

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

June 22, 2021

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers on the 22nd day of June, 2021, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Foreman, Hall,
Holman, Nash, Peacock, Petrone,
Schueler, Studley, Mayor Clark

ABSENT: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT FOR THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT.

The City of Norman/Norman Utilities Authority water system includes approximately 41,000 water meters that measure water usage for water and sewer billing purposes. The majority of the meters (approximately 39,000) are manually read monthly by meter readers (physically remove the meter lid and read the current usage on the register) and 2,000 meters are read using automated meter reading (AMR) (remote sensor used to collect data while driving by in a truck or walking by without removing the meter lid). As the number of water meters increase, staffing levels would also increase to ensure that meters are read timely and accurately. Insufficient staffing levels can result in missed or inaccurate reads that impact customer service and billing revenues. Additionally, the majority of the water meters in Norman have aged past their expected useful life and warrant replacement.

Mr. Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer, provided an overview of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Assessment (AMI) and said the current state of water meter technology is such that AMI has become more common place and is being implemented by more municipal utilities. With AMI, meters would be read remotely using cellular infrastructure on water towers (or additional towers if necessary) multiple times per day. He said AMI allows two-way communication between the customer's meter (water) and the utility and provides near real-time information about water usage.

Some of the benefits that will be realized include meter reads would occur regularly ensuring more accurate billing; customer service will improve since usage data will be more available to the customer and leak or usage alerts could be configured to notify the customer in a timely manner; aged meters will be replaced with new, more accurate meters; fewer bills will be estimated; and Staff would no longer be required to manually read each meter and could be used for other work efforts.

Mr. Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities, said staff is anxious to get this project underway and believes it to be a huge benefit to the utility. He said once the business model is complete; Staff will bring that report back to Council for next steps.

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Item 2, being:

CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES TITLE 25 § 307(B)(1) IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE CITY MANAGER AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 5 OF CONTRACT K-1819-146.

Councilmember Foreman moved that the Special Session be adjourned out of and an Executive Session be convened into in order to evaluate the City Manager as required by Section 5 of Contract K-1819-146, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Holman; and the question being upon adjourning out of the Special Session and convening into an Executive Session in order to evaluate the City Manager as required by Section 5 of Contract K-1819-146, a vote was taken with the following result:

Item 2, continued:

YEAS: Councilmembers Foreman, Hall,
Holman, Nash, Peacock, Petrone,
Schueler, Studley, Mayor Clark

NAYES: None

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the Special Session adjourned out of; and an Executive Session was convened into in order to evaluate the City Manager as required by Section 5 of Contract K-1819-146.

The City Council convened into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager, was in attendance at the Executive Session.

Thereupon, Councilmember Hall moved that the Special Session be reconvened, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Peacock; and the question being upon reconvening the Special Session, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Councilmembers Foreman, Hall,
Holman, Nash, Peacock, Petrone,
Schueler, Studley, Mayor Clark

NAYES: None

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the Special Session reconvened.

The Mayor said an Executive Session was held to evaluate the City Manager as required by Section 5 of Contract K-1819-146. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

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ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor