



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 08/19/2022

REQUESTER: Cameron Brewer

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, OR POSTPONEMENT OF A REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER/GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AND THE NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO SIGN A PETITION FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF NORMAN AND THE NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

BACKGROUND:

The creation of a Business Improvement District ("BID") for the Downtown Norman area has been discussed informally over the last several years. Earlier this year, the Downtowner's Association appointed a committee that has been working diligently over the last number of months to finalize a proposal to create a BID for the downtown area that would provide enhanced maintenance, including trash pickup, power washing, street furniture, landscaping, and seasonal plantings; marketing, including festival coordination and management, advocacy for downtown specific issues and a more robust social media presence. It would also provide management, giving property owners a single point of contact for a wide variety of issues, and improvements that could include additional street furniture and completion of the lights across Main Street.

Under Oklahoma law, BID's can be created by the City for these purposes, when the City receives a petition for a BID signed by the owners of record of more than one-half of the area liable to be assessed under the proposal. Once a petition has been received with the requisite signatures, the City Council sets a public hearing and votes whether to create the district after said public hearing. Once the District and the assessment roll is adopted, the City assesses each property owner for its assessment to fund the activities of the BID. The proposal for a Downtown BID was presented to City Council at its Study Session on August 16, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Norman, the Norman Municipal Authority ("NMA") and Cleveland County own over 40 parcels within the proposed BID district. In July, the County voted to sign the petition supporting the creation of the district, contingent upon the City's signature. The committee of the Downtowner's Association has approached the City/NMA and asked that the City and the NMA also sign the petition.

RECOMMENDATION:

This action, if approved, would authorize Darrel Pyle, as the City Manager for the City of Norman and as the General Manager for the NMA, to sign a petition for both the City and NMA. Staff is forwarding such request for Council/Trustee consideration.