



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
NORMAN FORWARD SALES TAX CITIZEN FINANCIAL
OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING

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

Friday, March 14, 2025 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

The Norman Forward Sales Tax Citizen Financial Oversight Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session at 201 West Gray, Executive Conference Room, Norman, on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 3:30 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.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Andy Rieger
Board Member Alva Brockus
Board Member Andy Sherrer
Board Member Cindy Rogers
Board Member Linda Price
Board Member Zachary Simpson

ABSENT

Board Member Erik Paulson
Board Member Misty Grantham

OTHERS

Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
Jacob Huckabaa, Finance Technician
Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation
Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works
Dannielle Risenhoover, Admin. Tech. IV
Tim Miles, City Engineer

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2025

Member Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2025 meeting. Member Brockus duly seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rieger, Board Member Brockus, Board Member Sherrer, Board Member Price, Board Member Simpson

Voting Abstaining: Board Member Rogers

Hearing no objections to the approval of the minutes from January 10, 2025, the motion passed.

Items submitted for the record:

Forward Citizen Financial Oversight Board Minutes from January 10, 2025

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Anthony Francisco gave the report. He stated that the City is 0.85% above its projected Norman Forward Sales Tax and Use Tax revenue for the fiscal year; however, the combined Norman Forward Sales Tax and Use Tax revenue is still 2.37% below the original 2015 revenue projections. "We're closing the gap, but we'll continue to monitor and try to manage that," Francisco said. "We continue to compare ourselves to about eight cities across the state. We are at the lower end of average (for accrued revenue)." Francisco believes that the State of Oklahoma is doing a "pretty good job" of collecting the City Grocery Tax.

Board Members showed concern over having enough money to finish all of the scheduled Norman Forward projects as well as having to make cuts to some projects. Francisco reminded the Board of an early recommendation they made that advised the City to not add items to a project if the project was under budget. "That's been a recommendation that's been followed," Francisco said. "If you tally up the amount of money that's left in closed projects, it will be really close to \$2 million. If you hold to this, it could make up that deficit."

The Trails Project is the only major project taking place right now and affecting expenditures.

The City has been in negotiations with the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health regarding the purchase of Sutton Wilderness Park and Griffin Soccer Park. "The two appraisals are close, so we will be negotiating for a final number and a transfer of deeds to the properties in the near future," Francisco said. Six million dollars has been held in the General Fund for the purchase of these properties. "Remember that the money that has been paid out of the Norman Forward Fund applies to the purchase price," Francisco said. "We hope to be able to close this by the end of the fiscal year."

Member Price made a motion to approve the Financial Reports and Member Sherrer duly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Norman Forward Citizen Financial Oversight Board Financial Reports

3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Board reviewed Council's approval of Contract Number K-2425-38 between the City of Norman and Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC), LLC, for the Trae Young Family Foundation to be the retail partner and operator of the retail space inside the YFAC.

The Board reviewed Council's acceptance of the \$238,386.00 of improvements to the shell space of the retail store area inside the YFAC.

The Board also reviewed Council's reappointments to the Board of Appeals, Public Safety Oversight Committee, Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board, and the Social and Voluntary Services Commission. They specifically took note of the following reappointments to the Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board:

TERM: 02-25-25 TO 12-22-27: ERIK PAULSON WARD 2

TERM: 02-25-25 TO 12-22-27: ANDY RIEGER, WARD 4

TERM: 02-25-25 TO 12-22-27: LINDA PRICE, WARD 1

Items submitted for the record:

February 11, 2025 City Council Agenda Item #19

February 25, 2025 City Council Agenda Item #3

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

No Ad Hoc report was given.

5. PROJECT MANAGER REPORTS

Jason Olsen gave the update. Bluestem Park will be built near the Links at Norman apartment complex. It will consist of walking trails, a sand volleyball court, and playground. The park is expected to cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

The City of Norman Parks and Recreation Department is working on replacing the playground system at William Morgan Park. Climbing rocks will be an added feature to enhance the natural elements within the park.

City of Norman is working with Norman Public Schools to do a "land exchange" in conjunction with improving Lions Park. The land exchange will allow the City to place a playground in a more highly visible place as well as provide Norman Public Schools with more parking space.

The Griffin Park silos are primed and ready for the small murals to be painted on them. This artwork it is expected to be completed in spring 2025.

Olsen states that there are a few punch list items to finish at the YFAC; this includes the replacement of eight exterior doors. The City is holding about \$1.2 million of retainage from this project.

Chair Rieger asked Olsen how transferring ownership of the City of Norman, Irving Recreation Center and City of Norman Whittier Recreation Center to Norman Public Schools (NPS) would impact Norman Forward. Olsen replied that this "wouldn't really" affect Norman Forward due to the City "essentially abandoning it's programming at these centers since the YFAC opened". Low cost, after school programs will still be offered at the centers.

The construction at Saxon Park will focus on a playground, restrooms, a parking lot, and a small stretch of road. Olsen would like the park's small stretch of road to be built when the Public Works Department constructs the remainder of the proposed road that is currently being called "Centurion Parkway". Olsen would like to use money from the traffic and road improvements portion of the Norman Forward Fund to pay for the park's portion of the road construction. Director of Public Works Scott Sturtz explained that several years ago, Interim City Manager Mary Rupp signed an agreement with area property owners agreeing that the City would build

"Centurion Parkway". "We were going to go after economic development grants, also industrial access grants," Sturtz said. "Those have not been forthcoming and we have this outstanding obligation to construct this roadway." To save money on this project, the Public Works Department plans to use City crews to construct "Centurion Parkway" and Saxon Park's section of the road. Sturtz stated that this is going to cut down on overhead and the mark-up on materials; provide economy of scale; and save money to Saxon Park and to the overall budget of Norman Forward. "The only (roadway) cost that will go to Norman Forward will be from the property line of John Saxon Park (to Centurion Parkway). We will make that clear designation. We've already got those numbers pulled, we know what the quantities are and when we get the bids back we'll look what that is. We would not apportion any of those (Norman Forward) funds to the rest of the roadway in any way," Sturtz said. It is estimated that the cost of Saxon Park's portion of the road will be \$120,000 to \$150,000. Olsen would like this money to come from the Norman Forward traffic and road improvements budget rather than from the Norman Forward Saxon Park budget. "Without this we would have to find that extra \$120,000 to \$150,000 within that project; so, it would probably mean shrinking the playground area," Olsen said. The Board did not make a recommendation or vote on this.

Items submitted for the record:
Saxon Industrial Park Phase III Final Plat
John Saxon Business Park Project Aerial Map

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

The Board confirmed that their next meeting was May 9, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Brockus moved to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Price. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM.



Andy Rieger, Chair
Norman Forward Sales Tax Citizen Financial Oversight Board