

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 19, 2021

The City Council Finance Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met virtually at 4:00 pm in the Municipal Building Executive Conference Room on the 19th day of August, 2021, 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, 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Members Hall and Foreman

ABSENT: Mayor Clark, Members Nash and Studley

OTHERS PRESENT: Darrel Pyle, City Manager
 Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
 Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
 Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
 Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
 Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
 Jane Hudson, Director of Planning
 Mindy Aynes, Municipal Accountant
 Shawn O’Leary, Director of Public Works
 Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney
 Dan Schemm, Visit Norman
 Erinn Gavaghan, Norman Arts Council

Item 1, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ROOM TAX FUND

Anthony Francisco stated that the discussion today came about due to the recent Council action taken amending the City Code and adding exemptions for Tribal groups to the Room Tax. Part of the amendment to the City Code added language clarifying that the exemption is only for the government and anyone who is doing business on behalf of that entity, not the individual person at all times just because they work for the entity. 50% of Room Tax funds go to convention and visitor attraction, 25% goes to Arts and Humanities, and 25% goes to Park Development capital projects. The pandemic has caused our Room Tax collection to decline heavily through parts of the last two fiscal years, but we are starting to recover.

Dan Schemm talked a little about Visit Norman’s mission. He stated they focused on supporting local businesses who were struggling through the pandemic.

Erinn Gavaghan talked about the history between the City of Norman and the Norman Arts Council. She stated that the City of Norman is the only city in Oklahoma that allocates a portion of its Room Tax to the arts. This has allowed the Norman Arts Council to grant out over \$4 million over 40 years. The Public Arts Board was founded as a collaboration between the Norman Arts

Council and the City of Norman and is funded by people making additional donations on their utility bills.

Francisco stated that the City Council has directed about \$100,000 to go to the Norman Arts Council from the American Rescue Plan money.

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Item 2, being:

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORTS

Anthony Francisco gave the update. He stated that sales tax collection continues to be well above projections.

Items submitted for the record:

1. Summary of Major Fund Revenue Sources vs. Budget FYE 2021 as of July 31, 2021
2. Summary of Major Fund Expenditures vs. Budget FYE 2021 as of July 31, 2021
3. Appropriations from Fund Balance FYE 21
4. General Fund Transfers over \$50,000 between Expenditure Categories FYE 21 July 2021
5. Norman Forward Sales Tax Financial Reports
6. Inter-City Sales Tax Growth Comparison

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Item 3, being:

SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT ON OPEN POSITIONS

City Manager Pyle stated that the new Chief Communications Officers is currently going through all of the pre-employment tasks before starting soon.

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Item 4, being:

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

None at this time.

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