



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster Ave., Norman, OK 73069
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 4:00 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, 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 contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5446, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Linda Price
Committee Member Kenny Orr
Committee Member Kyle Hurley
Committee Member Mark Emerson
Committee Member Russell Rice
Committee Member Ann Gallagher
Committee Member Greg Gilkey

ABSENT

Committee Member Lea Greenleaf

OTHERS

Andrea Lewis, Comm. Systems Supervisor
Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
Dannielle Risenhoover, Administrative Tech. IV
Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
Major Chad Vincent, NPD
Major Brent Barbour, NPD
Battalion Chief Chad Roney, NFD
Bill Scanlon, Citizen

Chair Price called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2023

Member Gallagher moved to approve the December 14, 2023 Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes which was duly seconded by Member Gilkey. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee Minutes from December 14, 2023.

REPORTS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Kim Coffman gave the report. Revenues are approximately 6% below the budgeted target. Coffman attributes this to sales tax being about 5% behind and the City not receiving any of the Norman Public School (NPS) reimbursements for the School Resource Officer Program. Expenditure wise, the City had two payrolls in the month of December and departments are operating below budget. Coffman stated, "There were no major expenditures."

Items submitted for the record:

Financial Reports

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

3. MONTHLY UPDATES

a) FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Battalion Chief Chad Roney gave the report. Engine One, the newest in the fleet, has been in service for over a month. It is the City's first Sutphen built engine. Roney has been impressed with Engine One's build out and believes Sutphen to be a good company to utilize. Engine Three and the mid-mount aerial ladder are currently being built. It is expected that the mid-mount aerial ladder will take two years to build. Roney stated that on average, a fire apparatus lasts ten years and when replacement parts are needed, the City will scavenge parts from out of service units.

b) POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Major Chad Vincent gave the report. January 25 is the Police and Fire Chili Supper at Norman High School. The cost is \$8.00 per ticket and this is open to the public. Norman Police Department consists of 184 commissioned positions with 164 of those positions being filled. The next police academy starts January 26, 2024. Once the cadets graduate, Vincent believes the Police Department will be approximately 10 officers short of being fully staffed. This will allow veteran police officers to be placed in the four new School Resource Officer (SRO) positions. Final selections still need to be made on who will fill the new SRO positions. The candidates up for selection have all had "field time" and additional training.

c) DISPATCH UPDATES

Communications Systems Supervisor Andrea Lewis gave the report. Lewis stated that a lot of progress has been made on upgrading the mobile command post but the work is not yet complete.

There are four newly hired employees starting the Dispatch Academy in January. They are expected to complete the academy by March 8, 2024. This leaves four dispatch positions open. The City is already organizing an academy for these vacancies. "We are actually looking at purchasing A.I. (artificial intelligence) simulation for 911 calls. We had a demo last week and it was really neat. We're hopeful that that whole last week (of training) will all be simulation so when they get on the floor there's less of a learning curve, less hesitation on the phone," Lewis said.

City of Norman is still working on programming radios with City of Moore Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department. The City of Norman also continues to work with the University of Oklahoma (OU) in joining the City's computer-aided design (CAD) system. The University of Oklahoma has signed the contract for this merger and the push is to have the system live in March. City of Norman employees will train OU employees on the CAD system.

d) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CENTER (ECOC) UPDATES

Major Brent Barbour gave the report. The Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC) is expected to be completed in July 2024. This date is hinging on the availability of HVAC, specialized doors, windows, and technology products. The construction of the additional ECOC storage facility is not included in this completion date. Barbour stated that the request for funding of the ECOC storage facility will be listed in the police budget proposal for fiscal year 2025, as the request for funding hasn't gained traction with City Council.

Barbour highlighted some emergency response goals as well as his concern for the forecasted, below zero, temperatures. Member Emerson asked if there was a number on the homeless population in Norman. Member Rice stated, "It is somewhere between three and five (hundred). It's very hard to gauge. We don't do much work on the west side of town, past the highway and there's a lot of folks over there these days - a lot more than there used to be. So we don't know exactly."

4. ESTABLISH TOPICS FOR THE February 8, 2024 MEETING

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Member Hurley asked, "When is the Public Safety Survey supposed to be done?"

Major Vincent replied, "They are all the way through the data collection part. They're weighing the numbers at this point. They've just locked down some comparison cities that they're going to benchmark us against and after that, I think you'll see the more visible pieces of the survey. They're still saying May-ish, maybe June."

"I ask that just because I think one of the things that this committee probably needs to prepare ourselves for is, depending on the recommendations, I feel like we probably need to start preparing ourselves for the possibility of a PSST three conversation occurring. There's not money in the general fund to cover all the new on-going positions and stuff," Hurley stated.

Citizen Scanlon commented, "It's not just man power or staffing. There are facilities and equipment that are a part of this too. A new fire station for example, drives staffing. There are a lot of moving parts to this."

Hurley said, "The one thing I'm kinda curious about is the 0.125% (sales tax) that goes to the county. My understanding from Anthony (City of Norman Director of Finance) is that there isn't any other city entity that is using sales tax to pay the county for something. I'd be curious to know what the county is doing with that 0.125% because if that could roll somehow into a PSST three then it's not raising anybody's sales tax dollars."

Kim Coffman replied, "It's for the jail."

Major Vincent said, "You bring up a good point. For the first time, in a long time, I think public safety is going to get benchmarked against really intentional communities as we pivot and move forward as a city; from the SEC discussions, economic growth, transportation changes that may or may not happen here, as we look at the cities that are similar to who we are and where we are going - the numbers definitely look different. Less fire stations, less fire fighters, less police officers, so, to your point, public safety's going to have to be a discussion and how to pay for it."

ADJOURNMENT

Member Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Rice. The motion passed unanimously.



Linda Price, Chair
Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee