



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

MINUTES

The City Council Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room on the 12th day of December, 2024, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 2 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

OTHER STAFF PRESENT

Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 6 Josh Hinkle
Mr. Rick Knighton, Assistant City Attorney III
Ms. Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney II
Mr. Kevin Foster, Chief of Police
Ms. Jane Hudson, Director of Planning & Community Development
Ms. Whitney Kline, Administrative Tech IV
Ms. Shaakira Calnick, Internal Auditor
Mr. Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
Ms. Kathy Hammans, Administrative Tech III

AGENDA ITEMS

1. PRESENTATION OF EMERGENCY SHELTER STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024.

No report was given.

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2. DISCUSSION REGARDING CREATION OF AN ENTERTAINMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOISE ORDINANCE.

Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, provided an overview of the City of Norman Noise Ordinance and what constitutes a violation and/or disturbance of the peace and how the codes are enforced pertaining to noise violations.

Section 24-403 states "No person shall disturb the peace of another by playing or creating loud or unusual sounds".

A Noise Disturbance means any sound which annoys or disturbs reasonable persons with normal sensitivities, or which injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, hearing, peace or safety of other persons. (16-201)

Public loudspeakers: Using or operating a loudspeaker or sound amplifying equipment in a fixed or movable position or mounted upon any sound vehicle in or upon any street, alley, sidewalk, park, place or public property or transmitting music to any persons or assemblages of persons in such a manner as to violate Norman City Code (NCC) 16-205 or cause a noise disturbance unless a permit as provided by NCC 16-210 is first obtained.

When the police respond to the site of a noise complaint, they use reasonable expectations of people outside the entertainment area in order to determine if it is considered a noise disturbance.

One of the difficulties for Norman, in determining if a sound is a noise disturbance, is having staff qualified to take measurements in conformance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Using a sound level meter Type II or better and using the "A" weight scale, measurements must be taken for no less than five minutes and no more than fifteen minutes. The A-weighted scale de-emphasizes low and very high frequencies because the human ear is less sensitive to these quieter sound levels.

A noise variance permit can be purchased from the police department two weeks prior to an event being held outside normal allowable hours and could exceed the 15dB(A) ambient sound level.

A Special Event permit can be completed for any outdoor activity lasting 2+ hours, open to the public and expecting 1,000+ people over the course of the event or any film production. Applications for the special event permit are required to be submitted 90+ days prior to the event.

When enacting an Entertainment Overlay District, both § 24-403 (Disturbing the Peace) and Article 16-11 (Noise Control) must be considered.

Item 2. (continued) DISCUSSION REGARDING CREATION OF AN ENTERTAINMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOISE ORDINANCE.

Some possible adjustments that can be made to streamline the process could include, but not limited to:

1. Establish additional definitions – Indoor vs Outdoor Live Entertainment
2. Update Special Use for Live Entertainment
3. Introduce Outdoor Live Entertainment as Special Use.
4. Require a sound engineer to sign off on acoustics plan.
5. Consider provision for mixed-use areas to allow indoor entertainment by right during upcoming Zoning & Subdivision updates.
6. Make sure Noise and Overlay requirements do not conflict.

Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning and Community Development Director, asked if the designation of Entertainment District is to eliminate a business having to come to Council when opening a bar or venue to request a special use permit. Ms. Hudson also asked if the Downtown area is the biggest concern for the committee and would special use be included in C2 and C3 so business' in these areas do not have to apply for a special use permit for a bar or live entertainment venue.

Councilmember Holman said they do not want to see a business lose its designation because of ownership changes. Things need to be put in place in order to protect business owners from penalty and possible closure should ownership change or new neighbors move into the area.

Councilmember Holman said the two main goals at this time would be Campus Corner and the downtown.

Ms. Hudson will work on and bring recommended code changes back to the committee for further review.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor