



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/23/2023

REQUESTER: City Council

PRESENTER:

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, POSTPONEMENT AND/OR AMENDMENT OF CONTRACT K-2223-157: A CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY, THE NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, THE NORMAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY, AND THE NORMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND KATHRYN WALKER SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AS CITY ATTORNEY.

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 terms of the contract are consistent with discussions between Council and Ms. Love.

RECOMMENDATION:

Contract K-2223-157 is submitted for Council's consideration.