



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

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

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Study Session 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, February 17, 2026 at 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 3 Robert Bruce
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Brandon Nofire
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager
Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney
Mr. Scott Sturtz, Public Works Director
Mr. Chris Mattingly, Utilities Director
Mr. Clint Mercer, Chief Accountant
Ms. Kimberly Coffman, Budget Manager
Ms. Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager
Ms. Megan Phelan, Park Planner
Ms. Jamie Meyer, Interim City Clerk
Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning and Community Development Director
Mr. Rob Norman, Resident

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MONARCH SOCIETY GRANT HABITAT INSTALLATION, EDUCATION AND MURAL AT CITY HALL.

Ms. Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, presented information regarding a partnership with the Oklahoma Monarch Society, funded through the Kerr Foundation, for habitat installation, public education, and public art in Norman. She explained that Norman was one of only two cities selected for the program and that the project would expand upon the City's existing pollinator habitat and conservation efforts.

Ms. Loudenback reviewed plans for installation of native pollinator gardens at City Hall, including educational signage, community programming, and a mural by Oklahoma artist Rick Sinnett. She stated the project is intended to serve as a visible public demonstration site and to support broader education and environmental stewardship efforts. She also reviewed the anticipated timeline, including spring planting activities, community workshops, and fall programming.

Council discussed butterfly tagging, the use of native and drought-tolerant plants, long-term maintenance expectations, and opportunities for public participation. Councilmembers expressed support for the project and commended staff for their work.

2. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN ALLISON ET AL. V. MCCOY-POST ET AL., CASE NO. DF-122,946, AND SUBMISSION OF ORDINANCE NO. O-2425-2 TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY, OR ALTERNATIVELY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. O-2425-2.

Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney, presented an overview of the Oklahoma Supreme Court's decision affirming the district court's ruling regarding the referendum petition challenging Ordinance No. O-2425-2. He reviewed the remaining procedural steps in the case, including the deadline for filing a petition for rehearing and the issuance of the Court's mandate.

Item 2, continued

Mr. Knighton also addressed whether the City Council could independently submit the ordinance to a vote of the people. He explained staff's legal position that there is no statutory authority allowing the City to call such an election for this purpose. He reviewed relevant provisions of state law, the Local Development Act, and the City Charter in support of that conclusion.

Mr. Knighton further discussed the possibility of repealing the Ordinance creating the Tax Increment Finance Districts. He advised that while a future Council may repeal an Ordinance, doing so could expose the City to significant legal risk, including potential breach of contract and contract clause claims arising from the Economic Development Agreement. He also discussed potential litigation exposure, possible financial consequences, and concerns regarding overlapping obligations of Councilmembers serving as trustees of the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

Council discussed the Supreme Court ruling, the anticipated timing of final resolution of the litigation, prior examples involving tax increment financing, the authority to submit questions to voters by charter amendment, and the legal and financial risks associated with repeal or further action. Discussion also included the need to address amended deadlines under the Economic Development Agreement if the litigation concludes and the matter proceeds.

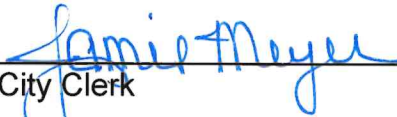
Mr. Rob Norman, resident, also addressed Council and offered a differing legal interpretation regarding repeal authority, voter submission, and potential litigation outcomes.

No formal action was taken.

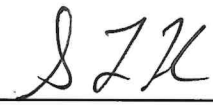
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk




Mayor