



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/09/2023

REQUESTER: City Council

PRESENTER:

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2223-43 ON FIRST READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER'S COMPENSATION IN ARTICLE XVII, SECTION 1, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

Since the adoption of the City of Norman Charter, the City Attorney has been hired, supervised and managed by the City Manager in a protected “for-cause” capacity like other City employees. In August 2022, the voters of Norman approved a Charter amendment that makes the City Attorney an employee of the City Council, serving in an at-will capacity, and hired, supervised, and managed by the City Council. Council discussed hiring the current City Attorney, Kathryn Walker, to serve as the City Attorney under the revised structure set forth in the Charter during its Executive Session on October 11, 2022. The Council was advised by Margaret McMorrow-Love during this session rather than Ms. Walker or an employee in the Legal department to avoid any conflicts of interest. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Council directed that the proposed contract with Ms. Walker be brought forward to Council, along with the ordinance setting compensation, once Governor Stitt approved the Charter changes. The City Clerk received notification on April 17, 2023 that Governor Stitt had approved the Charter changes.

DISCUSSION:

The compensation set forth in Ordinance O-2223-43 is consistent with the contract presented to Council during its Executive Session in October. The contract will be submitted as a companion item with adoption of this ordinance on Second and Final Reading on the May 23, 2023 meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ordinance O-2223-43 is submitted for Council's consideration.