



**CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

**Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Conference in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building on the 27th day of May, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heikkila called the Meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROTECTION PLAN.

Ms. Lexie Womack, Emergency Management Planner, and Mr. Nathan Lilly, Project Manager, with Chloeta provided an overview of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Mr. Lilly said a Community Wildlife Protection Plan (CWPP) is a community developed plan to help prevent, respond to, and recover from wildfires. The CWPP can help identify local priorities for resource management and community protection, reduce risk to watersheds and human structures, and qualify for federal and state funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 gives priority to hazardous fuel reduction projects for communities or watersheds with CWPPs. Mr. Lilly said the CWPP was prepared in collaboration with Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Oklahoma Forestry Services, Oklahoma Gas and Electric, Thunderbird State Park, University of Oklahoma and the City of Norman Fire Department.

Item 1, continued

The key objectives in the CWPP are to protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure; strengthen community resilience to wildfire impacts; and foster interagency coordination and stakeholder collaboration. The CWPP focuses on Norman's most vulnerable zones including Wildland-Urban Interface areas, which is where homes and flammable vegetation intersect as well as infrastructure corridors and public green spaces.

The core components of a CWPP are as follows:

- Risk Assessment: in-depth evaluation of wildfire hazards, vulnerabilities, and exposure throughout Norman.
- Community Collaboration: Prioritization of public engagement and coordination among City departments and regional partners to support a fire-adapted community.
- Action Plan: Strategic, prioritized initiatives for defensible space creation and fuel reduction; structural hardening of buildings; emergency preparedness planning; and public education and outreach.
- Prescribed fire Program: Promotion of controlled burns to reduce fuel loads and mitigate future wildfire risk.
- Implementation and Maintenance: Establishment of clear roles, monitoring procedures, and a schedule for annual reviews and five year plan updates.

Mr. Lilly said areas of concern include the Canadian River, Thunderbird State Park, Saxon Park, Hall Park, Royal Oaks Park, Little River, Sutton Wilderness, and Ruby Grant Park and how they interface with neighborhoods.

Next Steps

Seek Funding and Resources

- Apply for state and federal grants to fund fuels reductions, public education, and mitigation infrastructure.
- Partner with local nonprofits, utilities, and/or businesses for support.

Implement Mitigation Measures

- Carry out vegetation management/fuels reduction in high-risk areas, e.g., prescribed burns, thinning, defensible space creation.
- Improve infrastructure, e.g., fire breaks, signage, access roads, and water sources.
- Incorporate CWPP priorities into land use planning and building codes.

Community Engagement and Education

- Launch public education campaigns on fire safety, evacuation planning, and home hardening.
- Conduct workshops, drills, and outreach events to keep residents informed and involved.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

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ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor