called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 2 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball

OTHER STAFF PRESENT

Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 6 Josh Hinkle
Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney III
Ms. Lisa Krieg, CDBG/Grants Manager
Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities
Ms. Shaakira Calnick, Internal Auditor
Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager
Mr. Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager
Ms. Tara Reynolds, CDBG Financial Management Analyst
Ms. Sandra Simeroth, Administrative Tech IV

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION ON AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND AGING IN PLACE.

Ms. Lisa Krieg, CDBG/Grants Manager, said age friendly communities was discussed at Council's retreat. Staff has done the research and it shows in the City of Norman 13.4% of Norman's population (17,150) are over 65 and that number is continually growing and living independently is the goal for all residents.

Aging in Place is more than modifying a home, it is about ensuring a holistic environment, where seniors can thrive. It would require coordinating efforts across multiple sectors, including local government, businesses and community organizations. AARP established eight domains of livability, which include Transportation; Civic Participation; Communication; Respect and Social Inclusion; Social Participation; Health Service; Community Support; and Housing and Outdoor Spaces. It was an initiative founded in 2006 in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) That supports the efforts of neighborhoods, towns, cities and rural areas to be great places for all people of all ages by providing safe, walkable streets; age friendly housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for all residents of all ages to participate in community life. Application, Certification, and Membership means that Norman's leadership has made the commitment to work towards being a great place for people of all ages. There is no charge for the certification. Participation requires a multistep process of improvement, including the creation and implementation of an action plan. Currently over 250 communities, including two states have met the qualifications and are participating.

Mayor Larry Heikkila asked what does the City need to do to qualify for grants for age friendly cities.

Ms. Krieg said the City has to be certified, which takes 1-2 years of planning in phase one. Cities must develop a three-year community wide action plan based on assessment findings. Commit to the implementation of the approved Action Plan. Phase two includes submittal of a Progress Report at year five, which outlines progress against the baseline using the indicators developed in the Action Plan. As long as the City makes continual improvements, the membership will be automatically renewed following a positive assessment and the submission of a revised Action Plan for future years. Once certified, the City of Norman would be eligible for the annual Challenge Grant Competition with awards up to \$20,000. These focused, action-oriented grants could be used to accelerate change in housing, transportation or public spaces. They also spark community engagement and opportunities for new partnerships.

Councilmember Grant said she would like to go forward with this and would like to get outdoor exercise equipment for a senior park.

Ms. Krieg said an outdoor flexibility park would be great. Staff would have to establish a taskforce and would like a representative from all the different departments and input from seniors, and get nonprofits that serves the needs of senior housing. The Mayor will have to send a letter to AARP to get all this started and express the interest of the City of Norman and the City Council to get certified.

Item 1 (continued)

Mayor Heikkila said this is good idea and a good way to ask developers if they want to build these communities.

Councilmember Hinkle said he would like staff to be very aggressive in phase one to maybe get it done quicker than one-two years.

Councilmember Holman said he would like to see bus service available all over the City for this.

Councilmember Grant thinks it would be beneficial to seniors and a better quality of life.

Ms. Krieg said grants are limited so Council and the Staff would also need to get businesses involved.

Councilmember Dixon said he also would like staff to move forward and move this aggressively.

Mayor would like a way for businesses and groups to donate funds and work with the grants that would be available.

2. UPDATE OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY LITIGATION.

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said we are still going through the discovery stage and there are 25,000 pages of reports to go through. Staff is making sure the building stays dry and keeping mold contained to the areas affected and that it does not spread to the other parts of the building. Staff is trying to find a space to store the books and looking for a space to temporarily have circulation for the books.

Councilmember Dixon asked if the Library Board was agreeing with staff suggestions on temporary locations.

Mr. Olsen said the Library turned down the suggestion of the CVS building as a place of circulation. It has been difficult to find a space that has climate controls within budget availability.

Councilmember Holman asked if staff had a timeline on when everything is getting fixed and who is responsible for operations. He said since the library will be closed for a while the City and Library need to find a temporary solution.

Mr. Olsen said that it is hard to put a time line on and it is going to take well over a year to repair the building once litigation or mediation is done. The Library did a survey and the most import thing is to get books into circulation. The actual operations is the library's responsibility and the building is the City's responsibility.

Councilmember Hinkle asked what the Library needed size wise for a building.

Mr. Olsen said they need at least 10,000 to 12,000 square feet for storage and they do not want it to be recognized as a retail area and safe place for their employees to work.

Item 2, (continued)

Councilmember Grant would like staff to try to find an alternative space the Library would be okay with.

Councilmember Dixon stated Pioneer Library system gets mileage from the county and they are still receiving that even though they do not have a central library and their number one goal is to get the books in circulation.

Mr. Olsen said that is correct and staff presented Pioneer Library System with the space big enough for the books and he did not know if it ever got to their Board.

Councilmember Dixon said the holdup then is not necessarily the City's but the Pioneer Library not liking what staff offered.

Mayor Heikkila asked how many square feet is the CVS building.

Mr. Olsen said it is 11,000 square feet big enough to store all the books.

Mayor Heikkila said so plenty of room for the books but maybe not all the offices and restrooms and not as nice as the library building but we need to get something in place.

Councilmember Holman said maybe do a downsize library there similar to the West side library.

Mr. Olsen said Staff could suggest a two-part solution where the Library has storage and a smaller space for operations on a smaller scale.

Mayor Heikkila said he would like for the City to have something working to give the people some place to go and residents will be more dissatisfied if they have nowhere to go.

Councilmember Hinkle said he was a former library employee and he feels that anything the citizens have moving forward will be nicer than what the closed building ended up being. He would like staff to look into getting a retail space to get services back to the residents.

Mayor Heikkila said retail air conditioned space rent is going for 14.00 a square foot.

Mr. Olsen said that CVS was offering us the space at \$11.00 a square foot.

Mayor Heikkila said any space for residents to visit as the library is better than no space at all.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor