

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

July 25, 2012

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a study session at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 25th day of July, 2012, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ezzell, Gallagher, Griffith, Jungman, Kovach, Lockett, Spaulding, Williams, Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT: None

Item 1, being:

INTERVIEWS WITH WARD THREE CANDIDATES.

Councilmember Ezzell resigned his position as Councilmember for Ward 3 effective July 31, 2012. The remainder of the unexpired term for this Council seat extends to July 2, 2013. As directed by City Charter, any vacancy occurring on the City Council shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of City Council for a period extending until the next regular municipal election. Council received applications for appointment to fill the unexpired term through July 23, 2012. Five applications were received – Benjamin Carter, Robert Castleberry, Robert McCloy, Shawn Hook, and Renee Porter. Councilmembers interviewed each applicant and asked them the following questions:

1. Why are you motivated to serve as the Ward 3 Councilmember?
2. What do you see as the most important issues facing Ward 3 and the most important issues facing the City as a whole?
3. Working collaboratively with other Councilmembers is an important part of the job. How do you assess your ability to work with the current Council?
4. How do you see the role of a representative? Is it primarily to reflect the wishes of your constituents or to use your independent judgment?
5. Is Norman growing too rapidly, too slowly, or about right?
6. What other special experiences, professional or in the community, would you bring to the Council?

The applicants responded to the questions and expressed their gratitude for being part of the process.

Mayor Rosenthal said a meet and greet reception will be held on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. to afford citizens the opportunity to meet each of the candidates and provide feedback to Council prior to the formal appointment at City Council's regular meeting on August 14, 2012. Councilmember Kovach said he would prefer to have a special meeting the first week of August to complete the appointment process so that the selected candidate will have time to prepare for the August 14th Council meeting. Mayor Rosenthal said the City Clerk has indicated she will provide each candidate with an agenda book so they can study and prepare for the August 14th meeting should they be the candidate appointed. Mayor Rosenthal and Councilmember Jungman also indicated they would be out of town the first week of August and would prefer to wait until the August 14th meeting. Councilmember Ezzell felt it was not a big imposition for each of the candidates to prepare for the meeting and felt the appointment process could wait until August 14th. Mayor Rosenthal said there was a consensus of Council to make the appointment on August 14th at the beginning of the regular Council agenda and provide each applicant an agenda book.

City Attorney Jeff Bryant provided a memorandum outlining the nomination and appointment process that complies with the City's Charter, City Code, and Robert's Rules of Order, but said under Robert's Rules, Council could establish their own process by motion and approval. If the default process is chosen, nominations will come from the floor and do not require a second. Once the nominations are completed, if there are two or more, Council will proceed through the election process. Councilmembers will vote on each nomination. Councilmembers will be required to vote aye or nay on each candidate and the vote shall be recorded. If there is a tie on the majority, the process is repeated until there is a clear majority. Mr. Bryant reiterated Council may adopt a different process if it desires and any member can make a motion prescribing the method of nomination. The process should be outlined and adopted by majority vote of Council before the nomination process begins at the Council meeting.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated July 24, 2012, from Brenda Hall, City Clerk, to Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
2. Application from Benjamin Carter received July 16, 2012, with attachment, cover letter
3. Application from Robert Castleberry received July 17, 2012, with attachment, Qualifications of Robert M. Castleberry, CPA/ABV, CVA, CSA, CSRP, PFS
4. Application from Robert McCloy received July 18, 2012
5. Application from Shawn Hook received July 23, 2012, with attachment, resume
6. Application from Renee Porter received July 23, 2012, with attachment, resume
7. Memorandum dated July 25, 2012, from Jeff Bryant, City Attorney, to Mayor and Councilmembers

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor