CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Special Meeting of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5:00 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 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Holman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT
Mayor Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 2 Jacy Deck
Councilmember Ward 3 Robert Bruce
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Trey Kirby
Councilmember Ward 6 Kyle Steele
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT THE ROBIN HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL.

   Public Works Director Scott Sturtz discussed the school's request for pedestrian crossing improvements at Robin Hill Public School. Staff determined that a midblock crosswalk was not recommended due to the roadway's 50 mile per hour speed limit, limited visibility near the hill, and safety concerns for students. Temporary measures, including additional signage and cones, were implemented to improve visibility and guide pedestrian movement. Staff identified a longer-term solution involving ADA-accessible sidewalks connecting the school to the existing stop-controlled intersection and crosswalk. The estimated cost is approximately $100,000, and the project ranked 43rd out of 52 sidewalk projects due to its lack of connection to other sidewalks.

   Councilmembers discussed student safety, drivers failing to stop, potential speed-limit changes, and opportunities to improve visibility during school and after-hours events. Council also asked about grant funding through ACOG, potential cost-sharing with the school or church, and the project's priority among school-related sidewalk

Item 1, continued:

improvements. Staff agreed to review speed-study options, determine whether school-zone flashing signals could operate during school events, and provide a ranking of school-related sidewalk projects.

Council supported keeping the sidewalk project in the City's program and exploring grant opportunities and potential partnerships to help fund construction. Staff agreed to compile the requested information and return to Council at a future study session.

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2. DISCUSSION REGARDING CREATING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDIES AND POSSIBLE FUNDING STRATEGIES.

Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney, led the discussion on establishing an ad hoc committee to review the Fire Department's facilities study and the forthcoming Police Department needs assessment and recommended priorities and potential funding strategies. Options discussed included general obligation bonds for capital improvements, a public safety sales tax for staffing and operations, or a combination of funding sources. The committee could also consider related future needs, including Animal Welfare, Emergency Management, and information technology infrastructure, and evaluate funding timelines and potential election dates. The proposed committee would consist of nine members and meet approximately monthly for one year, with flexibility to meet more frequently if needed.

Councilmembers discussed the committee's scope, membership, timeline, and need for regular updates to Council. Comments emphasized reviewing the studies comprehensively before setting priorities, considering capital improvements and staffing needs separately, evaluating bond and sales-tax options, and accounting for related community needs and future public safety requirements. Council also discussed the importance of identifying a timeline for recommendations that could support a future election.

Council generally supported creating a nine-member ad hoc committee to review the needs assessments, evaluate priorities, and recommend potential funding strategies. Staff will prepare a resolution establishing the committee, provide Council with information on prior Public Safety Sales Tax expenditures and project costs, and share potential election dates to help guide the committee's work.

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3. CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES, TITLE 25 § 307(B)(3)&(4) TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE LITIGATION REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE 36TH AVENUE BOND PROJECT PHASE THREE, FROM INDIAN HILLS ROAD TO MOORE CITY LIMITS AND TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 668 EAST LINDSEY.

   Motion to adjourn out of the Special Session and convene into Executive Session was made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 5 Kirby.

   Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Deck, Councilmember Ward 3 Bruce, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Kirby, Councilmember Ward 6 Steele, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

   The City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m. Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager; Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney; Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney; Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney; and Mr. Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works were in attendance at the Executive Session.

   Motion to adjourn out of Executive Session and reconvene the Special Session made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery

   Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Deck, Councilmember Ward 3 Bruce, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Kirby, Councilmember Ward 6 Steele, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

   The Executive Session was adjourned out of and the Special Session was reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

   The possible litigation regarding the acquisition of right-of-way in connection with the 36th Avenue Bond Project Phase Three, from Indian Hills Road to Moore City Limits and the possible sale of real property located at 668 East Lindsey was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Stephen T. Holman