



**CITY OF NORMAN, OK**  
**CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,  
OK 73069  
Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 4:00 PM

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## MINUTES

The City Council Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024, at 4:00 p.m. and notice of the agenda was posted at 4:00 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting was posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heikkila called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### PRESENT

Chairman Mayor Larry Heikkila  
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman  
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

### ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball  
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya  
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle  
Ms. Shaakira Calnick, Internal Auditor  
Ms. April Doshier, Food & Shelter Director

### AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 1: PRESENTATION OF EMERGENCY SHELTER STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 2024.

Ms. April Doshier, Food and Shelter Director, gave the monthly report for August 2024. The shelter was full every night and it has been a slow month moving people out. Norman Housing Authority is not issuing vouchers right now, grants have run out and staff is looking to program "Partners" to help out.

One guest moved into Food and Shelter (F&S) housing, with the support from F&S funds.  
29 of the 103 guests reported having a physical disability  
12 report having a chronic health condition  
10 guests on average, turned away per night (does not include people with animals)

Councilmember Dixon asked about the number of people who have dogs, causing them to not be able to stay at the shelter. Ms. Doshier said 83 rooms were rented for people with animals, some of the rooms having double occupants.

Councilmember Holman said the report shows 103 unique guests and asked if less people are reserving a bed? Ms. Doshier said yes, with some people choosing to stay only a few days, while others find housing alternatives on their own.

Councilmember Holman asked if the HMIS system has the capability to track the guests and what is the demographics of the people? Ms. Doshier said 17 people are in the 30-50 age range, 17 in 18-30 age range, with two still attending Norman Public Schools and are picked up on occasion.

Councilmember Holman asked if the number of guests with income is still around 30%. Ms. Doshier confirmed this is correct and said the State of Oklahoma shows people are living precariously with the rising cost of housing. Norman is reported to have the loosest eviction requirements in the county and Norman landlord evictions lead to more unhoused.

Councilmember Holman said the cost of housing in Norman is lower than California and residents are moving to more affordable communities, eating up available housing stock in Norman. Chairman Heikkila agreed and said Norman housing is 11% lower than Oklahoma City, but 7% more than the average National housing costs.

Councilmember Holman said the availability of housing vouchers is limited and more of the voucher allotment is used by less people, as a larger portion of their housing cost is covered by the voucher. Norman's housing voucher funds come from the Federal Government on a formula based per capita.

Councilmember Holman said the Salvation Army representative will be down next week to see their building and kitchen area to support the capacity increase for possibly 100 people. He said the Salvation Army has been at their Norman location since 1968 and in Cleveland County since 1892, being the first shelter in Norman.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor