



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM, and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Stephen T. Holman
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Brandon Nofire
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Holman.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PROCLAMATION P-2526-10: A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire

Item 1, continued:

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. David Riesland, Transportation Engineer, thanked the Council.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Receipt of Proclamation P-2526-10 was Acknowledged.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PROCLAMATION P-2526-11: A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS HEALTHY AGING MONTH IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire.

Participants in discussion

1. Ms. Lynne Miller, President of Healthy Living Norman, thanked Council and made comments.
2. Ms. Katherine Liedy, Executive Director of Healthy Living Norman, thanked Council and made comments.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Receipt of Proclamation P-2526-11 was Acknowledged.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Resignations

Councilmember Bree Montoya announced her resignation as Ward 3 Councilmember effective immediately and left the meeting.

*

Community Recognition & Acknowledgments

Councilmember David Gandesbery acknowledged and thanked the gentleman giving free haircuts on Sundays by Taco Bell on Lindsey Street.

Councilmember Helen Grant acknowledged Hispanic Heritage Month and the photography exhibition at the Firehouse Art Center (on display until November 2). She recognized Annie Menz, the first Latina elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and thanked and congratulated Porchfest and Ink the Block Party volunteers, organizers, and sponsors.

Council announcements, continued:

*

Neighborhood and Community Events

Councilmember Helen Grant announced Old Silk Stocking's Neighborhood Night Out on Thursday, September 25. She mentioned a Ward 4 Quarterly Meeting held the previous Saturday and announced that at the next Oversight Committee meeting, the first three months of data from the Opportunity Knocks Litter Cleanup Crew would be presented.

Councilmember Joshua Hinkle announced a Watershed Cleanup Event at Sutton Wilderness on October 18 (save the date).

*

Infrastructure, Transportation, and Environmental Updates

Councilmember Brandon Nofire acknowledged that OTA announced a new route for the South Extension and encouraged citizens to stand firm in response.

Councilmember Scott Dixon highlighted a \$2 million grant from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Mayor Holman announced a public meeting at the Nancy O'Brien Center regarding the OTA and their timeline. He encouraged the public to attend the City Council Community Planning and Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, September 25 at 4:00 p.m.

CONSENT DOCKET

This item is placed on the agenda so that the City Council, by unanimous consent, can designate those routine agenda items that they wish to be approved or acknowledged by one motion. If any item proposed does not meet with approval of all Councilmembers, that item will be heard in regular order. Staff recommends that Item 3 through Item 22 be placed on the consent docket.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Items 3 through 22 were placed on the Consent Docket.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2025 AND AUGUST 19, 2025

CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL, NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY, NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, AND NORMAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2025.

CITY COUCIL COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2025

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The minutes were Approved.

Reports/Communications

4. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NORMAN OPTIMIST CLUB ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Receipt of the Norman Optimist Club Annual Report was Acknowledged.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE LITTLE AXE YOUTH SPORTS ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Receipt of the Little Axe Youth Sports 2025 Annual Report was Acknowledged.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S INVESTMENT REPORT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025, AND DIRECTING THE FILING THEREOF.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Receipt of the Finance Director's Investment Report was Acknowledged.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2025.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Receipt of the Monthly Departmental Report was Acknowledged.

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH PURDUE PHARMA L.P. (AND CERTAIN AFFILIATES) AND THE SACKLER FAMILY, INCLUDING AGREEING TO THE TERMS OF THE GLOBAL SETTLEMENTS, THE RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THESE ENTITIES, AND THE PERMISSIBLE USES OF MONIES RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THE SETTLEMENTS TO COMBAT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PARTICIPATION FORMS FOR EACH SETTLEMENT ON THE CITY OF NORMAN'S BEHALF.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Election to participate in the Settlement Agreements was Approved.

Final Plat

9. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FP-2526-2: FINAL PLAT FOR VICTORY FAMILY CHURCH 2024 PARKING GENERALLY LOCATED ONE-HALF MILE NORTH OF WEST TECUMSEH ROAD BETWEEN NORTH FLOOD AVENUE (US HIGHWAY 77) AND 24TH AVENUE N.W.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Final Plat FP-2526-2 for Victory Family Church 2024 Parking, was Approved.

10. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FP-2526-3: FINAL PLAT FOR MINICK MATERIALS ADDITION (GENERALLY LOCATED ONE-HALF MILE NORTH OF INDIAN HILLS ROAD ON THE EAST SIDE OF INTERSTATE DRIVE).

Item 10, continued:

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Final Plat FP-2526-3 for Minick Materials Additon, was Approved.

Contracts

11. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AMENDMENT TWO TO CONTRACT K-1718-53: BY AND BETWEEN THE NORMAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY AND GARVER, L.L.C., FOR THE DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE TECUMSEH ROAD – 24TH AVENUE NW AND FLOOD AVENUE INTERSECTIONS PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$155,198 AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Amendment No. Two to Contract K-1718-53 was Approved

12. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AMENDMENT ONE TO CONTRACT K-2223-55: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AND GARVER, L.L.C., FOR THE DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE 24TH AVENUE NE WIDENING PROJECT – ROCK CREEK ROAD TO TECUMSEH ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,804 FOR THE 2019 BOND PROJECT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Amendment No. One to Contract K-2223-55 was Approved

13. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CHANGE ORDER TWO TO CONTRACT K-2324-177: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN AND K&R BUILDERS, INC., DECREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT FROM \$2,955,043.21 TO \$2,895,487.75, FINAL ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL PAYMENT OF \$72,208.77 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 60TH AVENUE NE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT BOND PROJECT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Change Order Two to Contract K-2324-177 and final acceptance of the project were Approved.

14. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, AWARDED, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A GRANT THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS (ACOG) OF FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 5303 FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 TO BE USED FOR ELIGIBLE TRANSIT PLANNING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) AS IDENTIFIED IN THE FY2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP), AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT K-2526-66 AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Grant was Accepted and Contract K-2526-66 was Approved

15. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-67 AND RESOLUTION R-2526-50: A PROJECT MAINTENANCE, FINANCING, AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROJECT TAP3-8721(004)AG, STATE JOB 38721(04)(05)(06)(07), FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SYSTEMS ON 36TH AVENUE NW AT THE ENTRANCE TO ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND ON 24TH AVENUE NE AT CREIGHTON DRIVE; AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AGREEMENT.

Item 15, continued:

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Contract K-2526-67 was Approved and Resolution R-2526-50 was Adopted.

Resolutions

16. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-37: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$5,382.84 FROM THE REFUNDS / REIMBURSEMENTS MISCELLANEOUS RISK MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR REPAIRS TO CITY OF NORMAN VEHICLES DAMAGED BY OTHER DRIVERS IN TRAFFIC COLLISIONS.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-37 was Adopted.

17. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-44: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA REQUESTING \$7,500,000 IN STBG-UZA FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CEDAR LANE ROAD FROM BLACK LOCUST COURT TO EAST OF 36TH AVENUE SE IN NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-44 was Adopted.

18. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-45: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA REQUESTING \$3,943,222.40 IN STBG-UZA FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CONSTITUTION STREET FROM JENKINS AVENUE TO OAK TREE AVENUE IN NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-45 was Adopted.

19. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-48: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORMAN REQUESTING \$786,550.34 IN ACOG AIR QUALITY GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE ASPHALT PORTION OF THE ROBINSON STREET PATH BETWEEN 24TH AVENUE NW AND FLOOD AVENUE IN NORMAN TO CONCRETE.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-48 was Adopted.

20. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-49: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA REQUESTING \$981,922.02 IN STBG-UZA-SAFETY FUNDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ARTERIAL DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS UPGRADES (PHASE 1) AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-49 was Adopted.

21. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-54: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$3,214.58 FROM THE REFUNDS / REIMBURSEMENTS MISCELLANEOUS RISK MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR VETERINARIAN CARE AND BOARDING COSTS TO THE CITY OF NORMAN IN CLEVELAND COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, CASE NO. CJ-2025-1164, CITY V. GERHART.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-54 was Adopted.

22. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-58: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND EMERGENCY GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Resolution R-2526-58 was Adopted.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

Second Reading Ordinance

23. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-4 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTION 36-201 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN SO AS TO REMOVE THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH (T9N), RANGE 3 WEST (R3W) OF THE INDIAN MERIDIAN, TO NORMAN, CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, FROM THE A-2, RURAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, AND I-2, HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, AND PLACE SAME IN A SPUD, SIMPLE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF. (GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF W. TECUMSEH ROAD ON N. FLOOD AVENUE)

Item 23, continued:

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Gunner Joyce representing the applicant
2. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, made comments

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-4 was adopted on Second Reading section by section.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-4 was adopted on Final Reading.

24. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PP-2526-3: A PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR NORTH FLOOD BUSINESS PARK ADDITION, A SIMPLE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, GENERALLY LOCATED ONE-QUARTER MILE NORTH OF TECUMSEH ROAD ON THE EAST SIDE OF FLOOD AVENUE.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Preliminary Plat PP-2526-3 was approved.

25. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-5 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTION 36-201 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN SO AS TO REMOVE THE EAST HALF (E/2) OF SECTION NINE (9) AND THE WEST HALF OF SECTION TEN (10), TOWNSHIP EIGHT NORTH (T8N), RANGE TWO WEST (R2W) OF THE INDIAN MERIDIAN, TO NORMAN, CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, FROM THE R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT, AND PLACE SAME IN A PUD, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF. (GENERALLY LOCATED NEAR THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF CLASSEN BOULEVARD AND CEDAR LANE ROAD)

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Motion to amend Ordinance O-2526-5 to reduce the front yard setback for Development Area Two, from 25 feet to 20 feet made by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Sean Rieger representing the applicant
2. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4 made comments
3. Ms. Dianna Hutzler, Ward 5 opponent
4. Ms Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, made comments
5. Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning and Community Development
6. Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager
7. Mr. Anthony Hamm, Crafton Tull Associates
8. Mr. Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Amendment to Ordinance O-2526-5 was Approved.

Back to main motion on the floor to adopt Ordinance O-2526-5 on Second Reading section by section

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-4 was Adopted on Final Reading.

26. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PP-2526-6: PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR ST. JAMES PARK ADDITION, A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, GENERALLY LOCATED ONE-QUARTER MILE EAST OF CLASSEN BOULEVARD ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CEDAR LANE ROAD.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Preliminary Plat PP-2526-6 was Approved.

27. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PP-2526-4: PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR ST. JAMES CENTRE SECTION 2, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF CEDAR LANE ROAD AND 24TH AVENUE S.E.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Sean Rieger, representing the applicant
2. Ms. Dianna Hutzler, Ward 5, made comments
3. Mr. Brayden Schaefer, Crafton Tull
4. Mr. David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Preliminary Plat PP-2526-4 was Approved.

28. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-7 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTION 36-201 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN SO AS TO REMOVE THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) OF SECTION TWO (2), TOWNSHIP NINE (9) NORTH, RANGE THREE (3) WEST OF THE INDIAN MERIDIAN, TO NORMAN, CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, FROM A PUD, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, AND PLACE THE SAME IN THE I-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, OF SAID CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF. (5451 HUETTNER DRIVE)

Item 28, continued:

Motion to adopt upon Second Reading Section by Section was made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Participants in discussion

1. Mr. Mitchell Moore, Johnson and Associates, representing the applicant
2. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, made comments

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-2526-7 was Adopted on Second Reading Section by Section.

Motion to adopt on Final Reading as a whole made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-7 was Adopted on Final Reading as a whole.

29. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PP-2526-8: PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR HUETTNER INDUSTRIAL PARK (A REPLAT OF LOT 2, BLOCK 1, VALUE PLACE ADDITION) GENERALLY LOCATED ONE-HALF MILE SOUTH OF INDIAN HILLS ROAD ON THE EAST SIDE OF YORK DRIVE (5451 HUETTNER DRIVE).

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Preliminary Plat PP-2526-8 was Approved.

30. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-8 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTION 36-201 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN SO AS TO REMOVE SPRING BROOK ADDITION 11 LT 1 BLK 1, TO NORMAN, CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA FROM THE C-1, LOCAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND PLACE THE SAME IN THE C-2, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND TO GRANT SPECIAL USE FOR A BAR, LOUNGE, OR TAVERN; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF. (3250 W. ROBINSON STREET)

Motion to adopt upon Second Reading Section by Section was made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Participants in Discussion

1. Mr. Luke Greenfield, Cruise in Auto Spa West

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-2526-8 was Adopted on Second Reading Section by Section.

Motion to adopt on Final Reading as a whole made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-8 was Adopted on Final Reading as a whole.

31. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-10 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SECTIONS 20-1008 ("LICENSE REQUIRED") THROUGH 20-1013 ("OUTSIDE SALES") OF ARTICLE 20-X ("FOOD SERVICES") WITHIN CHAPTER 20 ("LICENSES AND OCCUPATIONS") AND APPENDIX A ("CITY OF NORMAN FEE SCHEDULE") TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES CONSISTENT WITH NEW STATE LAWS RELATING TO THE LICENSURE, REGULATION AND INSPECTION OF MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND MOBILE FOOD PREPARATION VEHICLES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF NOVEMBER 1, 2025; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

Motion to adopt upon Second Reading Section by Section made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire.

Item 31, continued:

Participants in discussion

1. Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney
2. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, proponent
3. Ms. Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, made comments

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-10 was Adopted on Second Reading Section by Section.

Motion to adopt on Final Reading as a whole made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-10 was Adopted on Final Reading as a whole.

32. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-11 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AMENDING SECTION 2-301 TO REMOVE MENTION OF NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION; REPEALING ARTICLE 10-II TITLED "CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURES OF CONTRIBUTORS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

Motion to adopt upon Second Reading Section by Section made by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant.

Participants in discussion

1. Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney
2. Mr. Stephen Ellis, Ward 4, made comments
3. Ms. Marguerite Larson, Wards 6, made comments
4. Ms. Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, made comments
5. Ms. Brenda Hall, City Clerk

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Motion to adopt Ordinance O-2526-11 was Adopted on Second Reading Section by Section.

Item 32, continued:

Motion to adopt on Final Reading as a whole made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nofire, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

Ordinance O-2526-10 was Adopted on Final Reading as a whole.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Civil Dialogue, Social Media Conduct, and Respect in Civic Debate

Audra Abbott, former Norman resident; family members currently reside in Norman. Ms. Abbott emphasized the importance of civil dialogue and respectful communication among residents and elected officials. She expressed concern about hostility and negativity on social media, urging individuals to refrain from online engagement if they cannot participate respectfully. Ms. Abbott shared appreciation for community support following recent tensions and reaffirmed her belief that elected officials should represent all residents, not only those who voted for them. She also referenced her Christian values, stating that she forgave previous negative remarks directed toward her and encouraged others to lead with compassion and understanding.

Steve Ellis, Ward 4, addressed concerns regarding civility in public dialogue and the recent resignation of a Ward 3 Councilmember following social media controversy. He said suicide references should never be used to express contempt, as such language undermines efforts to prevent suicide. While offensive online remarks can be damaging, they are not equivalent to aiding or abetting suicide, and the outrage surrounding them was, in his view, misdirected and politicized. He added the root issue lies in the dehumanization of individuals, including politicians, which fuels hostility and alienation. He called for greater empathy and respect for all individuals—whether unhoused, immigrant, conservative, or liberal—and urged the community to move away from divisive language and toward mutual understanding and humanity.

Lane Brown criticized recent social media comments made by a former Councilmember, describing them as immoral and unacceptable. He urged those responsible to seek spiritual guidance and repentance, asserting that such language reflects a lack of integrity. Mr. Brown also criticized Mayor Holman and other Councilmembers for what he viewed as insufficient response to the controversy. He condemned what he described as “vile comments” about a public figure’s death and warned councilmembers that similar conduct would continue to draw public opposition.

Paul Wilson, Ward 1, urged Council to adopt a formal Code of Conduct for elected officials, similar to policies in other metro-area cities. He stated that Councilmembers’ behavior on social media reflects directly on the City of Norman, and inappropriate posts undermine public trust. Mr. Wilson expressed disappointment with recent offensive posts, calling them cruel and hateful, and compared the language used to potential violations of school disciplinary standards. Mr. Wilson encouraged councilmembers to act as ethical examples and avoid cyberbullying behavior, noting that elected officials should uphold the same—or higher—standards expected of students and employees.

Miscellaneous comments continued:

Marguerite Larson, Ward 6, acknowledged that heated exchanges on social media are common and that many individuals, including public officials, may occasionally say things in frustration. She observed that threats and hostility online are widespread and often directed at Democrats or other groups yet rarely addressed equally. Ms. Larson emphasized First Amendment protections, affirming that Councilmembers are entitled to express personal opinions outside their official duties. While she condemned anti-Semitism and hateful speech, she stated that the Councilmembers involved had acted appropriately in their official capacities and that she supported and defended them.

Joseph Love, Ward 1, began by echoing earlier comments emphasizing community unity and moral leadership. He stated that members of the community, especially youth, have been deeply affected by recent events and public comments following the death of a political figure. Mr. Love mentioned that approximately 300 local students affiliated with Charlie Kirk's organization were among those who felt distressed by the situation and the community's reaction. He shared that his own children were personally impacted by both the tragedy and by the perceived tolerance of harmful rhetoric within the community. He urged the City to take a clearer, stronger stand against speech or actions that could be interpreted as endorsing violence or self-harm.

Mayumi Windler, Ward 2, made a brief statement underscoring the importance of mental health and civil engagement, noting that online hostility often contributes to community tension.

Robin Strader, Ward 5, supported earlier remarks calling for a Code of Conduct and reminded the Council that Norman already has a Code of Ethics in place. She read from Section B, "Duties," which directs Councilmembers to "conduct themselves so as to bring credit upon the City, setting an example of good ethical conduct for all citizens of the community." Ms. Strader warned that citizens are now closely observing Council actions and behavior in light of recent events. She vowed to hold Councilmembers accountable through the City's Ethics Committee and reminded them that they serve every citizen of Norman, not only their respective wards. She concluded by urging officials to choose words that unite the community and avoid divisive rhetoric.

Jeanette Coker, Ward 4, expressed sadness, anger, and disappointment regarding recent statements made by two Councilmembers, which she described as inappropriate and unrepresentative of the community. She acknowledged that people sometimes say regrettable things in anger but emphasized that elected officials must maintain higher standards of restraint and professionalism. Ms. Coker stated that such remarks have eroded public trust and called on the Councilmember to consider resignation in recognition of the hurt caused.

Chelsea Gravel, Ward 4, stated that the recent controversy has damaged Norman's reputation nationwide, citing extensive online discussion that portrays the City negatively. She called for greater professionalism and restraint in online communication, emphasizing that public statements are permanent and widely visible. She concluded that citizens expect and deserve accountability and decorum from all elected officials.

Miscellaneous comments continued:

Karlinda Gravel, Ward 4, noted the recent incident has gained significant national attention, over 1.5 million views on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), with many commenters now associating Norman with controversy and hostility. She expressed concern that such publicity is damaging the city's image and may deter visitors or economic opportunities. Ms. Gravel stated that she had previously alerted City officials to inappropriate social media posts by a Councilmember on June 19th, including screenshots sent to department heads and Councilmembers. She alleged the comments were later removed from public view without explanation, calling this potential open records violation. She also discussed the possibility of filing ethics violations with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission or Attorney General's Office, citing concerns of misconduct and incitement.

Sherylann Densow, Wards 4 and 6, reminded the Council that "Norman is always watching," emphasizing that the community is made up of "smart people." She cautioned members that digital activity, such as IP addresses, can be traced "just like DNA," warning against any misconduct. Ms. Densow concluded by urging the Council to "watch your P's and Q's," adding that residents are "tired of the clown show."

Janet Heikkila, Ward 3, stated that it was her first time speaking at the podium, but expressed that she felt at home in the Council Chambers. She shared that she has observed the Council for many years and has seen members mature in their roles. She commended the Council for listening respectfully during the meeting, noting she observed "no eye rolling or sneering," and appreciated the growth and civility shown. She urged the Council to continue fostering respect and professionalism, leaving political biases outside the chamber. She also expressed appreciation to the audience for refraining from applause, which she said helps maintain an inclusive environment for all viewpoints.

Kevin Frank stressed the importance of ethical conduct among Councilmembers, reminding them that with election to public office comes responsibility. He urged them to take the City's Code of Ethics seriously and avoid "repugnant remarks."

Bill Traus, Ward 5, identified himself as a U.S. Navy veteran and stated that he remains bound by the oath he took to serve his country. He expressed disappointment that any council member would refuse to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, calling it disrespectful to the nation and those who serve. He also criticized the Mayor's lack of public response to certain remarks made by a councilmember, asserting that as the City's leader, the Mayor should have addressed those comments directly. Mr. Traus stated the Mayor represents all wards and all citizens, and silence on the matter suggested indifference. He concluded by reiterating that elected officials have a duty to demonstrate respect and accountability.

Teresa Borum, Ward 4, emphasized Councilmembers represent all constituents within their wards, regardless of political affiliation. She shared that when she ran for office, she "knocked on every door," not just those of her own party, and that public service requires finding middle ground. She condemned comments that encourage self-harm or celebrate the death of others, stressing that such rhetoric is never acceptable.

*

Miscellaneous comments continued:

Development Notification

Dianna Hutzel, Ward 5, proposed revising notification procedures for neighborhood developments involving Homeowners Associations (HOAs). She suggested that official notifications include contact information for the registered HOA as listed in county property tax records, to improve communication among affected residents.

Regional Transit Plan

Dianna Hutzel, Ward 5, discussed the regional transit presentation in the prior meeting, noting its positive outlook, but requesting more detailed analysis specific to Norman, including costs, benefits, and job impacts. She encouraged greater transparency in how regional initiatives translate into direct local outcomes.

City Finance and Budget Concerns

Dianna Hutzel, Ward 5, referenced the recent City Finance Committee meeting, emphasizing concerns over the FYE 2025 General Fund deficit of \$5.8 million, which required a drawdown from reserves. The FYE 2026 shortfall is projected at \$7.2 million, leaving only \$1.3 million above the mandated reserve by next summer. She noted sales tax revenue, the city's primary funding source, was flat and \$1.8 million below estimates last year. Ms. Hutzel warned that without expanding the sales tax base and stimulating economic growth, Norman may face significant service reductions. She encouraged collaboration with the Cleveland County Economic Development Coalition and other municipalities to attract new businesses and jobs. She urged open discussion of fiscal challenges and greater public access to finance documents, stating that transparency and proactive planning are essential to maintaining community services.

Cindy Rogers, Ward 4, urged renewed focus on the City's financial health and budget priorities. She cited a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district with \$4 million in unused funds, noting that these resources remain inaccessible due to a poorly structured retail TIF, which she had previously predicted would fail. She highlighted a structural imbalance in City finances, explaining that expenditures rise faster than revenues, and that growth does not pay for itself under current models.

*

Zoning Policies

Dr. Rogers also addressed concerns with Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) and zoning practices, observing that Norman continues to expand without adequately addressing stormwater management and infrastructure capacity.

Mayumi Windler, Ward 2, discussed zoning transparency, proposing that PUD or SPUD designations include the original zoning classification (e.g., "R-1," "R-2") to improve clarity and traceability for residents. She emphasized the need for greater transparency and accessibility of zoning and land-use records, noting that it should not require extensive research through archived minutes.

*

Miscellaneous comments continued:

Monthly Departmental Reports

Mayumi Windler, Ward 2, referenced several data points from the monthly financial report included in the Council's consent agenda. She said sales tax revenue is down \$469,513 from budgeted estimates and the General Fund revenue has decreased by \$2,757,540, while expenses increased by \$1,528,610. She questioned what accounted for the unbudgeted \$1.5 million increase in expenditures, asking for clarity and accountability. On page 18 of the report, Ms. Windler cited issues with the building permits and licenses system, noting that data integration problems from a software upgrade in November 2023 still had not been resolved nearly two years later. She also questioned why the traffic counter for the utility drive-up and drop box remained broken and suggested replacing it for accurate reporting.

*

Stormwater Pollution

Kevin Frank thanked the Council and spoke positively about the "Don't Blow It" initiative, encouraging continued public participation in stormwater pollution prevention. He suggested the City expand oversight beyond residents to include commercial lawn care providers, who often blow debris into streets, citing his own observation along Robinson Street. He recommended implementing regulations to ensure professional landscaping companies adhere to stormwater standards.

*

Council Closing Remarks

Councilmember Grant acknowledged the recent resignation of Councilmember Montoya, stating that it was for the best that she is taking time to work on herself and has issued an apology. She clarified comments made by Councilmember Montoya in a public news forum with a Tulsa resident had been inaccurately conflated with the speaker's own separate conversation with a Norman Ward 4 resident, which occurred three months earlier. Councilmember Grant emphasized that at no point has she ever called for self-harm, and her public record demonstrates consistent advocacy for mental health awareness and support. She referenced past efforts to support the LGBTQ+ community and raise awareness of suicide prevention. She highlighted her ongoing commitment to mental health support. She stated when encouraging people to seek therapy, the recommendation is made sincerely and not dismissively, as professional support can significantly improve emotional regulation, personal growth, and long-term well-being. To conclude, Councilmember Grant cited Oklahoma State Statute Title 21 §1176, regarding the unlawful use of electronic communication to threaten, intimidate, or harass a public official, peace officer, medical provider, or crime victim by posting personally identifiable information.

Councilmember Gandesbery encouraged everyone present, particularly residents of Ward 1 and the broader Norman community, to pause and take a deep breath. As a de-escalation instructor within the health system, he emphasized the importance of calm, reflective communication when addressing high-stress situations. He clarified their comments reflected personal views and not those of other members of the Council. He stated his commitment to honesty and transparency with constituents, noting that mental health is an issue of personal importance. He stressed the seriousness of verbal exchanges that can contribute to emotional distress. Councilmember Gandesbery described Norman as a spirit of kindness, generosity, and community, exemplified by small acts of service such as neighbors giving free haircuts or residents engaging in open

Miscellaneous comments continued:

dialogue. He urged the community to adopt more responsible and compassionate communication, especially on social media, and to model healthy dialogue for future generations. He acknowledged everyone makes mistakes but emphasized the value of accountability, honesty, and learning from those errors. They encouraged residents to uphold the values of growth, character, and family that define Norman's community identity.

Councilmember Dixon thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting, particularly those who spoke during public comment. He recognized the courage it takes for residents to share their opinions publicly, noting the presence of several new participants, which was welcomed. He said addressing the resignation discussed earlier in the meeting, making the decision was difficult, but ultimately the right one for the City of Norman. He emphasized the importance of moving forward in a positive, healing direction and acknowledged the need to repair divisions that had arisen in the community. He called for inclusiveness and respect, saying that Norman must remain a city where all people are welcome. He expressed hope that the community could process what was shared during the meeting, begin to heal, and move forward with renewed positivity.

Mayor Holman addressed the controversy and broader issues of public discourse. He defined the concept of "othering" as treating others as less than human, noting that it fuels hostility and division. He warned that national figures and media personalities often profit from public division, intensifying local tensions. Mayor Holman clarified his limited authority under Norman's form of government, explaining that the mayor cannot discipline or demand the resignation of Councilmembers. Accountability, he said, rests with voters, through elections, recalls, and public engagement. He noted that, unlike higher levels of government, local government offers direct accountability, as residents can voice concerns publicly and face their representatives directly. He urged residents to remain involved in local issues, including zoning and routine Council matters, and thanked all who spoke during the meeting. He called on both officials and residents to model grace, empathy, and thoughtful communication.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was Adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Stephen T. Holman