



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster Ave., Norman, OK 73069
Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

The Public Safety Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in Conference Room B at the Development Center, on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, at the Development Center at 225 N. Webster, and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Linda Price
Committee Member Kenny Orr
Committee Member Lea Greenleaf
Committee Member Mark Emerson
Committee Member Russell Rice
Committee Member Ann Gallagher
Committee Member Ashlie Durham
Committee Member Gregory Gilkey

ABSENT

Committee Member Kyle Hurley

OTHERS

Major Brent Barbour, NPD
Major Chad Vincent, NPD
Asst. Chief Chad Roney, NFD
Russell Anderson, Comm. Systems Manager
Dannielle Risenhoover, Administrative Tech. IV
Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
Bill Scanlon, Citizen

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2024

Member Orr called for amendment of the minutes of October 10, 2024 to read that the Committee met at the Emergency Communications Operations Center and not at the City of Norman Development Center. Based on this change, Member Rice moved to approve the October 10, 2024 Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes which was duly seconded by Member Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:
Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee Minutes from October 10, 2024.

REPORTS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Kim Coffman gave the report. Sales tax revenue is approximately 7.5% short of the fiscal year, budgeted target. “We’re about \$326,000 below the target, year-to-date, for sales tax. Conversely we’re about \$50,000 above the target for use tax, year-to-date. Even though we’re about 8% over for use tax, that doesn’t quite fill the gap in Sales Tax,” Coffman said. The October sales tax revenue has been the highest thus far.

Norman Public Schools (NPS) has paid their first quarter payment for fiscal year 2025 for their portion of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The payment totaled \$177,000; however, NPS is requesting a credit of \$18,000 due to one SRO being out on medical leave during July, August, September, and October. “I think it should really be \$15,000,” Coffman said. “The contract for the 13 SROs doesn’t really start until August 1st, so I’m arguing that. We’ll get the City Manager’s approval to give them a \$15,000 credit. The SROs have already accrued about 57% of the \$165,000 overtime cap in the contract with Norman Public Schools. Above the \$165,000 cap, we can bill them for overtime; or we can decline their overtime assignments; or if the City Manager chooses to, we can do overtime for free.”

Notable October expenses from the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund include two payrolls; the yearly payment to *New World* for software maintenance; parts, decals, tags, and outfitting for police vehicles; radio equipment for the Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC), and construction costs for the ECOC.

Items submitted for the record:
Financial Reports

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

3. MONTHLY UPDATES

a) FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chief Chad Roney gave the report. He asked the Committee to be aware of the Fire Departments current and expected, short staffing issues as it has created a demand for overtime. “We continue to be above the 100% mark on our overtime. The more we are down on personnel, the more that (overtime) is likely to increase because we have a minimum staffing mandate to manage,” Roney said. “After the first part of the year, there are many that are eligible to retire. We have anywhere from two to ten that could possibly retire.”

Member Greenleaf asked if Roney is looking at having another Fire Academy. Roney replied, “We currently don’t have funding for another academy. We would love to have another academy but we’ve got to get funding for that.”

Member Rice asked how much a fire academy would cost. Kim Coffman will follow-up, via email, with the cost history of running the fire academy.

The Public Safety Study final recommendation draft has been reviewed by the Norman Fire Department and sent back to Matrix with additional information that the Fire Department finds lacking and pertinent to their study. Another review of the draft will occur before it's presented to City Council.

Member Greenleaf asked if the Committee could review the Public Safety Study and make recommendations to Matrix prior to the study being presented to City Council. Staff did not have an answer for this.

Member Greenleaf also asked how the reinstatement of paramedic protocols "are working" at stations five and six. Roney said that it is going "very well" and that two paramedics are always on duty at station five and one paramedic is always on duty at station six. "We'll often have an advanced or intermediate (Emergency Medical Technician) at those stations as well." Roney said.

b) POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Major Chad Vincent gave the report. The Police Department has 172 commissioned officers; this includes 11 who are in training. The Department is considered fully staffed with 184 commissioned officers.

The SRO officer who was on medical leave has been fully released for duty and will report back to work on November 15, 2024. Vincent said it is expected that the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office will have five or six SROs working in Norman's elementary schools soon.

The Norman Police Department is preparing for the Norman Christmas Parade and a Christmas toy and diaper drive.

Norman Police Department's Master Police Officer Benjamin Gomez is one of four finalists for the Oklahoma Attorney General's Outstanding Officer of the Year Award.

Like the Norman Fire Department, the Police Department has also reviewed the Public Safety Study final recommendation draft. "I too have been trying to inform and educate Matrix, and share whatever data they need, to make some reasonable recommendations and responses," Vincent said. "Once they get things right on the fire side, we are going to converge back together and come forward with that finalized study. We're going to get what I believe is a really good study with some really cool recommendations and some visioning for the future of our city from a public safety standpoint; but, it's not going to be the end all. We're going to have to take it and provide our own guidance, wisdom, and experience and start crafting and building a strategic plan."

c) DISPATCH UPDATES

Russell Anderson gave the update. Anderson stated that there has been a lot of radio programming taking place. He is currently fully staffed, but a 20-year veteran to Dispatch will be resigning to take a traveling dispatcher position. Anderson is still working with the University of Oklahoma to get the quality assurance, Artificial Intelligence program working.

d) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CENTER (ECOC) UPDATES

Major Brent Barbour gave the update. The ECOC's completion date, which includes final punch list items, is slated for December 31, 2024. The Vehicle Storage Facility is framed and enclosed. It is believed that this facility will be completed in January 2025. Barbour conveyed how pleased he is with the technology aspect of the ECOC. "It's mind blowing how easy and functional it is," Barbour said. "So much so, that we have other agencies coming in and asking, 'How do we do that with ours?'" The University of Oklahoma's (OU) 911 system is now integrated into the ECOC's system and vice-versa. One feature that this has allowed is OU's live camera feeds to be accessible in real time to the Norman Police Department. "We have really, really good networking that has opened the door to not only other agencies locally, but when we went to New World several years ago - that opened doors to network with other New World agencies around the metro," Barbour said. The City of Yukon and the City of Edmond are two towns that utilize the New World network. This allows these cities to also run their operations from the ECOC and NPD to run their operations from Yukon and/or Edmond if necessary. "You can basically co-locate people or relocate people and it would all work, out in the field. Nobody would know the difference," Barbour said.

4. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF 2025 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Member Rice made a motion to approve the 2025 Schedule of Meetings which was duly seconded by Member Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee 2025 Schedule of Meetings

5. ESTABLISH TOPICS FOR THE DECEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING

The meeting topics will remain the same for the December 12, 2024 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Kim Coffman added, "The sales tax that we received in November is really for through the end of September. With football season still going on, there's still a change that we could see a big increase in December's sales tax because it will really be for the month of October."

Chair Price announced that she would not be at the December 12, 2024 meeting and that Member Greenleaf would be the acting Chair in her place.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Rice made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Price, Chair
Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee