

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

May 3, 2022

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a study session at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 3rd day of May, 2022, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT:

Councilmembers Foreman, Holman,
Lynn, Schueler, Studley, Tortorello,
Mayor Clark

ABSENT:

Councilmembers Hall and Peacock

Item 1, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FYE 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM BUDGET.

Mr. Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician, said tonight a budget review for FYE 2023 will be presented to Council along with the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for FYE 2024 through FYE 2027. Council was previously updated on funded projects and discussed Council priorities on November 16, 2021; and new projects were discussed on February 15, 2022.

Ms. Huckabaa highlighted all funds included in the CIP Budget as follows:

Special Purpose Capital Funds

- Public Safety Sales Tax Fund (PSST)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund
- Special Grants Fund
- Room Tax Fund
- Public Transportation and Parking Fund
- Capital Fund (Pay-As-You-Go or PAYGO)
- Capital Fund (General Obligation Bonds)
- NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax Fund
- Park Land and Development Fund
- University North Park Tax Increment Finance (UNPTIF) District Fund
- Arterial Road Recoupment Fund
- Center City Tax Increment Finance District Fund

Enterprise Funds

- Water Fund
- Water Reclamation Fund
- Sanitation Fund
- Sewer Maintenance Fund
- New Development Excise Tax Fund

Item 1, continued:

Sources of revenue for all funds in FYE 2022 through FYE 2023 include Grants – 0.49%; Community Park Fee – 0.72%; User Fees – 21.40%; Capital Improvement Charge – .93%; Sewer Maintenance Rate – 5.74%; Sewer Excise Tax – 1.94%; Capital Sales Tax – 30.99%; Tax Increment Financing – 0.00%; Public Safety Sales Tax – 2.53%; NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax – 7.63%; Room Tax - 0.10%; Bonds – 28.47%; and Private – 0.00% for total revenues of \$43,235,610.

Expenditures for all funds in FYE 2022-2023 include Capital Outlay – 11.15%; Maintenance of Existing Facilities – 0.61%; Personnel and Services – 3.92%; Street Maintenance – 18.17%; Transportation – 12.29%; Buildings and Grounds – 9.37%; Parks and Recreation – 18.46%; Water Reclamation – 7.68%; Sanitation – 2.76%; Stormwater – 4.68%; and Water – 10.92% for total expenditures of \$43,235,610.

Mr. Huckabaa said the Capital Improvements Fund (CIF) was established in 1976 to account for capital projects funded by capital sales tax receipts, general obligation bond issues, or specific matching funds, i.e., private and reimbursement. He said these projects support services that do not have dedicated special revenues like Enterprise Funds. Those projects relating to Enterprise Funds funded with fees and charges or special revenue sources are accounted for in their respective Enterprise Funds. He said 70% of one percent (0.7%) of sales tax is set aside for capital improvements for the Capital Fund and those approved projects for construction with this funding are accounted for in the CIF.

The capital sales tax guidelines to allocate revenue includes existing facility maintenance – 5%; general contingency – 7%; Capital Outlay – 27%; street maintenance – 25%; and other projects and debt service – 36%.

Mr. Huckabaa highlighted the status of the Capital Fund as follows:

- Capital Fund PAYGO
 - FYE 23 estimated available for new projects is a negative (\$3,393,406)
 - FYE 24 projected available for new projects is a negative (\$500,485)
 - FYE 25 projected available for new projects is \$1,731,238

FYE 2023 proposed Capital Outlay includes the following:

- General Fund
 - Computer Replacements - \$264,700
 - Fleet Replacements - \$2,155,485
 - Department requests including furniture replacements, various traffic signal/display replacements, body camera system, mosquito equipment upgrade, and time clocks - \$1,307,369
- Public Safety Sales Tax Fund
 - Fleet Replacements - \$287,792
 - Computer Replacements - \$4,000

Item 1, continued:

FYE 2023 proposed Capital Outlay, continued:

- Westwood Fund
 - Department requests including golf cart replacements and mower attachments - \$85,507
- Public Transportation and Parking Fund
 - Fleet Replacements - \$625,000
 - Cleveland County Courthouse Parking Pay Stations and Additional Cash Lock Boxes - \$32,448
- Enterprise Funds
 - Computer Replacements - \$8,000
 - Fleet Replacements - \$3,238,515
 - Department requests including a mixer, pumps, hoses, polycarts, and dumpsters - \$761,888

Significant projects underway in FYE 22/23 include:

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Compliance and Monitoring Plan Implementation, Year Five - \$300,000;
- Lake Thunderbird TMDL Data Analysis and Plan Update, Years One through Five - \$270,531;
- Fire Station 9 – finishing miscellaneous small items/Fire Administration Building renovation – 85% complete;
- Engineering Design Criteria Update and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Review, Phase II - \$265,000;
- Traffic Management Center - \$3,300,000;
- Vehicle Wash Facility - \$1,800,000;
- Downtown Transit Center - \$1,200,000; and
- New Bus Stops Long Range Plan - \$160,000

Councilmember Holman asked Staff for a future update on the TMDL Plan.

Projects under construction in FYE 22/23 include:

- Municipal Complex Renovations - \$9,971,465;
- 36th Avenue N.W. Utility Relocation - \$1,433,000;
- I-35 and Robinson Street West Side - \$5,300,000 (includes ODOT match - complete);
- Classen Boulevard Sidewalks - \$229,296;
- Flood Avenue Sidewalks, Gray Street to Acres Street - \$250,000;
- Imhoff Road Bridge Emergency Repair Project - \$1,945,806.17 (substantially complete);
- Porter Avenue Streetscape - \$4,134,170;
- James Garner Avenue, Phase II - \$6,640,000;
- Gray Street Two-Way Conversion - \$4,816,000; and
- Constitution Street Multimodal Path - \$1,145,459.

Item 1, continued:

Councilmember Schueler asked if the Imhoff Creek Phase I Project is in the FYE 23 Budget and Mr. Shawn O’Leary, Director of Public Works, said no, but Imhoff Creek, Phase I from the bridge south to Highway 9 is in the five-year plan.

Mr. Huckabaa highlighted the 2021 Street Maintenance Bond Program that includes Classen Boulevard Urban Asphalt, Grover Lane Urban Reconstruction, and Franklin Road Rural Asphalt. He said the Street Maintenance Bond Program is a five-year \$27,000,000 program approved by voters on April 6, 2021.

The I-35 and Robinson Street West Side University North Park Tax Increment Finance District (UNPTIF) Project will include new westbound turn lanes, new eastbound lane just east of the bridge, new eastbound lane terminating at right turn lane, and shifting the intersection 225 degrees eastward. The total cost is \$6,125,207 with \$2,113,151 from UNPTIF funds and \$4,012,056 federal funds. Construction began in April 2021, and completed in April 2022.

Mr. Huckabaa highlighted the East Alameda Street Bond Project and 2012 Transportation Bond Program and said the project is fully funded with federal funds. Funds to complete the project are available in the 2012 Transportation Bond - \$1,085,000; 2016 Street Maintenance Bond Surplus Funds - \$2,452,000; and 2021 Street Maintenance Bond Program - \$216,480. He said construction will begin in April 2022.

The 36th Avenue N.W: Tecumseh Road to Indian Hills Road 2012 Transportation Bond Program widens two miles of roadway from two-lane to four-lane; installs new traffic signals at 36th Avenue N.W. and Franklin Road and 36th Avenue N.W. and Indian Hills Road; adds Stormwater Improvements and continuous sidewalks and accessibility; and improves access to Ruby Grant Park. The construction budget is \$17,800,000 and water line relocation will be completed in Fall, 2022, but construction is pending due to a delay in federal funds.

Mr. Huckabaa highlighted the 2019 Transportation Bond Program as:

- Porter Avenue and Acres Street - \$3,361,210 estimated cost - \$3,361,210 bond funds (complete); Traffic Management Center - \$3,366,000 estimated cost - \$3,000,000 federal funds secured - \$366,000 bond funds;
- Porter Avenue Streetscape - \$4,134,000 estimated cost - \$2,772,440 federal funds secured - \$1,361,740 bond funds;
- Gray Street Two-Way Conversion - \$3,468,240 estimated cost - \$1,765,853 federal funds secured - \$1,702,387 bond funds;
- James Garner Avenue: Acres Street to Duffy Street – bond budget - \$4,853,440 – other costs to be determined;
- Jenkins Avenue: Imhoff Road to Lindsey Street – bond budget - \$9,601,000 – other costs to be determined; and
- Constitution Street: Jenkins Avenue to Classen Boulevard bond budget - \$2,643,260 – other costs to be determined.

Item 1, continued:

The Porter Avenue Streetscape 2019 Transportation Bond Program is funded by General Obligation (GO) Bonds and a federal grant. Improvements include decorative lighting; pedestrian and ADA improvements; decorative concrete sidewalks; new bus stop; placemaking gateways; and landscaping. Construction is scheduled to begin in Fall 2022 and completed in Fall 2023 with an estimated total cost of \$4,124,170. This project will also provide landscaping at the new Public Transit Center.

The James Garner Avenue, Phase II, from Acres Street to Flood Avenue is a NORMAN FORWARD Project with funding from NORMAN FORWARD funds and a federal grant of \$4,825,733. Improvements include decorative lighting, new bridge over Robinson Street, extension of Legacy Trail, and landscaped median. Construction is scheduled to begin Fall 2022 and completed in Fall 2023 for total estimated cost of \$6,639,760. Robinson Street bridge aesthetics are estimated to cost \$215,500 and public art in the proposed traffic round-a-bout is estimated to \$200,000.

The Gray Street Two-Way Conversion Project is funded by GO Bonds and a federal grant and includes converting Gray Street to two-way traffic; pedestrian and ADA improvements; signalized intersection at James Garner Avenue; and railroad crossing enhancements. Construction is scheduled to begin January 2023 and completed in Fall 2023 for total construction costs of \$4,134,170.

Upcoming projects by ODOT along State Highway 9 include:

- Improvements to 24th Avenue East to 36th Avenue East – four lane divided urban section - completed;
- 36th Avenue east to 72nd Avenue East – project completed;
- Little River Bridge – completed;
- 72nd Avenue East to 108th Avenue East – four lane undivided rural section – begins in August 2021 to be completed in August 2022;
- 108th Avenue East to 156th Avenue East - four lane undivided rural section to begin in 2025;
- 156th Avenue East to Tecumseh Road – four lane undivided rural section to begin 2026-2027; and
- 24th Avenue West to 24th Avenue East – six lane divided section (unfunded).

The City has to be part of the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to receive federal funding. Approximately \$20 million is available each year from Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), but there is a lot of competition for this funding. Federal funding from ACOG is guaranteed for the first two years, then Staff must reapply for project funding and although Norman has been highly successful in obtaining funding in the past, the competition has increased over the past few years and no single government can receive more than 56% of the total funding. The City secured \$2,909,505 in FYE 2023, expected to secure \$8,640,307 in FYE 2024, and \$13,275,782 in FYE 2025.

In the City Vehicle Replacement Program, the City replaced 29 units in FYE 2019 - \$2,045,471; 36 units in FYE 2020 - \$1,991,083; 27 units in FYE 2021 - \$2,147,635; 34 units in FYE 2022 - \$2,179,732; and will replace 16 units in FYE 2023 - \$2,155,465. Mr. O'Leary said the City has about 150 vehicles needing replacement, but are only replacing 16 due to the inflationary costs of

Item 1, continued:

new vehicles. He said a true vehicle replacement program would cost \$6,000,000 annually and the City has never been able to budget those funds.

Proposed recurring sidewalk projects from the Capital Projects Fund in FYE 2023 include Sidewalk Program for Schools and Arterials - \$80,000; Sidewalk Accessibility Projects - \$30,000; Citywide Sidewalk Projects (50/50 repairs) - \$100,000; Downtown Area Sidewalk Project - \$50,000; Sidewalks and Trails - \$120,000; and Horizontal Saw Cut Program - \$40,000 for total expenditures of \$420,000.

Recurring proposed CIP in FYE 2023 includes Capital Outlay - \$3,727,554; Street Maintenance - \$2,305,377; Maintenance of Existing Facilities - \$285,800; Stormwater Drainage Maintenance - \$2,025,000; Personnel - \$1,371,521; Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Audit Adjustments - \$100,000; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Compliance and Repair - \$386,000; Bridge Maintenance - \$750,000; Driveway Repairs - \$10,000; Street Striping - \$100,000; Traffic Calming - \$50,000; Community/Neighborhood Improvements - \$100,000; Building Maintenance Mechanical/Electrical - \$50,000; and Geographical Information System (GIS) update - \$145,000 for total expenditures of \$11,408,252.

Councilmember Schueler asked about the status of the proposed Bridge Maintenance Bond Program and Mr. O'Leary said Staff is ready to present information to Council that will consist of a \$45,000,000 Bridge Maintenance Program involving 16 to 18 bridges needing critical care. He said half of the projects would be replacements and half would be repair/maintenance.

Proposed FYE 23 Capital Budget amendments include Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Contribution - \$182,654; Land Use and Transportation/Stormwater/Public Safety Studies - \$1,500,000; Miller Historic District Driveways, Approaches, Gutters, Curbs, Sidewalks - \$360,000; Walking Trail connecting Oakhurst Drive and Woodcreek Drive to Walmart - \$300,000; and Historical Markers - \$30,000.

Councilmember Foreman said Council and the City is supposed to improve the quality of life for residents and neighborhood sidewalks are a huge issue. She would like to budget \$500,000 for a sidewalk between Porter Avenue and Hamden Avenue on Rock Creek Road. She said children are walking to school without a sidewalk making this a safety issue.

Councilmember Schueler asked if the heat and air unit and anesthesia machine for Animal Welfare is in the budget and Mr. Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance, said that is an upcoming amendment from FYE 2022 and will be on Council's agenda next month.

Councilmember Holman said Council discussed building a new Police Department building or updating the current building. He said something improving the existing parking lot could be done right now and Mr. Francisco said that project is also on the list of General Fund (GF) amendments coming forward.

Center City TIF Fund FYE 2022 and FYE 2023 include Pattern Zoning - \$100,000, Urban Design and Implementation Plan - \$100,000, and Legacy Trail Lighting - \$300,000.

Item 1, continued:

PSST Fund Projects underway in FYE 2022-2023 include Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with a budget of \$16,500,000 with \$9,500,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and \$7,000,000 from PSST. The EOC will be approximately 19,900 square feet and fully “hardened” against severe weather. The project costs include design, project management, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), and Architecture and Engineering (A&E) services. Design work is underway and groundbreaking is anticipated to take place this year and is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2024.

The PSST fire apparatus replacement schedule consists of Elevated Platform truck in FYE 2016 - \$1,105,943; Fire Engine in FYE 2017 - \$523,853; Fire Engine in FYE 2018 - \$622,079; Pumper/Tanker in FYE 2019 - \$724,974; Pumper/Tanker in FYE 2020 - \$735,974; Air and Light Unit/Public Education in FYE 2021 - \$800,000; Fire Engine in FYE 2022 – \$760,000 budgeted; Fire Engine/Staff Vehicle in FYE 2023 - \$800,000 budgeted; and Ladder Truck in FYE 2024 - \$1,800,000 budgeted.

NORMAN FORWARD future projects include New Neighborhood Parks - \$1,300,000; Lease Payments for Griffin Park - \$80,000 annually (\$2,400,000 total); Canadian River Park - \$2,000,000; New Trail Development throughout Norman - \$4,000,000; and Saxon Park Development - \$2,000,000.

Councilmember Schuler asked for an update on the Canadian River Park and Mr. Jason Olson, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the project is scheduled at the end of the NORMAN FORWARD projects list. He said the land was originally going to be donated; however, the property owner passed away and Staff is unsure if that pledge is still viable. He said the City will re-engage with the family once things have settled down.

Mr. Pyle said Staff will be presenting information to Council regarding a Tribal Celebration site and improvements to Saxon Park in the near future.

NORMAN FORWARD Projects currently underway include Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) (to include a Sports and Human Performance Center funded by Norman Regional Health System (NRHS) and Senior Wellness Center (southeast corner of Norman Regional Hospital Porter Campus).

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, “City of Norman Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Program Budget and FYE 2024-2027 Capital Improvements Plan”

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Item 2, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO FORWARD TO AN AUGUST 2022 ELECTION.

Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney, said the Charter Review Commission (CRC) was appointed in the summer of 2019, to review specific items requested by members of City Council. The CRC

Item 2, continued:

met monthly with meetings open to the public and held quarterly hearings. They also submitted quarterly reports to Council. Council is required to vote whether to send each recommendation to a vote of the people on August 23, 2022. Ballot language cannot exceed 200 words with an adequate summary of what voters are being asked to change and has to be about an eighth grade reading level.

On August 3, 2021, Council voted on whether to send each recommendation to a vote of the people and additional discussion was requested and held on August 24, 2021, regarding Term Expirations – consensus reached to move forward; Appointment Process – consensus reached to send forward clarifying language and look at an adopted policy or ordinance for appointment selection process; Recall of Elective Officers – more discussion needed; and Utility Rates – more discussion needed.

On January 4, 2022, additional discussion was held on Recall of Elected Officers – consensus to move forward; Utility Rates – consensus to move forward with revisions; and Reapportionment – consensus to move forward with revisions.

Ms. Walker said First Reading will be held May 10, 2022, with Second Reading on May 24, 2022.

Ms. Walker highlighted proposed recommendations of the CRC to move forward to a vote as:

Stipend Increase for Mayor and Councilmembers

Currently, City Council earns no more than \$100 per month or \$1,200 annually.

The CRC is recommending that beginning with the 2025 term, the Mayor's stipend be increased to \$8,100 to \$11,700 annually and Councilmembers' stipend would increase to \$5,400 to \$7,800 annually. Additional increases would be reviewed and determined every three years by a five-member Compensation Commission based on the consumer price index, the City's overall budget, and other relevant factors. Any future increases would become effective the following Councilmember/Mayor term. If Council votes to send this proposal to voters, the actual amount within the recommended range would need to be determined prior to drafting ballot language.

Ms. Walker said dates were intended to ensure sitting officials were not voting on an increase that would impact current terms, therefore, dates may need to be updated depending on when the election is set.

Mayor and Councilmember Term Increase/Expiration

Current Charter language has a two-year term for Councilmembers with odd wards elected in odd-numbered years and even wards elected in even-numbered years and they will take office the first Tuesday in July after the election.

Item 2, continued:

Mayor and Councilmember Term Increase/Expiration, continued:

The CRC is recommending a three-year term for Councilmembers beginning in 2023, and in 2024, terms will begin on the first Tuesday following certification of the election results. In the years in which the Mayor's term expires (beginning in 2028), the names of the candidates for Mayor shall be placed upon the ballot.

Beginning with the 2025 terms, the Mayor's stipend would increase to \$8,100 annually and Councilmembers' stipend would increase to \$5,400. Additional increases would be reviewed and determined every three years by a five member Compensation Commission based on the consumer price index, the City's overall budget, and other relevant factors. Dates were intended to ensure sitting officials were not voting on an increase that would impact their current terms.

Councilmember Foreman said she prefers being seated as soon as possible following the election rather than waiting until July. Councilmember Holman said waiting until July allows new Councilmembers to meet with City officials to learn about each department and how each department operates prior to taking office, which is helpful.

Councilmember Schueler said if Councilmembers serve three year terms, when would the Mayor election be held and Councilmember Holman said there has been discussion that each term would be three years so the first year would be even number wards election, then the next year would be odd number wards election, and the Mayoral election would always fall in between and be on its own ballot.

There was consensus among Council to leave language as proposed and let voters decide.

Candidate Residency

Current Charter language states that in order to be eligible, candidates must have been duly registered to vote in Norman for six months prior to the date of the election and reside in the ward for which they are filing on the date of their filing.

CRC recommendations that candidates must reside in the ward for which they are seeking election six months prior to the election date. If ward designation changes within the six months prior to the election date due to reapportionment, then the six month requirement is waived (must still live in the ward boundaries at time of filing).

There was consensus among Council to send recommended language changes to a vote of the people.

Filling Vacant Council Positions

Current Charter language allows vacancies in office to be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of Council and if a vacancy is not filled within 60 days, Council shall call a special election to fill the vacancy for the expired term.

Item 2, continued:

Filling Vacant Council Positions, continued:

The CRC is recommending clarifying language to match historic practice that appointments to fill a vacancy be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Council agreed to submit the proposed recommendation for a vote.

City Auditor

Council requested the CRC review the creation of a City Auditor position in the Charter. The CRC recommended mirroring language from the City Manager's position outlining the duties of the City Auditor. The Auditor would advise Council and the City Manager of operational and financial audits relating to the efficient and economical operation of the City government and other related matters as may be required by Council or the City Manager. The language provisions shall not be deemed to prevent the City Manager, with the approval of a majority of Council, from employing private auditors as it is deemed necessary.

Councilmembers Schueler, Holman, Foreman, Studley, Tortorello, and Lynn said they would like to move forward with Charter language for a City Auditor position.

Appointment and Removal of City Attorney by City Council

Under current Charter language, the City Attorney is appointed by the City Manager subject to the approval of a majority of Council. The City Attorney may be removed by the City Manager.

The CRC is recommending using the same type of language for appointment of the City Attorney that is currently used for the City Manager appointment language so that position would become an at-will position appointed by a majority of Council and could be removed by five votes of Council.

Councilmember Tortorello felt there were no positive benefits to this proposal, which he believes could potentially politicize the position.

Council agreed to submit the recommendation to voters.

Norman Regional Hospital Authority Board Membership

Current Charter language provides for nine board members appointed by the Mayor with approval of Councilmembers. The hospital board exercises general control over the health system, establishes hospital policies, accounts for funds, and appoints a hospital administrator. The Norman Regional Hospital Authority (NRHA) Board must file an annual budget with the City Clerk.

The CRC is recommending an increase to 11 board members with at least nine members being Norman residents and no more than two may be appointed from other communities that have a Norman Regional Hospital (NRH) Facility.

Item 2, continued:

Council agreed to move forward with the recommendation.

Recall of Elective Officials

Current Charter language states elected officials are not eligible to be recalled until six months from the date of taking office. The petitioner is given 30 days to circulate the petition, must use separate petitions for separate officials, and must explain reason(s) for recall at the top of the petition. The City Clerk has 30 days to review and validate the petition(s).

The CRC recommends using a form provided in State law for referendum petitions and the petition should provide a simple statement (“gist”) for recall. The City Clerk will have 30 days to review if one petition to recall a ward representative is filed, 60 days for a Mayor recall, and 90 days if multiple petitions are filed.

Current Charter language requires publication by the City Clerk notifying the public that a recall effort has begun, a recall petition is being circulated, and giving the deadline for signatures on the petition. The City Clerk must also mail notice to the affected official(s).

The CRC recommends adding a publication requirement in advance of any recall election in accordance with State law.

Current Charter language states that if the petition is sufficient, it must be presented to Council and Council must call a recall election. The recall question must be the only question on the ballot and if multiple officers are recalled, there is a potential for inability of the City to conduct business, fill vacancies by appointment, or call elections.

The CRC is recommending deleting language requiring the recall be the only question on the ballot and adding language allowing an affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining seated Councilmembers if more than four elected officials are recalled.

Current Charter language provides a process for declaring a vacancy after a successful recall, but the timing requirements do not comply with State election laws.

The CRC recommends simplifying language and tie to State election laws.

Council agreed to move recommended language forward to a vote.

Utility Rate Elections

Current Charter language states any increase in utility rates within the City’s control must be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection.

The CRC is recommending Staff provide a rate study of each utility annually and Council to submit rate increase for one or more utilities (based on rate study) at next Council election. The rate study has to be reviewed by an appointed Utility Rate Commission with eight ward representatives and

Item 2, continued:

Utility Rate Elections, Continued:

one at-large representative. Proposed language allows Council to impose an up to three percent (3%) rate increase without submission to the voters for approval.

There was consensus among Council to submit proposed language to a public vote.

Reapportionment

Current Charter language states that Council will appoint the Committee within 30 days of release of new precinct information for Norman by the Election Board. The Committee has 180 days from the release of the new precinct information to complete the redrawing of the ward boundaries. Council action is limited to 1) adopt the Committee's recommendation; 2) reject the Committee's recommendation; or 3) send the recommendation back to the Committee for further consideration.

The CRC is recommending the Charter be amended to modify the deadlines and process for the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee to review census data and reapportion wards to be more similar to the State's timeline for modifying precinct boundaries, and to limit Council action on the recommendations of the Committee to either 1) adopt proposed ward boundaries without modification, 2) reject proposed boundaries, or 3) refer the proposed boundaries back to the Committee for further consideration. The CRC recommends the Election Board appoint the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee after the release of new Norman precinct information.

Prior to voting on a resolution, the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee shall hold a public hearing. At least five votes shall be required for passage of the resolution, and the vote on passage shall be by roll call and shall be entered in the minutes of the Committee. A map showing the wards and their boundaries shall be appended to the resolution.

Council agreed to forward this recommendation to a vote of the people.

Mayor Clark asked if Council agrees on moving all nine proposals forward to a vote and they said yes.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Charter Amendments – First Reading May 10, 2022, Second Reading May 24, 2022, and Election Date – August 23, 2022"

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Mayor Pro Tem

