CITY OF NORMAN, OK

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/10/2026

REQUESTER: City Council

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, Deputy City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2627-15 UPON FIRST READING BY TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AMENDING SECTIONS 2-318, 2-319, AND 2-320 OF THE NORMAN CITY CODE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD, ENSURING WARD-SPECIFIC REPRESENTATION, EXPANDING SPECIFIED EXPERTISE FOR A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS, AND ADDING TO THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council Business and Community Affairs Committee recently discussed possible changes to the Economic Development Advisory Board ("EDAB"). Changes in composition were discussed to increase membership and ensure ward representation, while maintaining existing expertise requirements for a majority of the membership. City Council further discussed such changes at its Conference on October 27, 2026, and directed the ordinance move forward with some minor modifications.

DISCUSSION:

In order to achieve the goal of ensuring each ward is represented, while also allowing current members to serve out the remainder of their terms, Ordinance O-2627-15 increases the membership of EDAB temporarily from 7 to 11 and requires members be appointed from each Ward, as well as one at-large member. In order to qualify for a ward specific appointment, the appointee must be either a resident of the ward, or the owner or manager of a business located in the ward. If a qualified candidate from an unrepresented ward is not identified within 45 days of the vacancy on the Board, the Mayor may appoint another qualified candidate from outside of the ward to fill the vacancy. On August 13, 2027, three terms will expire and the total number of members on the Board will be reduced automatically from 11 to 9. Seven of the members must have expertise in economics, business, finance, law, policy analysis, community development, small business ownership or other relevant experience.

Other changes to the ordinance include the addition of the review and recommendation of Economic and Risk analyses related to proposed TIF projects, and updating the reference to the Norman Economic Development Coalition to the Cleveland County Economic Development Coalition to accurately identify the ex-officio representative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance O-2627-15 on Second and Final Reading.