

Item 3, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING A REQUEST FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

Ms. Kristina Bell, Assistant City Attorney, said the Social Justice Committee had approached the Human Rights Commission to discuss the possibility of Council approving an annual proclamation declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day

Ms. Kay Ham, Chair of Human Rights Commission, said Norman has the largest Indigenous population in Oklahoma and organizations throughout Oklahoma recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and the Human Rights Commission would like to have the second Monday in October every year be declared Indigenous Peoples' Day. She said representatives from the First American United Methodist Church were able to put this together and have reminded the Human Rights Commission about the heritage of Oklahoma and Norman and would appreciate the adoption of the Resolution.

Reverend Justine Wilson, Pastor of First American United Methodist Church, said the Social Justice Committee came together and proposed working with the Human Rights Commission and the City Council to have the second Monday in October declared Indigenous Peoples' Day. She said the City of Norman has the fifth largest urban Indian population in the United States and the contributions of Native American people in the City of Norman goes all the way back to the contemporary Native American Art movement out of both Norman and Santa Fe, New Mexico. She said the educational attainment from the University of Oklahoma, Chickasha Nation, and several other services have created a unique environment of tremendous achievement within the Native community and Indigenous Peoples' Day would be a way to honor those people and build bridges between the Native communities and non-Native communities. She said it is the 25th Anniversary of the first city to adopt Indigenous Day.

Mayor Miller asked which city adopted Indigenous Day first. Reverend Wilson said Brooklyn, California.

Mayor Lynne Miller said thanked Reverend Wilson for bringing this to Council's attention and asked if anyone had any questions.

Councilmember Comments/Questions

Councilmember Wilson asked if there were any activities or events to go along with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Reverend Wilson said there is an issue with time, but OU will have special events for that day and the vision is to expand it citywide for community interaction. She said with additional time and years coming forward she would like this to become citywide. Councilmember Wilson said she is excited about this.

Councilmember Clark said the Council may not pass the Resolution until closer into October, but the Human Rights Commission needs planning time to move forward. Mayor Lynne Miller said the Council plans to have the item on the agenda on August 22nd to allow it to move forward.

Item 3, continued:

Councilmember Comments/Questions, continued:

Councilmember Clark said she visited a Native American education class at Norman North and they are a wonderful group of people and are very excited about their heritage and this is the very least City Council can do for a diverse community to celebrate it.

Councilmember Holman said he is excited to see this coming forward.

Mayor Miller said the Council will need to take part in some of the activities, because it will be fun.

Councilmember Hickman said he is a member of the Cherokee Nation and his children are active in Native American education in the Norman and Oklahoma City Public Schools; they are wonderful people and he encouraged reaching out to them about this. Reverend Wilson said she is reaching out.

Councilmember Hickman said the Resolution is fine and he supports it, but the Indigenous People terminology isn't well recognized in Oklahoma, because the long time history has been Native American or Indians. He said he is fine with the term Indigenous People, but also should add a section that defines and clarifies Indigenous People to include the Native American population in order for the community to understand clearly what they are talking about. Reverend Wilson said the reason it is called Indigenous People is because a larger movement has set this up for Native American nations in Oklahoma and is able to do more in terms of explaining and building partners. She said it has already been vetted through the attorney and does not want to create any more language issues.

Mayor Lynne Miller adjourned the meeting.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated August 4, 2017, from Kristina Bell, Assistant City Attorney, to Mayor and Councilmembers with Exhibit 1, Draft Resolution R-1718-23, and Exhibit 2, Norman Human Rights Commission minutes of August 24, 2017

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The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor