



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069
Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room on the 12th day of January 2023, at 4:00 p.m. and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Councilmember Ward 3 Kelly Lynn, (Chair)
Councilmember Ward 2 Lauren Schueler
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Brandi Studley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
Mr. Rick Knighton, Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Lynn moved item number 2 to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 2: OVERVIEW/UPDATE OF PENDING LITIGATION AGAINST THE CITY OF NORMAN

Mr. Rick Knighton, Assistance City Attorney, presented the November 2022 City of Norman Pending Litigation Monthly Report to the committee.

- Two cases in the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.
- Two cases in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- One case in the Oklahoma Supreme Court
- One case in the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals
- Fourteen Civil cases in the Cleveland County District Court
- Seven condemnation cases in the Cleveland County District Court

Committee members asked that an update be provided to Council in Executive Session on the outstanding cases and possibly move for dismissal on some to reduce the list of open cases. Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney, said that lawsuits are included with the annual audit report listing legal exposures to the City of Norman.

Chairman Lynn asked that the below cases be included in the updates and discussion for possible closure and removal from the City of Norman's open cases.

- Wilkins v City of Norman – Workers Comp
- Thompson v City of Norman (Hospital)

FOP 2005 – Health Care Premium increases - Union sued the City of Norman even though the Department of Labor upheld the requirement for completed wage deduction forms from FOP members.

IAFF 2011 – case was for a determination on whether or not holiday pay is considered regular pay for fire fighter pension contributions.

ITEM 1: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S ROLE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PRIVACY MATTERS.

Mr. Rick Knighton, Assistance City Attorney, presented information on a proposed resolution and the City's role in Reproductive Health Privacy matters, giving background information on a proposed resolution for enforcement and restricting the use of City resources and personnel for reproductive health matters.

The purpose of the resolution is to state that law enforcement can not use public funds to store or catalog any report of an abortion, miscarriage or other reproductive healthcare act or provide information to any other governmental body or agency about the same, nor conduct surveillance, or collect information related to an individual or organization for the purpose of determining whether an abortion has occurred.

ITEM 1: (continued) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S ROLE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PRIVACY MATTERS.

City of Norman legal department has been unable to find a municipality that has passed this or a similar resolution limiting how City funds are used.

Mr. Knighton said anything the City of Norman does will only be symbolic and will have a lot of unintended consequences that outweigh benefits. If this resolution is passed by Council, it would be a violation of the City Charter and Codes that limit Council rule making directly governing employees, when the City Manager is designated as the head of city departments and the oversight of employees, as well as violation of Federal HIPPA regulations.

ITEM 3: WARMING SHELTER UPDATE

Councilmember Schueler asked for this item to be placed on the agenda in order to establish a process for regular reports from the contracted provider on Warming Shelter statistics.

No information was provided at this meeting, but Staff will contact the contractor to establish a monthly reporting process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk (Deputy)




Mayor