



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL RETREAT – SPECIAL SESSION
NCED Conference Center & Hotel, Salon Room G-H, 2801 E State HWY 9,
Norman, OK 73071
Friday, July 24, 2026, and Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 9:00 AM

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session at NCED Conference Center & Hotel, Salon Room G-H, located at 2801 E State HWY 9, Norman, OK 73071, on Friday, July 25, 2026, at 9:00 AM, and Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the NCED Conference Center & Hotel, Salon Room G-H, located at 2801 E State HWY 9, the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 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 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 9:38 a.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 2 Jacy Deck
Councilmember Ward 3 Robert Bruce
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Trey Kirby
Councilmember Ward 6 Kyle Steele
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

OTHERS PRESENT

Darrel Pyle, City Manager
Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager
Jamie Meyer, City Clerk
Rick Knighton, City Attorney
Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING PRIORITIES, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR CITY COUNCIL INCLUDING PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES FROM STAFF RELATED TO COUNCIL PROTOCOL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NEW LEGISLATION, CITY COUNCIL HANDBOOK, MEETING TIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

Council participated in a facilitated discussion with City staff regarding priorities, goals, objectives, and operational matters for the upcoming year. Staff provided information and responded to questions on a variety of topics related to Council procedures, communications, economic development, legislative changes, meeting practices, and public safety.

Council reviewed protocols and expectations related to communications, including the use of social media by elected officials and communications conducted through City-issued and personal devices. Discussion included the use of cell phones and iPads for City business, records retention and open records considerations, and the importance of maintaining appropriate separation between personal and City communications.

Staff also reviewed procedures related to executive sessions, including the appropriate use of executive sessions, confidentiality requirements, and Council expectations regarding information discussed during executive session. Council discussed the importance of maintaining confidentiality and following established procedures for matters authorized by law to be discussed in executive session.

The City Council Handbook was reviewed as a resource for Councilmembers regarding Council protocols, meeting procedures, communications, legal requirements, and other responsibilities associated with serving on the City Council. Staff discussed proposed updates to the handbook based upon the discussion. A resolution formally adopting the updated City Council Handbook will be placed on a City Council agenda in August.

Council discussed economic development and the City's approach to business recruitment, retention, redevelopment, and incentives. Discussion included the importance of establishing clear and consistent processes for evaluating economic development opportunities and considering the financial and community benefits associated with proposed projects.

Staff provided an update regarding recent state legislation affecting municipalities. Discussion included the Oklahoma Building, Administration, and Licensing Development (BUILD) Act, which will become effective November 1, 2026, and its potential impacts on City development and permitting processes. Staff discussed the need to evaluate and prepare for operational or procedural changes necessary to comply with the new legislation.

Ms. Phoebe Barbour, Attorney, Phillips Murrah, arrived and City Council agreed to pause this discussion until after the Executive Session to allow Ms. Barbour to present item two.

2. 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 TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION ASSOCIATED WITH OKLAHOMANS FOR RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ET AL. V. CITY OF NORMAN ET AL., CASE NO. CJ-2026-1059 MT.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Deck, Councilmember Ward 3 Bruce, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Kirby, Councilmember Ward 6 Steele, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Special Meeting was adjourned out of and an Executive Session was convened at 3:05 p.m. Mr. Darrell Pyle, City Manager; Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney; Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney; Ms. Jamie Meyer, City Clerk, and Ms. Phoebe Barbour, outside legal counsel from Phillips Murrah, were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn out of Executive Session and back into Special Session was made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 2 Deck, Councilmember Ward 3 Bruce, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Kirby, Councilmember Ward 6 Steele, Councilmember Ward 7 Blodgett, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Executive Session was adjourned out of and the Special Session was reconvened at 5:02 p.m.

The Mayor said the pending litigation associated with Flintco, Case CJ-2024-1343 JV and Oklahomans for Responsible Economic Development, Case CJ-2026-1059 MT, were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

Mayor Holman announced that the meeting would recess at 5:03 p.m. and reconvene in the same meeting room at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, 2026, to finish the discussion on item one.

The Mayor reconvened the Special Meeting at 9:03 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Item 1, continued:

Council discussed the scheduling and start times of Council study sessions, conferences, and committee meetings, including considerations related to Councilmember and public accessibility, staffing, meeting support, and potential operational impacts. Councilmember Blodgett requested that the meetings be moved to 5:00 p.m. to better accommodate her work schedule and those of other Councilmembers. Mayor Holman noted that individuals seeking election to City Council are generally aware of the established meeting schedules and expressed concern that changes to meeting times could impact future candidates. Following discussion, direction was given to the City Clerk to implement the requested scheduling changes, with the understanding that meeting times could be revisited in the future if necessary.

Council also discussed public safety as an ongoing priority, emphasizing police and fire services, staffing and resource needs, emergency response capabilities, and the importance of ensuring that public safety infrastructure keeps pace with community growth. As part of the discussion, Council reviewed a memorandum from Mr. Kevin Foster, Chief of Police, and Mr. Joel Chesser, Deputy Fire Chief, regarding the importance of providing emergency vehicle access points along the proposed turnpike. Such access could improve emergency response times, provide additional route options for emergency personnel, and offer broader transportation benefits to the community. Following discussion, the consensus of Council was to continue discussions with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority to obtain additional information regarding the recently proposed interchanges. Councilmember Kirby expressed opposition to continuing those discussions; however, the majority of Council supported further engagement with the Authority.

Throughout the discussion, Councilmembers identified priorities and areas requiring additional consideration or follow-up. Staff responded to questions and provided information regarding current City practices and initiatives. The discussion was intended to establish shared expectations, provide Councilmembers with information regarding City operations and procedures, and assist Council and staff in identifying priorities for the upcoming year.

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.

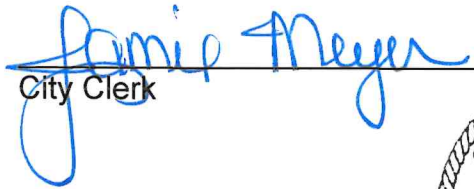
Items submitted for the record:

1. Confidentiality Agreement for Executive Session
2. Memo from Police and Fire
3. Council Goals and Priorities Report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

This Confidentiality Agreement between the parties signing below establishes that all information discussed, heard, or read in the Norman City Council Executive Session on July 24, 2026, will not be released, copied, discussed, or shared in any manner with any individual other than City Council or staff members that were present in the Executive Session. Breach of this Confidentiality Agreement may result in personal liability and potential violation of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act § 25-307; Executive Sessions.

I have read the above statement regarding confidentiality and agree to abide by it to the best of my ability.

Signed on July 24, 2026



Stephen Tyler Holman, Mayor



David Gandesbery, Councilor Ward 1



Jacy Deck, Councilor Ward 2



Robert Bruce, Councilor Ward 3



Helen Grant, Councilor Ward 4



Trey Kirby, Councilor Ward 5



Kyle Steele, Councilor Ward 6



Kimberly Blodgett, Councilor Ward 7



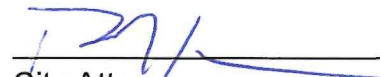
Scott Dixon, Councilor Ward 8



City Manager



Assistant City Manager



City Attorney



Assistant City Attorney



City Clerk



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Norman City Council
City of Norman
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

We, the undersigned public safety officials, are writing to outline key operational concerns related to limiting access to a single interchange at Highway 9 if the proposed turnpike is constructed. This letter does not express support for or opposition to the project; our responsibility is to provide clear guidance on public safety implications.

From an emergency response perspective, multiple access points are essential. Serious crashes, hazardous materials incidents, medical emergencies, and other critical events on controlled-access highways require rapid response and timely hospital transport. If only one interchange is available, responders may need to travel significantly farther to enter or reach the turnpike, creating delays that increase risk for both victims and responders. Incidents involving congestion, weather, roadway blockages, or simultaneous emergencies would amplify these delays. Longer emergency travel distances also elevate the likelihood of collisions involving emergency vehicles and the public.

Key operational concerns include:

- Increased police, fire, and EMS response times
- Delayed access to life-threatening incidents
- Reduced flexibility during roadway blockages or severe weather
- Longer mutual aid and multi-agency response routes
- Slower hospital transport for injured individuals
- Loss of redundancy if the Highway 9 interchange becomes unusable
- Additional access points would also support broader transportation and community benefits directly tied to public safety:
- Reduced traffic on major east-west streets, lowering congestion, decreasing roadway wear, improving air quality, and offering east-side residents a reliable northbound commuting option
- Improved access to Lake Thunderbird, east Norman commerce areas, and the University of Oklahoma. Alameda Street's designation in the Aim Comprehensive Transportation Plan aligns with these potential connections, and the University has noted interest in improved access north of Highway 9
- Enhanced emergency response and evacuation capabilities, including faster access to more parts of the city and reduced burdens on local streets, which may extend roadway life and delay expensive widening projects

Our recommendation is not about the turnpike's construction but about ensuring that, if built, its design supports the highest level of public safety. Multiple interchanges would

reduce emergency response times, increase redundancy, and provide community-wide transportation benefits.

We respectfully urge the Council to consider these long-term implications when evaluating access points along the proposed route. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Foster
Chief of Police, City of Norman



Joel Chesser
Deputy Fire Chief, City of Norman

COUNCIL GOALS & PRIORITIES 2026-2027

Final Report Submitted to City Council

TOP 3 PRIORITIES BY WARD	OVERALL RANKING	RANKING BY WARD AFTER RETREAT	ORIGINAL WARD REQUESTED
Implementing Parking Trust, Locations for Garages		4	1,4
Reduce Insurance Costs		1	1
Extend Bus Routes south in Ward 7		1	1
Affordable Housing			2
Stormwater Utility Rate		3,2	2
Central Library (resolve)		3,2	2
Homeless Shelter & Oversight	#2	8, 3,4,2,7	3
Economic Development Master Plan (Policy)	#3	5,8,4,2	3
Public Safety Data Transparency and Oversight		6	3,4
ADAPT Norman Program – Sustainability Plan		3,4	4
Water Security and Long-Term Sustainability		5	5
Equine Facility (find ways to grow revenue responsibly)		1,7	5,6,7
Public Safety Study/Ad Hoc Committee	#1	5,6,3,2,1	5,6
Hospital Access – Improvements to Tecumseh E/W traffic			6
Data Center – (policies) restrict large scale operations		5,6	6
Eliminate Personal Liability for Council with City Trusts		6	6
Extend Cedar Lane (west to Jenkins, Classen to Post Oak)		1	7
Lap Swimming at City pools (evenings) for those with disabilities/arthritis		7	7
Deannexation of Ward 5 from appx 60 th /72 nd /84 th		8	8
Policy on protecting Reed Ave and Downtown from encampments		8	8
Main Street 2-Way Funding		8,4	4
TIF Policy Reform		6	4
Encampment Ban		5	5

City Council Committee Assignments:

- 1st Thursday @ 4:00 p.m. - BACA – Dixon
- 2nd Thursday @ 5:00 p.m. - Oversight – Grant
- 3rd Thursday @ 5:00 p.m. - Finance – Blodgett
- 4th Thursday @ 5:00 p.m. - CPTC – Holman/Gandesbery (Sept)