

CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 16, 2014

The City Council Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:03 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room on the 16th day of October, 2014, 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: Councilmember Holman and Chairman Miller

ABSENT: Councilmember Williams

TARDY: Councilmember Jungman

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager
Ms. Leah Messner, Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Technician IV

Item 1, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING A POSSIBLE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT ON THE LENGTH OF TIME BULK REFUSE CAN BE PLACED CURBSIDE DURING SPRING AND FALL CLEANUP.

Chairman Miller said the City Council Oversight Committee met on June 11, 2014, to discuss the timeframe for placement of items at the curb prior to the spring and fall cleanup collection events. She said there have been complaints from citizens about bulk items being placed at curbs several weeks before the scheduled pickup date for spring and fall cleanup. The complaints included unsightliness, items being scattered by dogs, and the piles being a haven for rodents. It was suggested Council place a limit on how far ahead citizens can place items at the curb. At the June 11th meeting, the Committee asked Staff to draft an ordinance amendment that would restrict the placement of bulk items at the curb no more than one week prior to the scheduled pick-up date.

Councilmember Holman asked if one week meant seven days and Ms. Leah Messner, Assistant City Attorney, said customers can place items on the curb beginning the Sunday prior to the Saturday pickup schedule. Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, said because the fall schedule coincides with University of Oklahoma (OU) home football games, sanitation crews, as they have time, will begin picking up items beginning on Wednesday to help with the unsightliness.

Chairman Miller said in the June 11th meeting the Committee agreed that one week sounded fair and the ordinance should be pretty non-controversial. She felt the ordinance should be placed on First Reading without review at a Conference or Study Session and members agreed.

Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, asked Ms. Messner to clarify the fines associated with violation of the ordinance. Ms. Messner said there is an existing penalty section in Chapter 21, Section 21-501, which states, "any person found to be in violation of any provision of Chapter 21 shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$750." Because this penalty section exists, Staff did not draft a separate penalty section. She said if someone went to Municipal Court to pay the fine, the administrative amount would be \$200 plus court costs of \$74 for a total of \$274. She said if a person posted a bond, the fine would cost an additional \$35 on top of the \$274. Chairman Miller asked if there would be a warning first and how many times the City has actually fined someone. Mr. Komiske said he did not have a number although there have been fines issued. He said complaints are generally routed through Code Compliance due to safety concerns such as rodents, etc., and that is still an option the City can continue to use. He said a Code Compliance Inspector would speak with the resident and let them know it is too early to have items placed at the curb and the resident generally moves the items off the curb and places them back on the curb closer to the pickup date. He said the City tries to work with the public to reach compliance before citations are issued.

Chairman Miller said it would be helpful to advertise the changes in the newspaper and website for the public. Mr. Lewis said prior to fall cleanup, a press release was issued that included language encouraging people to not place items at the curb prior to one week before the pickup date. Chairman Miller said once the ordinance passes, the press release for spring cleanup should inform citizens that it is now a law.

Councilmember Jungman asked what the fines are for leaving polycarts at the curb instead of moving them back to the house and Mr. Komiske said the City generally places a tag on the polycart that informs citizens polycarts are not to be left at the curb for more than 24 hours after solid waste pickup. Sometimes sanitation crews will also place a door hanger at the house as well. If the violation occurs more than twice, a City employee will take the polycart back to the house and \$10 is charged to the resident on their next utility bill.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated October 8, 2014, from Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, to City Council Oversight Committee
2. Draft Ordinance No. O-1415-17
3. Draft Legislatively Notated copy of Ordinance No. O-1415-17

Item 2, being:

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if the Committee will revisit oil and gas regulations in the Lake Thunderbird Watershed at their next meeting and Chairman Miller said yes.

Councilmember Holman asked if the Oversight Committee would be the Committee to discuss emergency siren testing. He said constituents that live next to the poles have complained and wondered if they had to be set off every Saturday or if that could be changed to twice of a month or less. Ms. Messner said Oklahoma City, Midwest City, Moore, Norman, and other Oklahoma communities have signed a Regional Emergency Operations Policy where all cities standardly test sirens every Saturday at noon. Chairman Miller said if the testing is mandated the public should to be informed and Councilmember Holman felt that was a good idea.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if additional work is being done regarding buffer zones around schools during protest demonstration. Mr. Lewis said the City has communicated with the school system, but they have not requested further discussion on the topic. He was unaware that Council wanted to pursue the issue further. Councilmember Holman said the issue has not gone away, but to his knowledge there have not been further demonstrations since earlier this year. Mayor Rosenthal felt it better not to be react when demonstrations are going on because that makes it looks like criticism is directed at a particular group. She said demonstrators have protested in front of the Center for Children and Families (CCFI) Facility and CCFI is concerned protestors may show up during their grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony in November. Mayor Rosenthal said perhaps the City should just be prepared in case demonstrators show up in the midst of the celebratory time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.