

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

March 8, 2022

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a Special Session at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 8th day of March, 2022, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Foreman, Hall, Holman, Lynn, Peacock, Schueler, Studley, Tortorello, Mayor Clark

ABSENT: None

Item 1, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POET LAUREATE PROGRAM.

Ms. Hillary Koone, Information Services Manager for Norman Public Library (NPL), introduced Mr. Joshua Caddell, Information Professional for Norman Public Library. Mr. Caddell said a Poet Laureate is an honorary position with its role being to serve as a representative of a community's artists and to champion the poetry art form. This typically includes sharing original work at events and hosting poetry readings and may result in a specific project centered on highlighting poetry in a community or supporting fellow artists. A City of Norman Poet Laureate will serve as the City's ambassador in promoting public appreciation of poetry and literature, supporting a creative community of local poets, and encouraging people of all ages to write their own poetry.

Mr. Caddell said the Norman Poet Laureate will be selected by a Poet Laureate Selection Committee to serve a two-year term with the possibility of being offered a second term. Duties include championing the art of poetry and the spoken word in the City, in person and on social media; encouraging appreciation of the art form and creative expression by a wide range of City residents, including youth; celebrating the City's cultural heritage; reading poetry or speaking at City Council meetings, other public meetings, and public venues, such as schools or senior centers; giving five to ten readings and workshops that are free and open to the public including visits to schools and/or events for young people; serving as a judge in the annual Norman Public Library Poetry Writing Contest; and proposing and completing at least one public project that promotes poetry or literature during the two-year term.

Nominees must be over the age of 18 by the time of their selection and must reside or work in Norman. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for individuals who have demonstrable involvement in and commitment to Norman's art community.

The Poet Laureate Selection Committee serves to review Poet Laureate candidate nominations, interview Poet Laureate finalists, and help shape the future of the Poet Laureate Program. The Committee will be comprised of representative from the Mayor's Office, Norman Public Schools, the University of Oklahoma, Norman Arts Council, Norman Public Arts Board, the Depot, and Norman Public Libraries.

Item 1, continued:

Mr. Caddell said NPL would like to have a Committee selected by the end of the month because the Norman Public Library Poetry Writing Contest will be held April 27, 2022.

Councilmembers supported the proposal.

Items submitted for the record

1. City of Norman and Norman Public Library Poet Laureate Program Proposal

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Item 2, being:

CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES, TITLE 25 § 307(B)(3) TO DISCUSS THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PORTER AVENUE STREETScape 2019 BOND PROJECT.

Motion to Adjourn and Convene. Moved by Councilmember Foreman. Seconded by Councilmember Tortorello. Ayes: Mayor Clark, Councilmembers Foreman, Hall, Holman, Lynn, Peacock, Schueler, Studley, and Tortorello. Nays: None.

The City Council convened into Executive Session at 5:44 p.m. Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney; Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager; Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney; and Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Motion to Reconvene. Moved by Councilmember Foreman. Seconded by Councilmember Tortorello. Ayes: Mayor Clark, Councilmembers Foreman, Hall, Holman, Lynn, Peacock, Schueler, Studley, and Tortorello. Nays: None.

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the Special Session was reconvened at 6:14 p.m.

The Mayor said the acquisition of right-of-way in connection with the Porter Avenue Streetscape 2019 Bond Project was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

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ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



Deputy City Clerk



Mayor