

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MINUTES

June 23, 2009

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met Conference in the Municipal Building Conference Room at 5:35 p.m. on the 23rd day of June, 2009, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in 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 Butler, Cubberley, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Kovach, Quinn, Thompson, Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING CHANGE ORDER NO. ONE TO CONTRACT NO. K-0809-158 WITH NASH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., DECREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$16,400 FOR THE FYE 2009 SPEED TABLE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

City Manager Steve Lewis said since City Council's June 16th Study Session regarding the Traffic Calming Program, which included remediation of existing speed humps where excessive roughness exists, Staff has received contact from those persons who circulated the petitions as well as other members of Council expressing concern about changes to existing speed humps. Mr. Lewis said with Council's concurrence, Staff would like to withdraw the contract from Council's agenda until further study can be completed on the remediation portion of the contract.

Councilmember Dillingham felt Staff should check with those who circulated the petition to get their feedback about the remediation of existing speed humps. Councilmember Kovach felt Staff should contact more than just the petitioners as others were impacted by the tables that would not have been privy to the petition. Councilmember Griffith felt Council would be better off investing in neighborhoods who want them.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CHANGE ORDER NO. ONE TO CONTRACT NO. K-0809-65 WITH URBAN CONTRACTORS DECREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$17,190.25 FOR THE INDUSTRIAL INTERCEPTOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROJECT.

The Norman Utilities Authority, in its meeting of November 8, 2008, approved Contract No. K-0809-65 with Urban Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$989,065 for the Industrial Interceptor Construction Project. Mr. Jim Speck, Capital Projects Engineer, said Change Order No. One reducing the contract amount by \$17,190.25 reconciles all quantities from as-bid quantities to as-built. He said the project is complete and is scheduled on Council's regular agenda this evening for approval and final acceptance of the project.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated June 8, 2009, from Jim Speck, Capital Projects Engineer, to Norman Utilities Authority
2. Change Order No. Two to Contract No. K-08090-65

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF NORMAN CHARTER AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Ms. Rebecca Frazier, Assistant City Attorney, provided an overview of the proposed Charter amendments proposed by the City Council Oversight Committee. The proposed amendments include changing the date for the seating of Councilmembers, amending language related to parkland dedication to allow parkland funds accumulated for a subdivision to be used in the closest neighborhood and/or community park when there is no suitable parkland site available in or adjacent to a subdivision for which the parkland fee was collected, and amending references to Municipal Hospital to be changed to Norman Regional Health System and other minor cleanup language relative to the hospital.

Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney, said the final proposed amendment would repeal the language requiring a vote of the people to increase utilities. She said Committee Members felt this restriction may have a negative impact for the City of Norman to participate in a regional water trust to address long term water solutions. She said some of the things Council must consider is the significant cost of the infrastructure as well as ongoing costs shared proportionately between those included in the regional trust. She said the options would be to change the language to provide for a rate increase up to 5% per year, only as needed or repeal this section in its entirety.

Councilmember Thompson, Oversight Committee Chair, said initially, the Committee talked about an escalator, but placing a cap on the amount of the increase was problematic in the City's participation in the regional water trust. He said the Committee was split on waiving public prerogative to belong to a regional solution and it was not a question of whether or not rates will go up, because they will go up with either solution. Councilmember Kovach said the motivation to bring the question forward at this time was due to the timing of the creation of the regional trust. Mayor Rosenthal said once the consultant has determined the cost, Council will have to determine whether or not Norman should be a customer of Oklahoma City for water or a provider. Councilmember Dillingham said Council needs enough information to think and plan for long term, 50 years. Councilmember Thompson said the City will need a response for how to provide a water solution if the citizens vote no. Ms. Walker said the City of Oklahoma City would like to finalize the trust in approximately three or four months. Councilmember Kovach asked whether Council should consider a fall or winter election and Councilmember Cubberley felt it should not be rushed. He said Council needs more information before the public could be educated. Mayor Rosenthal said there will be other times to opt out of the regional solution. Councilmembers asked who was preparing the trust agreement and Ms. Walker said the City of Oklahoma City is primary on drafting the trust, but has been receptive to input from other cities involved. Mayor Rosenthal said she would like to hold a public meeting at the end of the summer or early fall to lay the groundwork, but cautioned Council on proceeding to quickly.

Items submitted for the record

1. Council Oversight Committee Report dated June 23, 2009
2. City Council Oversight Committee minutes of May 27, 2009, and June 3, 2009
3. PowerPoint presentation dated June 23, 2009, entitled, "Oversight Committee Report, Proposed Charter Amendments"

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor