



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Conference of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, will meet in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, April 28, 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.

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, relation, 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 call 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

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 3 Robert Bruce
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager
Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of parks and Recreation
Ms. Jamie Meyer, Interim City Clerk
Ms. Lisa Krieg, CDBG Grants Manager
Mr. Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
Mr. Tim Miles, City Engineer
Mr. Brent Barbour, Police Department

Mr. Clint Mercer, Finance Director
Mr. Tim Powers, I.T. Director
Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning and Community Development Director
Mr. Travis King, Fire Chief
Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney
Ms. Kimberly Coffman, Chief Accountant/Assistant Finance Director
Mr. Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager
Ms. Chris Mattingly, Utilities Director

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED FYE 2027 CITY OF NORMAN BUDGET - GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS.

Presented by: Clint Mercer, Finance Director; Darrel Pyle, City Manager; Kimberly Coffman, Chief Accountant/Assistant Finance Director

Mr. Mercer presented an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2027 budget for the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds, describing the budget as a comprehensive financial and policy document that reflects Council priorities, operational needs, and strategic planning. The proposed budget totals approximately \$302 million across all funds and follows a structured, award-winning format designed to ensure transparency and accountability.

Staff reviewed the budget development process, legal requirements, and timeline for adoption, including public hearings and future study sessions. The budget must be balanced in accordance with state law and City Charter, with a requirement to maintain a positive fund balance.

Discussion included key financial policies such as reserve requirements, including a 3% operating reserve, 1% emergency reserve, and a separate rainy day fund. Staff emphasized a focus on preserving fund balance for FYE 2027.

Revenue projections reflect conservative estimates, including approximately 1% growth in sales tax due to recent flattening trends. Expenditures were held relatively flat, with no cost-of-living adjustments or merit increases included. Personnel costs remain the City's largest expense, accounting for approximately 70% of General Fund expenditures.

Staff also reviewed major revenue sources and expenditures, noting that public safety represents the largest expenditure category. Additional discussion included impacts of rising healthcare and prescription costs, which are contributing to a projected subsidy to the risk management fund.

Special Revenue Funds discussed included the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund, Room Tax Fund, Westwood Fund, Public Transportation Fund, and other grant and dedicated funds. Staff highlighted ongoing obligations, funding allocations, and revenue changes, including the recent voter-approved increase to the room tax rate.

Item 1, continued

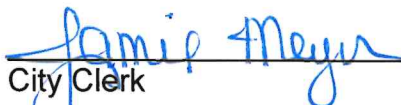
Council discussed revenue constraints due to flat sales tax growth and the resulting challenges in funding personnel, particularly in public safety. Discussion included staffing needs for fire and police services, capital versus operational funding limitations, and long-term sustainability of service levels.

Council also discussed healthcare cost increases, personnel turnover, and the impact of budget decisions on employee compensation and service delivery. Additional discussion included funding priorities, potential future revenue strategies, and the importance of maintaining essential services while balancing budget limitations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor