

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

October 7, 2008

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a study session at 5:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 7th day of October, 2008, 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 Cubberley, Dillingham, Griffith, Kovach, Quinn, Thompson, Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT: Councilmembers Butler and Ezzell

PRESENTATION FROM MR. JOHN JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND MR. DOUG REX, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS, REGARDING THE OZONE FLEX PROGRAM.

City Manager Steve Lewis said Mr. Doug Rex, Director of Transportation Planning, Association of Central Governments (ACOG), presented the implications of the new 8-Hour Ozone Standard in Central Oklahoma to the City Managers Association of Oklahoma, meeting last spring. He felt the presentation was very informative and Council would benefit from the information. Mr. Rex provided an overview of the new 8-Hour Ozone Standard in Central Oklahoma and described how ground level ozone forms. He said ozone affects people with cardiovascular, respiratory, and heart illnesses and according to the American Lung Association, ozone can increase allergic responses in people with asthma and allergies. He over 96,000 people in Cleveland County falls under these categories.

Mr. Rex said there are six ozone monitoring sites in Central Oklahoma; Goldsby, Moore, Central Oklahoma City, Yukon, Oklahoma City, Choctaw, and Oklahoma City North. He said the new standard is 0.075 parts per million (ppm) and the old standard was 0.08 ppm. He said the average area ozone measurements for the past three years range from 0.72 in Goldsby and 0.80 in north Oklahoma City. He said the maximum fourth highest reading in 2008 still falls below the standard, but those same readings applied to the new standard indicate non-attainment at three of the six monitoring stations. He said 64% of the emissions in Central Oklahoma are caused primarily by vehicles and lawn equipment; 16% comes from point sources, i.e., industries; and 20% comes from area emissions, i.e., gas stations, cleaners, and print shops. He highlighted the implementation timeline as follows:

- March 2009 - State will make recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on areas that should be designated as non-attainment.
- March 2010 - EPA will finalize non-attainment areas
- March 2011 – Transportation Conformity Determination
- March 2013 – State Implementation Plans are due, outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standard
- March 2013-2030 – States required to meet the standard, depending on severity of problem

Mr. Rex said transportation projects receiving Federal funds will conform to the new standard. He said future projects can not have a negative impact on the emissions baseline. He said because Central Oklahoma will probably be in the marginal area, it will have to comply by 2013.

Mr. Rex said air quality impacts regional growth and economic development and, industries and businesses requiring air permits would face difficulty if Central Oklahoma were to become a non-attainment region. Businesses with large automobile fleets and the motoring public would be faced with mandated inspections and maintenance programs, higher gasoline prices, and new equipment costs to gasoline retailers.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if it was possible to find out what companies and/or organizations that are at the top of the emissions charts in the Norman community. Mr. Rex said the Oklahoma Department of Environmental

Quality keeps a list of the top 50 emitters and he would be happy to forward that information to the City Manager.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Implications of New 8-Hour Ozone Standard in Central Oklahoma" dated October 7, 2008

DISCUSSION REGARDING SPLASHPAD REQUIREMENTS.

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the FYE 2008 Budget included \$220,000 for the Colonial Estates Splashpad Project and at that time, Council felt it would be better to install re-circulated systems just like the one at Andrews Park, for any new sprayparks opposed to a single pass system, which allows the water to go directly into the sanitary sewer system. He outlined the new Oklahoma State Department of Health requirements for splashpads and said after several meetings with the Health Department, the cost of the project increased drastically for a re-circulated system. Currently, to construct a re-circulated system, the Health Department requires the splashpad include a bath house with heated indoor showers or a combination of restrooms and U/V treatment components, increasing the project costs approximately \$150,000. The City Council Finance Committee reviewed the requirements for a re-circulated system in its meeting of June 19 2008, and instructed staff to look at the single pass option again.

Mr. Foster said the Colonial Estates Spraypark Project constructed as a single pass spraypark with 14 water features, at an approximately cost of \$140,000 and the remaining \$80,000 included in the budget could be used to provide benches, tables, and shade structures. He said the same design using the re-circulated system under the new Health Department requirements would cost approximately \$362,000. Operation costs of a single pass system are almost entirely from water usage and the operation costs of a re-circulated system are a combination of water, chemicals, electricity, and daily maintenance costs. Mr. Foster said there was recently a positive finding at the Andrews Park Splashpad for cryptosporidium and Staff is concerned about continuing the use of a re-circulated system. The negative aspects of a single pass system is the high use of water; an average of 33,600 gallons per day at a cost \$10,866 per year based upon the current 154 day season or \$6,632 per year for a 94 day season. He said Staff is seeking input from Council on how to proceed.

Councilmember Thompson asked how much it would cost to convert the Andrews Park Spraypark to a single pass system and Mr. Foster said the cost would be minimal. Councilmember Kovach was concerned about the amount of water usage and suggested Staff wait until the Parks Master Plan was completed before moving forward with the Colonial Estates Spraypark. Mayor Rosenthal said that area of the city is currently underserved for recreational needs and felt the project should move forward. She suggested Staff look at capturing the water for possible reuse as landscape irrigation. Councilmembers agreed that Staff should go with a single pass system and pursue capturing the water, as well as shortening the season to 94 days and possibly weekends only after Labor Day.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "City Council Study Sessions, Splashpads," dated September 16, 2008

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor