



MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Study Session in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building on the 4th day of March, 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 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Rarchar Tortorello
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Matthew Peacock

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock

AGENDA ITEMS

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL SOLAR PROJECTS FOR THE YOUNG FAMILY LIFE CENTER AND THE LINE MAINTENANCE FACILITY.

Mr. Tony Capucille, CEO, EightTwenty Solar, presented two potential solar projects for the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) and the Line Maintenance Administration Facility. He said the two projects would generate over \$1.6 million in savings for the City's General and Utilities Funds. The Line Maintenance Facility would be \$291,683 energy offset and the YFAC would be \$1,638,745 over a 30 year period.

Mr. Capucille said using the Brightwell solution the City of Norman would not incur a capital investment up front. Brightwell invests in projects for municipalities, school districts and non-profits. Through programs such as tax incentives/credits and other partnerships, Brightwell is able help these organizations access cost saving solar solutions.

Item 1, continued

Mr. Capucille said both projects would be roof top panels vs. ground panels and they typically do not require as much maintenance. He said panels on the ground have a higher risk of damage from vehicles, mowers, etc.

It was the consensus of Council was to move forward with both projects.

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2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FYE 2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM BUDGET AND THE FYE 2027-2030 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN.

Mr. Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician, said tonight a budget review for FYE 2026 Capital Improvements Program Budget will be presented to Council. Council was previously updated on funded projects and discussed Council priorities for FYE 2025 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) on November 19, 2024. He said review of the final plat will take place on May 6, 2025.

Mr. Huckabaa said Capital Sales Tax Guidelines to allocate new sales tax revenue includes Capital Outlay – 27%; Maintenance of Existing Facilities – 7%; Street Maintenance – 20%; General Contingency – 5%; Other Projects and Debt Service – 36%.

Mr. Huckabaa summarized the FYE 2026 CIP funding - \$17,512,533 in projected Capital Sales Tax (0.7%) revenue; - \$35,537,664 in Capital Sales Tax requests; \$11,057,320 request from General Obligation Bond Programs; and \$751,000 requested for remaining Norman Forward Projects.

Mr. Huckabaa provided a status update on the Street Maintenance Bond Program, the 2012 Transportation/Stormwater Bond Program, and the 2019 Transportation Bond Program. He said the Bridge Maintenance Bond Program is a 10 year program funded by voter approval. The overall program is estimated at \$50 million to replace or rehabilitate 18 bridges throughout Norman.

Proposed recurring CIP Fund Projects in FYE 26 include Capital Outlay - \$4,822,952; Street Maintenance - \$2,875,000; Network Switch Replacement - \$210,000; Maintenance of Existing Facilities - \$1,250,394; Stormwater Drainage Maintenance - \$2,450,000; Personnel - \$1,359,939; Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Audit Adjustments - \$100,000; Bridge Maintenance - \$1,000,000; Driveway Repairs - \$10,000; American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Program - \$300,000; Street Striping - \$100,000; Traffic Calming - \$50,000; Tree Program - \$65,000; Park Site Amenities - \$45,000; and IT Hardware/Software Replacement - \$850,000 for a total of \$15,488,285.

Item 1, continued

The recurring sidewalk projects in FYE 2026 include Sidewalk Program for Schools and Arterials - \$100,000; Sidewalk Accessibility Project - \$45,000; Citywide Sidewalk Projects - \$125,000; Downtown Area Sidewalk Project - \$50,000; Sidewalks and Trails - \$140,000; and Horizontal Saw Cut Program - \$40,000 for a total of \$500,000.

Mr. Huckabaa said in FYE 26 the estimated amount available for new projects is - \$9,252,411; in FYE 27 the estimated amount available for new projects is -\$5,502,752; and in FYE 28 the estimated amount available for new projects is -\$989,207.

Mr. Huckabaa highlighted the new project requests for FYE 2026 by department; Public Works - \$678,316; Police - \$4,305,000; IT - \$210,000; Fire - \$14,320,666; and Parks and Recreation - \$5,425,000 for a total amount of \$24,938,982. Existing projects request increases totaling \$1,141,848 and \$110,000 in Capital outlay requests.

Upcoming challenges as Council moves through the budget process include Capital Fund status; Access Oklahoma Turnpike Plan; Rock Creek Entertainment District; Central Library remediation and repairs; Public Safety Study and recommendations; Area and Infrastructure Master Plan update; Center City Tax Increment Finance District (CCTIF); Griffin and Sutton Wilderness Parks; Griffin Hospital campus; failing stormwater infrastructure; existing Police Department improvements; Fleet Fueling Facility; and fleet vehicle replacement.

Council comments – any opportunities for partnership with the County on public safety improvements; can CCTIF dollars be used to pay for a Main Street Two-Way Study; and a request that \$100,000 be included for a study on the Chapel on Griffin Hospital campus.

City Manager Darrel Pyle said Staff was successful in obtaining a \$1 million grant for the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations updates.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor