



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, retaliation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Breea Clark
Councilmember Ward 1 Brandi Studley
Councilmember Ward 2 Lauren Schueler
Councilmember Ward 3 Kelly Lynn
Councilmember Ward 4 Lee Hal
Councilmember Ward 5 Rarchar Tortorello
Councilmember Ward 6 Elizabeth Foreman
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Matthew Peacock

1. REVIEW OF ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR COUNCILMEMBERS AND MAYOR SHOULD EXPIRE ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH IN WHICH A RUNOFF ELECTION IS HELD OR SCHEDULED TO BE HELD.

The Charter Review Commission unanimously recommended to change the beginning and end date of terms such that a new term would begin (and the prior term end) on the first Tuesday following certification of the election results for the new term and to move to three year terms for Councilmembers and a four year term for the Mayor. At the Special Session of August 3, 2021, Council rejected the proposal as written to allow for further discussion by Council.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the amendment as proposed.

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2. REVIEW OF ARTICLE II, SECTION 22, TO CONSIDER ALLOWING THE OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBER CREATING THE VACANCY TO APPOINT HIS OR HER SUCCESSOR, UNLESS SUCH VACANCY HAS BEEN CREATED DUE TO REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AS A RESULT OF PROCEEDINGS BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, OR WHETHER TO DELETE LANGUAGE ALLOWING COUNCIL TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR AND INSTEAD REQUIRE A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FILLING SUCH VACANCY.

The Charter Review Commission unanimously recommended to clarify that Council can either appoint someone to fill a Council vacancy or call a special election. Language also recommended to eliminate confusion about appointments being for the remainder of the term only. At the Special Session of August 3, 2021, Council rejected the proposal as written to allow for further discussion by Council.

Councilmembers were hesitant to put this in the Charter and thought an ordinance or policy might be better. Consensus was not to send this forward as a Charter amendment.

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3. ARTICLE XIII, RECALL OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE LANGUAGE SHOULD BE MODIFIED.

The Charter Review Commission unanimously recommended changes to Article XIII to address potential timing conflicts with existing elections, ensuring the Clerk has adequate time to review signed petitions, and incorporating state law where appropriate in light of *In re: Petition to Recall Ward Three City Comm'r Ezzell*, 2021 OK 5. The CRC also recommended to add a publication requirement in advance of any recall election in accordance with State law. At the Special Session of August 3, 2021, Council rejected the proposal as written to allow for additional Council discussion.

Councilmembers Lynn and Tortorello felt like the percentage of signatures should be linked to votes cast at the last election.

Councilmember Holman said he would like to see information from others cities to compare.

Councilmembers Foreman and Studley was not in favor to lower the percentage because it would not be the same in every ward.

Consensus of Council was to provide additional information from other cities to a future study session.

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4. ARTICLE XVI, SECTION 2, OF THE CHARTER TO REQUIRE THE CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A VOTE OF THE ELECTORATE TO INCREASE CITY UTILITY RATES UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

The Charter Review Commission unanimously recommended to require Staff to prepare a rate study for each utility annually and requiring Council to submit a rate increase for one or more utilities at the next Council election, and make provision for situations where an additional rate increase may be needed to meet an unexpected need. At the Special Session of August 3, 2021, Council rejected the proposal as written to allow for additional Council discussion.

Mayor Clark said voter fatigue is real and felt that Council should be able to have a certain percentage of increase with a vote of the people, which still protects the voters from large increases without a vote. Councilmembers discussed a percentage based on CPI or other means. Councilmembers asked for more information from other cities back to Council at a future study session.

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5. RESOLUTION AS FOR REVIEW TO CONSIDER ADDING LANGUAGE TO THE CHARTER TO REQUIRE A VOTE OF THE ELECTORATE FOR APPROVAL OF A TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICT OVER \$5,000,000.

The motion voted on by the CRC was to recommend the electorate vote on all Sales Tax Increment Finance Districts and the vote tied at 5-5. At the Special Session of August 3, 2021, Council rejected the proposal as written to allow for additional Council discussion.

Some Councilmembers supported requiring a vote of six councilmembers to approve a Tax Increment Finance District, but there was not consensus to send this forward as a Charter amendment.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor