



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 06/25/2024

**REQUESTER:** City Council

**PRESENTER:**

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-159: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA APPOINTING RICK KNIGHTON AS INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY; SETTING HIS COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPOINTMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE CITY OF NORMAN PERSONNEL MANUAL; AND ALLOWING MR. KNIGHTON TO RETURN TO HIS CURRENT POSITION IF HE CEASES TO SERVE AS INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Article VIII of the City's Charter was added with the adoption of Ordinance O-2122-45 and the subsequent approval by the voters. This Article changed the City Attorney position from a "for-cause" employee of the City, managed by the City Manager, to an "at-will" position employed by the City Council. Article VIII, Section 2 provides that Council may designate "some qualified person to perform the duties of the office" during the absence of the City Attorney. The current City Attorney, Kathryn Walker, has submitted her resignation effective July 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Resolution R-2324-159 would appoint Rick Knighton to perform the duties of the office as contemplated by the Charter as the Interim City Attorney. Rick has had a long career with the City and is the most senior member of the City Attorney Staff serving as an Assistant City Attorney III. Because of the interim nature of this appointment, the resolution provides that Mr. Knighton, at the conclusion of his appointment, will be able to return to his position of Assistant City Attorney III. It also provides that his salary will be set as in accordance with the City's Personnel Manual. The intention is to maintain Mr. Knighton's status as a for-cause employee of the City during this interim period. If approved, his appointment will become effective on July 5, 2024 at 5:01p.m.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Resolution R-2324-159 is submitted for Council consideration.