CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

July 13, 2010

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 13th day of July, 2010, 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 Atkins, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Kovach, Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley
ABSENT:	Councilmembers Butler, Quinn, and Mayor Rosenthal

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Item 1, being:

PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIREHOUSE ART CENTER REGARDING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FIREHOUSE ART CENTER LOCATED AT 444 SOUTH FLOOD AVENUE.

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided background information on the City's ownership of the Firehouse Art Center and said the City entered into a 99 year lease with the Firehouse Art Center, Inc., (FAC) on July 3, 1984. Under the lease agreement the City is responsible for the building repairs and utility costs and the FAC is responsible for furnishing all supplies and materials and custodial services needed to operate the facility. Mr. Foster said the FAC approached staff about a potential expansion project, which was presented to the Parks Board on June 3, 2010. The expansion is proposed to be funded through a private fundraising campaign.

Mr. Rick Chew, FAC Board Member, highlighted the FAC's current facility and the challenges the staff faces to provide programs with space limitations. He said art programs have started disappearing in Norman Public Schools (NPS) and the FAC revisited their mission/focus. He said the FAC began receiving a lot of feedback from schools, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), principals, and art organizations requesting the FAC bring back art education back into NPS. Last fall McKinley Elementary teachers rotated and walked their students to the FAC every day of the school year where they would receive art instruction for two years. He said the FAC meshes a high quality program, put together by Douglas Elder, Sculptor with Boston University, the "masters", the on-going school curriculum, and the Oklahoma pass requirements so there is a certain amount of structure. Mr. Chew said the FAC provided visual art education to 1,614 Norman elementary students last year, co-opted programs with the Arts Department at OU for Norman High School students, and assisted with scholarships for Norman students.

Mr. David Wanzer, 308 Design Collaborative, said his firm was hired by FAC to provide architectural design services for the proposed expansion project and provided an overview of the project. The project includes adding 845 square feet on the first floor at the north and south east corners of the building to be used for additional gallery space and administrative offices and 290 feet to the second floor for additional classroom space. Mr. Wanzer said the FAC renovation project should serve to strengthen the relationship and interactions with Flood Street, the neighborhood, and the community. He said it was very important to provide a clear sense of entrance and an engaging and welcoming front door and the innovative and contextual design respects the neighborhood while still honoring the historic use of a fire station. He said the improvements to the FAC include a new office core; new fully Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant downstairs restrooms, which also serves the park; expanded sales gallery; additional classroom and storage space; and new reception area.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated July 8, 2010, from Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, to Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
2. Pertinent excerpts from Parks Board minutes of June 3, 2010
3. Proposal for the Firehouse Art Center Phase 1 Addition and Remodel prepared by 308 Design Collaborative

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Item 2 being:

CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES TITLE 25 § 307(B)(4) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE CITY OF NORMAN VS. DON HILL AND DOLORES HILL, ET AL, CLEVELAND COUNTY DISTRICT COURT CASE NO. CJ-2004-332 BH.

Councilmember Dillingham moved that the Special Session be adjourned out of and an Executive Session be convened into in order to discuss the City of Norman vs. Don Hill and Dolores Hill, et al, Cleveland County District Court Case No. CJ-2004-332 BH, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kovach; and the question being upon adjourning out of the Special Session and the subsequent convening, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS:	Councilmembers Atkins, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Kovach, Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley
NAYES:	None

The Mayor Pro Tem declared the motion carried and the Special Session adjourned out of; and an Executive Session was convened into in order to discuss the City of Norman vs. Don Hill and Dolores Hill, et al, Cleveland County District Court Case No. CJ-2004-332 BH.

City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, and Mr. Blaine Nice, Assistant City Attorney, were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley acknowledged return to Open Session. Thereupon, Councilmember Kovach moved that the Special Session be reconvened, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Atkins; and the question being upon reconvening the Special Session, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS:	Councilmembers Atkins, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Quinn, Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley
NAYES:	None

The Mayor Pro Tem declared the motion carried and the Special Session was reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

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The City of Norman vs. Don Hill and Dolores Hill, et al, Cleveland County District Court Case No. CJ-2004-332 BH was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Dillingham moved that the meeting be adjourned, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Atkins; and the question being upon adjournment of the meeting, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS:	Councilmembers Atkins, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Quinn, Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley
NAYES:	None

The Mayor Pro Tem declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor