



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Study Session of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM, and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 3 Robert Bruce
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Brandon Nofire
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager

Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney

Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney

Mr. Anthony Purinton, Assistant City Attorney

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works

Ms. Jamie Meyer, Interim City Clerk

Ms. Jane Hudson, Director of Planning and Community Development

Mr. Clint Mercer, Chief Accountant

Ms. Kimberly Coffman, Budget Manager

Mr. Joseph Hill, Street Program Manager

Mr. Tim Miles, City Engineer

Mr. Nate Ellis, Public Finance Law Group

Ms. Rachel Freeman, City Care

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION WITH BOND COUNSEL REGARDING TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPLICABLE STATE LAW PROVISIONS AS THEY RELATE TO THE CITY'S PLANNED VOTER PROPOSITIONS REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND THE STREET MAINTENANCE BOND PROGRAM AND CONSTRUCTION OF A HOMELESS SHELTER.

Mr. Nate Ellis, Bond Counsel with Public Finance Law Group, provided an overview of the technical and legal requirements for issuing general obligation (GO) bonds under Oklahoma law. He explained the difference between Article X, Sections 26 and 27 bonds, including voter approval thresholds, and discussed ownership requirements for bond-funded projects. Mr. Ellis reviewed limitations related to leasing, project identification requirements, and expenditure thresholds. Councilmembers asked questions regarding sidewalks, prior bond programs, and long-term ownership and disposition of City-owned facilities. No action was taken.

2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STREET MAINTENANCE BOND PROGRAM (ORDINANCE O-2526-29)

Mr. Scott Sturtz, Public Works Director, presented the proposed five-year Street Maintenance Bond Program for 2026–2031. He reviewed the purpose of the program, project categories, and street selection methodology, including use of pavement condition data and visual inspections. Mr. Sturtz noted that the program renews an existing tax and has resulted in significant improvements to overall street conditions citywide. Discussion included funding projections, preventative maintenance strategies, coordination with ODOT frontage roads, and flexibility within the bond program. No action was taken.

3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S DUE DILIGENCE AND ONGOING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SHELTER (ORDINANCE O-2526-36).

Mr. Anthony Purinton, Assistant City Attorney, provided a detailed overview of the City's multi-year efforts to address homelessness, including Point-in-Time (PIT) data, prior shelter operations, and extensive site evaluations for a permanent shelter. He reviewed the City's engagement of Homebase for strategic planning and the identification of a need for a year-round, low-barrier, housing-focused shelter. Ms. Rachel Freeman with City Care discussed shelter operations, housing navigation outcomes, partnerships with local service providers, medical respite services, and funding considerations.

Council discussed due diligence, community engagement, operational models, risk mitigation, and long-term sustainability. No action was taken.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE TRANSIENT GUEST ROOM TAX (ORDINANCES O-2526-32 AND O-2526-33)

Mr. Jason Olsen, Parks and Recreation Director, and Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney, presented the proposed increase to the Transient Guest Room Tax and the inclusion of RV stays. They reviewed potential revenue distribution scenarios involving Visit Norman, the Norman Arts Council, Parks and Recreation, and public art funding. Discussion included comparisons to other municipalities, impacts to tourism and quality of life, and timing of the proposed ballot measure. No action was taken.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER (ORDINANCES O-2526-34 AND O-2526-35)

Ms. Kathryn Walker presented proposed City Charter amendments related to council term commencement dates and additional qualifications for the City Auditor position. Council discussed ballot placement, potential amendments to the ordinances, voter considerations, and election timing. Council discussion included concerns about voter fatigue and having all of the proposition questions on one page. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor