



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

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

Tuesday, August 08, 2023 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building on the 8th day of August, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heikkila called the Meeting to Order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 2 Lauren Schueler
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball
Councilmember Ward 6 Elizabeth Foreman
Councilmember Ward 8 Matthew Peacock

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM.

Chief Kevin Foster, Police Chief, said a recent State law created a pilot project for the State of Oklahoma for a \$50 million three year pilot program for safety in schools and approximately \$96,000 will be distributed per school district per year for three years with school administration taking their share off the top leaving \$90,000. He said the Norman Public School System (NPS) is recognizing they want to use these funds for additional SRO efforts, as school districts will be the recipient of the funds.

Item 1, continued:

Chief Foster said 17 officers would be needed to put an SRO in every school so a budget amendment would be needed to hire 17 officers over a three year period. The Cleveland County Sherriff's Office has stepped up to place an officer in every school while NPD goes through the hiring and training process. He said the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) provides four SRO's that are currently rotating through the schools. He said Cleveland County Officers will only provide security and written reports on incidents to NPD.

Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney, said NPS has generally been contributing half the costs for the SRO's and will continue to do so as long as their budget allows, but that will not be forever.

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager, said funding will be allocated from the State Budget to the school districts and each school district will use the funding in different ways to improve safety in schools and in this particular case, funding is anticipated to be used for SROs.

Councilmember Holman asked if County Deputies have SRO training and Chief Foster said yes, the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) is the program the County Sheriff's Office and NPD go through for SRO training.

Councilmember Holman asked the cost of overtime last year and Mr. Ali Jaffery, NPD Lieutenant/SRO, said \$150,000. Councilmember Holman said that could pay for one SRO.

Mayor Heikkila said NPS wants to hire six behavioral health counselors to be utilized in the elementary schools. He said NPS administrators recognize the outcomes at early intervention have the greatest likelihood of success in addressing the challenges some children may have.

Mayor Heikkila asked if Council wanted a budget amendment to hire 17 police officers and Councilmember Grant and Councilmember Holman said they support an interlocal agreement with Cleveland County, but would like more information on a budget amendment to hire officers.

Mr. Pyle said SRO discussion will continue next week in a Study Session and Staff will have more information for Council's review.

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2. CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES, TITLE 25 § 307(B)(4) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION IN THE CASE OF THOMPSON VS. NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL ET AL, CASE CIV-19-113 SLP AND POSSIBLE LITIGATION ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVIS KING VS. THE CITY OF NORMAN.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant.

Item 2, continued:

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 2 Schueler, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman

The City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 5:28 p.m. Mr. Rick Knighton, Assistant City Attorney, Mr. Winchell Gallardo, City Legal Intern, Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney, and Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager, were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 7 Holman, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant.

Voting Yea: Mayor Heikkila, Councilmember Ward 2 Schueler, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 7 Holman

The Executive Session was adjourned out of and the Special Session was reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

Pending litigation in the case of Thompson vs. Norman Regional Hospital ET AL, Case CIV-19-113 SLP, and possible litigation associated with Travis King vs. the City of Norman were discussed. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor