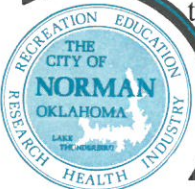


A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN PROVIDING ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO THE CITIZENS OF NORMAN CONCERNING STATE QUESTION 777 (SQ 777), THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS PLANNED FOR A STATEWIDE VOTE ON THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016, STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT; INFORMING CITY VOTERS OF THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SQ 777 ON THE ABILITY OF THE CITY OF NORMAN TO REGULATE LAND USE ACTIVITIES AND TO ENACT OTHER ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENS; AND URGING ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WITHIN NORMAN, BEFORE CASTING THEIR VOTES ON SQ 777, TO CAREFULLY STUDY AND CONSIDER ALL THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SQ 777 ON THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF NORMAN RESIDENTS.

- § 1. WHEREAS, a core function of The City of Norman, as authorized by Article 43 of Title 11 Oklahoma Statutes is to regulate land usage and zoning according to community desires and needs, through community-based processes and zoning ordinances, while protecting property rights of all citizens, and planning for the successful growth and development within city limits; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, the City's authority to enact land use regulations within the City of Norman is critical to the health, safety, and welfare of our community; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, access to clean, high-quality potable water in appropriate quantities is also of critical importance to Norman residents especially as Lake Thunderbird, the primary source of the City's drinking water, has already been classified as 'impaired' by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality due to the run-off of nitrogen, phosphates, and sediments into the lake; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, a study completed by Vieux and Associates, a consultant hired by the City of Norman, established in 2007 that 54% of land uses in the Lake Thunderbird watershed constituted passive and active agricultural uses and projected that by 2030 at least 28% of the watershed would remain as agricultural, mostly grazing and pasture; and



- § 5. WHEREAS, the preservation of soil and air quality are also valuable to Norman citizens; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, ensuring these various elements for its residents and businesses is one of the preeminent obligations of the City of Norman; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, providing these local governmental benefits and infrastructure to its residents, and maintaining them, is an on-going and ever-increasing financial burden for the City of Norman; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, the amendments to the Oklahoma Constitution proposed by SQ 777 would enact special constitutional protections and special constitutional privileges for a specific group of Oklahoma residents and Oklahoma industries (farming and ranching), an industry that is a major contributor to pollutants in water bodies across the state, provided to no other group or industry in the State of Oklahoma, at the expense of all other residents and industry; and
- § 9. WHEREAS, if approved by State voters, SQ 777 would take precedence over the land-use ordinances, regulations, and plans of the City of Norman, compromising its ability and statutory obligation to ensure compatibility between land uses and the appropriate development and growth within the City and to further protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents by limiting agricultural-related sources of pollution among other concerns; and
- § 10. WHEREAS, SQ 777 would seriously compromise the City's ability to provide an ample and safe water supply to its residents at reasonable expense; and
- § 11. WHEREAS, SQ 777 would seriously compromise the ability of the State of Oklahoma, its regulatory agencies, and the City of Norman to take action to manage technology that impacts industrial, farming and ranching operations potentially harmful to its residents; and
- § 12. WHEREAS, under the provisions of SQ 777, if approved, the City of Norman's efforts to guarantee access by its citizens to high-quality and ample quantity of water, and efficient and appropriate delivery systems and any such efforts by the City could result in extensive and expensive litigation against the City of Norman merely because it is attempting to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and
- § 13. WHEREAS, passage of SQ 777 could also result in increased expenses in providing high quality and ample water as a result of agricultural runoff, chemical treatment, and animal by-products; and

- § 14. WHEREAS, SQ 777 would allow special consideration of one industry ('farming') that could set a precedent for allowing similar special considerations for any and all industries and practices in Oklahoma; and
- § 15. WHEREAS, SQ 777 provides that this special consideration is guaranteed 'forever,' which precludes consideration of any unforeseen practices, treatments, or chemicals, on the obligations and ability of the State of Oklahoma and the City of Norman to provide to their residents an ample quantity of high-quality water at a reasonable rate and manageable expense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 16. That they are critically concerned that State Question 777, the proposed State constitutional amendment, if approved by State voters at the Statewide election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, could negatively impact vital municipal land use controls and jeopardize the City's ability to meet the essential needs and requirements of its residents and to otherwise promote the health, safety, and welfare of all its citizens and residents of the City of Norman.
- § 17. That they urge all registered voters within the City of Norman, before casting their votes of SQ 777, to carefully study and consider all the potential adverse effects of SQ 777 on the health, safety, and welfare of Norman residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk