



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL RETREAT - SPECIAL SESSION
Embassy Suites, Boomer B Room, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK
73069
Friday, August 15, 2025, and Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 9:00 AM

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session at Embassy Suites, Boomer B Room, located at 2501 Conference Drive, on Friday, August 15, 2024, at 9:00 AM, and Saturday, August 16, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Embassy Suites, Boomer B Room, located at 2501 Conference Drive, and on the City website at least 48 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 contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5446, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING 2025-2026 PRIORITIES, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR CITY COUNCIL INCLUDING UPDATES FROM STAFF.

Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, provided an overview regarding the use of social media and City issued iPads and cell phones. He also reviewed the executive session confidentiality requirements and Council's fiduciary obligations when taking action of behalf of the City of Norman, the Norman Utilities Authority, the Norman Municipal Authority, the Norman Tax Increment Finance Authority, and the Norman Economic Development Authority.

Updates

Mr. Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities, provided updates on the Meter Infrastructure Program, the City's DEQ Discharge Permit, regulations on biosolids and PFAS.

Assistant City Attorney Kathryn Walker provided an update on the Council Handbook and asked for feedback from Council before final adoption by resolution.

Mayor Holman highlighted the process for filling the vacancy in Ward 5. He said the Ward 5 Candidate Selection Committee will be appointed at Tuesday's meeting on August 19th. He said applications for the vacancy are now being accepted through the City's website through August 22nd. He hoped the Committee would be able to move through their process so that the replacement could take their oath of office and be seated on September 9, 2025.

City Manager Darrel Pyle provided updates on the Griffin property and a potential Parking Authority.

Mr. Lawrence McKinney, Cleveland County Economic Development Coalition (CCEDC), provided an overview of past successes as the Norman Economic Development Coalition (NEDC). He said primary job expansion, primary job attraction and entrepreneurial growth and incubation is what NEDC/CCEDC does for communities.

Mr. McKinney presented information and changes in CCEDC'S governance structure, going from the NEDC to the Cleveland County Economic Development Coalition. He said the expansion was due to a subpar internal model (not competitive), restrictive private sector funding, and the lack of industrial zoned property in Norman.

He also highlighted the basics of what would be covered in the new contract. City Council has not approved a new contract with CCEDC to date.

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CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES TITLE 25 § 307(B)(4) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION ASSOCIATED WITH NORMAN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY ET AL. V. FLINTCO ET AL., CASE CJ-2024-1343 JV AND NORMAN HOSPITALITY, INC., V. CITY OF NORMAN, CASE CV-2025-2015.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Special Meeting was adjourned out of and an Executive Session was convened at 3:17 p.m. Mr. Darrell Pyle, City Manager; Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney; Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation; Ms. Brenda Hall, City Clerk; and Ms. Jamie Meyer, Deputy City Clerk; Ms. Phoebe Barbour and Ms. Jennifer Christian, outside legal counsel, were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Peacock, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Executive Session was adjourned out of and the Special Session was reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

Pending litigation associated with Norman Municipal Authority et al. v. Flintco et al., Case CJ-2024-1343 JV and Norman Hospitality, Inc., V. City of Norman, Case CV-2025-2015. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

Potential Ten Year Election Schedule

Councilmembers discussed developing a ten year election schedule and identified the following items that would need to come before the voters in coming years and potential dates.

Charter Election – Auditor, Swearing-In date, Council pay, and Tax Increment Finance (TIF) threshold – potentially Spring 2026

Street Maintenance Bond Program – April 2026

Regional Transit (RTA) – potentially November 2026

Public Safety Sales Tax increase – possibly 2026 or 2027

NORMAN FORWARD II – potentially Fall 2027

Sewer Rate increase – potentially 2028

Water Rate increase – potentially 2028

Sanitation Rate increase - potentially 2028

Street/Transportation Bond Program - 2029

Stormwater

Effective November 1, 2025, municipal elections are limited to February, April, June, August, and November in 2026. Council also discussed conducting surveys on various elections prior to calling them.

The meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. to be reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on August 16, 2025.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025.

FYE 2026 Goals

Carryover from FYE 2025

- Blue lights in parks
- Crosswalk hawk systems
- Evaluation of all City fees
- Entertainment Overlay District & Noise Ordinance update
- Environmental Incentive Programs
- Guest tax on RV parks (move forward)
- Homelessness-permanent housing
- Homebase Plan review
- Micro grants for place making
- Minimum lot sizes
- Park impact fees
- Parking Tax (Fee)/Parking Authority – garages
- Pet Friendly cities – refer to Animal Welfare Oversight Committee
- Pre-Approved Design Catalog
- Public Safety Study implantation program
- Refine Griffin Study
- Reinvest Norman – livable cities
- Small developer incentives – redevelopment of vacant store fronts [policy for EDAB]
- Short term rental updates – limit number per person, etc.
- Sobering Center (Porter Campus) (Redrock)
- Tree Ordinance updates (Tree Planting Program and funding)
- Tourism initiatives – agri-tourism Lake Thunderbird
- Tomorrow Fund – grants to low income families for property maint. (portion of Code violation fees) [PACE]
- Zoning Subregs update – remove 3 unrelated, parking maximum

New Goals

- 501C6 – CON as parent with other participants for flood plain services, BIDs, etc.
- Abolish Jaywalking laws – add pedestrian crosswalks
- Beautification fund
- Budget – lack of growth/rising expenses
- Council Meeting times
- Commercial Landscape Ordinance – address dead trees, etc.
- Community Land Trusts (parks)
- Deannexation of Ward 5
- Historic District incentives to promote mixed income individuals/owner occ.
- Homeowner Associations administration
- Incremental Development Alliance (handout)
- Infrastructure gap funding
- Land banking, food forestry/comm gardens vacant lots in floodplain

New Goals, continued

- Lindsey Water Tower Rehab
- Neighborhood Mobility Hubs – rideshare, recycling, library, etc.
- Norman Sports Commission growth
- Overtime correction
- Right sizing streets (emergency vehicles)
- Rural notification zones for zoning applications
- Senior Vulnerability Lectures at AWE
- Student Resource Officers contract update (evening events)
- Single Staircase buildings
- Stormwater Utility/Flooding
- Technical Committee for Zoning and Subdivision Regulations updates
- Trust Structures – Parking, Park and Public Safety
- Youth Council Recommendations

Policy - Staff to schedule as needed

- ADA sports facilities
- Affordable Housing (strong neighborhoods)
- Cedar Lane extension
- Center City TIF – release projects
- Council Handbook
- Griffin Soccer fields purchase
- Mental Health addiction/working with partners
- NORMAN FORWARD II
- Resurfacing Interstate Drive
- Revitalization of Lindsey between 12th Avenue SE and 24th Avenue SW
- Road diets / roundabouts – identify areas
- Shade canopies/sails in Berkley Park
- Shopping carts
- Sutton Urban Wilderness clean up
- Transit routes/long term growth

Mayor Holman thanked everyone for their participation and team effort in this goal setting session. He said the City Clerk will prepare a final report of the proposed goals and priorities to distribute to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor