

JOINT CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE/NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 2, 2012

The City Council Oversight Committee and Norman Election Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room on the 2nd day of May, 2012, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Dillingham, Kovach, Spaulding and Chairman Griffith

ABSENT: None

NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION: Members Allen, Flannery, Hilbert, Windes, Chairman Hardiman

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Roger Gallagher, Ward One  
Mayor Cindy Rosenthal  
Ms. Jeanette Coker, interested citizen  
Ms. Mary Francis, interested citizen  
Ms. Joy Hampton, The Norman Transcript  
Mr. Bobby Stevens, interested citizen

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Jeff Bryant, City Attorney  
Ms. Brenda Hall, City Clerk  
Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Assistant IV

Item 1, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATIONS FOR MAYORAL ELECTIONS.

Ms. Brenda Hall, City Clerk, she said had misinterpreted new State language regarding the maximum campaign contributions for mayoral elections. She said new regulations are determined by population. She said State statute limits contributions to \$1,000 per person and/or per family per candidate for municipal candidates in counties with less than 250,000 and \$5,000 per person and/or family per candidate in counties exceeding 250,000 population limits. She said the Ethics Commission has several booklets they distribute to notify candidates of changes in contribution language and the booklet she garnered the information from stated that contribution limits would be \$5,000 for counties with 250,000 population limits; however, the statute states counties or cities with over 250,000 population limits. She said Cleveland County has a population of more than 250,000 so she previously believed that would affect Norman's campaign limits. She said just before the meeting, it was brought to her attention by the Legal Department that the statute states municipalities would have to have a population of 250,000 as well as counties before being affected by the new regulations.

She apologized to the Oversight Committee and Norman Election Commission (NEC) members for the misinterpretation.

Item 1, continued:

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated April 26, 2012, from Brenda Hall, City Clerk, to City Council Oversight Committee and Norman Election Commission
2. Section 7.5-23, Campaign statement contents and preservation of records.
3. Pertinent excerpts from the Political Subdivisions Ethics Act

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Item 2, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

Councilmember Kovach said, in the past, there had been discussion regarding public financing of Council elections and he would like the City of Norman to consider that and have the NEC to review public financing. He said a lot of discussion about campaign contribution limits is about leveling the playing field. He said, for not much money, the City could fund candidates to have a minimal campaign so they can get their platform out to the public so the public can make informed decisions. Councilmember Dillingham agreed and said the NEC has brought that to Council's attention in the past. Ms. Hall asked if that is something the Committee would like the NEC to review this year and make recommendations and Chairman Griffith said yes. Chairman Griffith said he would like to know what funding options might be possible, i.e., where would the money come from and how would the money be regulated. Mayor Rosenthal said she did not believe public financing has worked well, but she would be happy to have the NEC review the subject. She said, in a lot of cases, candidates opt out more often than not.

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ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor