

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

August 1, 2017

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a Study Session at 5:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 1st day of August, 2017, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 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:

Councilmembers Bierman, Castleberry, Clark, Hickman, Holman, Karjala, Wilson, Mayor Miller

ABSENT:

Councilmember Allison

Item 1, being:

PRESENTATION OF THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN REPORT FOR THE GRIFFIN PARK SPORTS COMPLEX.

Mr. Jud Foster, Parks and Recreation Director, said Mr. Jim Crosby and Mr. Jeff Evans with Planning Design Group (PDG) along with members of the Ad Hoc Group, City Staff and ADG staff have been involved in the process for the Griffin Park Sports Complex Project. He said PDG will make a presentation on the proposed Master Plan.

Overview

Mr. Crosby introduced Mr. Tim Johnson from Johnson and Associates, his associate Mr. Caleb Morgan, and Mr. BJ Hawkins from Traffic Engineering Consultants (TEC), traffic consultant for the project. He said Griffin Park Sports Complex is located at 1001 East Robinson Street and the park has multiple uses. He said soccer is on the west side and baseball and softball fields are throughout the center and off to the east along 12th Avenue. He said the Master Plan affects the baseball and softball fields that are moving to Reaves Park, which is part of the Norman Forward plans and Griffin Park will become a soccer complex primarily on the south side. The Master Plan shows improvements to the public park which is a future phase that could be funded through other sources. He said the Sutton Urban Wilderness area is the north side of the park.

The project started with meetings with the Norman Forward Griffin Park Ad Hoc Committee to examine what was acceptable and receive input and ideas. The Ad Hoc Group met again to discuss three concepts. One plan was well-liked, which it was developed and became the overall Master Plan. He said instead of doing a design for the soccer complex only in Phase One, the Ad Hoc Group decided to design a master plan that could go forward after Norman Forward. As part of the process they asked what people wanted to see not just from the Soccer Association's standpoint, but from the Parks and Recreation Department standpoint with possible playgrounds and different things. He said a wish list was submitted, which created an overall Master Plan. The next step was looking at items to get the project within the \$11,000,000 Norman Forward budget. He said PDG created proposals and prepared a preliminary budget on the overall Master Plan with detailed cost estimates and turned the Master Plan from a \$17,000,000 budget down to the \$11,000,000 budget. PDG presented both the Master Plan and the Phase One of the Master Plan to the Park Board on June 1st and received unanimous approval. He said the Traffic Impact Analysis was further reviewed to make sure it met the City's requirements for traffic control. He said Mr. Hawkins with TEC completed the traffic analysis, which was incorporated into the final Master Plan

once they met City approval. He said the changes were presented to the Ad Hoc Group and they approved the changes on July 20th. He said the Master Plan criteria has a minimum of 20 full size soccer pitches and those are divided up into smaller fields. He said Norman Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) will divide those. The reason 21 fields were added was to keep the fields from being overused or worn out. He said the park can rotate the fields, which will allow several fields to rest for a month. There are also 1,700 parking spaces available and the Ad Hoc Group felt it important to have all of the parking within the park, including adequate drop off into the park for children. He said the training center is a multi-phase building, which expands both directions and as time passes this will allow for expansion in the future. Some of the features included in the multi-phase building are concessions, landscaping, shade, and more restroom facilities.

Councilmember Clark asked who will operate the concession stands. Mr. Foster said the NYSA will operate the concession stands.

Councilmember Clark asked if they are little fields within a big field. Mr. Crosby said they are full-size fields and this whole area will be lit as one area; however, one area can have multiple games going on at the same time.

Mr. Crosby said there is money in the budget for wayfinding so the park can have signs including directional signs for vehicular, pedestrian, sidewalks and ADA accessibility. He said it will be more difficult to install additional sidewalks on some of the older fields, but the new park has new ADA accessible walks throughout the fields including concessions, restrooms, parking spaces, and drop-offs along with traffic improvements. The primary entrance will be in the older part of the complex and will include traffic signalization. He said restriping was proposed for the left turn into the parking lot off of 12th Avenue N.E., which will eventually tie into the traffic light at High Meadows.

Councilmember Clark asked about the renovation of the silos. Mr. Crosby said they do not have any plans to take the silos down. He said if the budget allows, they plan to add LED lighting, repainting and upgrading the silos, but not change the character. Mr. Foster said the silos may become part of the 1% Art Project and will be an option to consider during that stage of the project.

Mr. Crosby said the existing pond will take a lot more stormwater and that is going to be one of the main areas of stormwater detention. He said across the pond on the north side of the public park includes a trail system, observations, boat docks, regional playground with a possible splash pad, upgrading the dog park and adding toys, and expanding parking. He said it is not part of the budget, but the Park Maintenance Facility will move to this location. He said they have an allowance of \$150,000 for nice entries, signage, and upgraded perimeter fencing throughout the front of the complex, and a public access gate system. He said phase one totals are close to \$15,000,000 and one thing different about this project compared to other projects is this project is not tax exempt. He said the money funnels through the Norman Municipal Authority and a separate line item with a formula to estimate 40% of the project is materials and 60% of the project is labor and that is an approximation at this time.

Mayor Miller asked Mr. Foster to explain the tax exemption issue and why it is being done this way. Mr. Foster said the tax exemption can be passed from the City one time over to the Norman Municipal Authority (NMA) who is the contracting agent for the contractor, but the NMA cannot pass the tax exemption to the contractor. He said an option to avoid the tax is for the City to purchase all of the materials. He said this has been done before with the Legacy Park Project and the Utilities Department does this as well with some of their projects and in some cases it is easy to do and others it is more difficult. He said it is difficult to manage and monitor all of the purchases of the materials, because Staff

has to make sure all of the materials bought are used only for that particular project. Councilmember Castleberry said he finds that totally unacceptable and wants to know why the materials cannot be stored.

Councilmember Hickman asked if the land has been acquired for the project. Mr. Foster said the land has not been purchased.

Councilmember Hickman asked if money has already been spent on the project. Mr. Foster said only on design. Councilmember Hickman said he does not understand why Council has proceeded to spend money on a master plan not consistent with the implementation plan indicating to acquire the land first and wants to know how that happened. Mr. Foster said the Legal Department is working with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse on the timing of the purchase. Mayor Miller said it has been going simultaneously the entire time. She said the original plan was to already have land acquired by now, but there have been a number of legislative issues and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse has delayed the project moving forward. She asked Councilmember Hickman if he is suggesting not continuing planning without the land acquisition. Councilmember Hickman said money has been spent on an implementation plan and the citizens are expecting Council to be responsible for their actions. He wants to understand if Council intends to move forward and spend money on the Master Plan before owning the property. Mayor Miller said the implementation plan is being updated right now for Council to look at. She said Council can only push so far with the legislature and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and at some point Council will have to decide whether they are going to the next step. Councilmember Hickman asked if the land could be acquired separately from the Griffin Memorial Hospital site. Mr. Anthony Francisco, Finance Director, said the Norman Forward land acquisition funding is only for north of Robinson Street; Griffin Park and Sutton Wilderness. Councilmember Holman said he does not have a problem with doing the Master Plan, because it has to be completed at some point, but his concern is spending this much money without obtaining the property. He believes they are a little ahead of themselves, because there are other projects to complete before starting this project. Mr. Foster said the plan is to build the softball complex first and move the facilities out of Reaves Park to the adult softball facility and rebuild the youth baseball/softball at Reaves and then finally the Griffin Sports Complex, but the project can be done in smaller pieces. For example, Staff can build the Park Maintenance Facility first at Griffin, which clears out a place at Reaves Park for the softball/baseball facilities which then clears out a place at Griffin. Councilmember Holman said he would like to own the land before investing a lot of money into the project.

Councilmember Hickman said the 36 line items presented make it difficult for Councilmembers to evaluate this when it adds up to over 60% higher than the actual Budget for Norman Forward and he asked what all is Staff doing with the \$11,000,000 on the list with the 36 items. Mr. Foster said this will be answered later on into the presentation.

Councilmember Wilson asked about the odds of the City not obtaining the land. Mayor Miller said she does not feel there is a risk of not obtaining the land; it is the timing of it. She said the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse no longer want to lease the land; they are motivated to sell it. She said the problem has been with the legislative process. Councilmember Castleberry said it was his understanding that the legislature has to approve the purchase and they got busy this year working on other issues. Ms. Leah Messner, Assistant City Attorney, said that is correct regarding Griffin, the legislature has authorized the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to sell the land, but they need to sell the land for a decent amount of money in order to allow them to build a centralized state of the art facility in Norman. She said the process to purchase the land has taken longer than they anticipated.

Councilmember Clark said there are a lot of phase two ideas and she would love to see sidewalks all the way up to Sutton Wilderness. Currently, there are no sidewalks available northward along 12th Avenue to get to these facilities.

Councilmember Castleberry asked if he could receive input from other Councilmembers regarding the sales tax issue. He said there are increasing project costs and he feels the money spent could go to something else such as the senior center or sidewalks. Councilmember Wilson agrees with Councilmember Castleberry about the money and asked if the loss or theft of items is an ongoing issue with other projects. She asked if Council could have a person/company such as ADG work as quality control. Councilmember Castleberry suggested hiring someone at \$12 per hour to sit and watch the materials. Councilmember Bierman asked if Staff plans on getting all of the materials for the project at once. She thinks they need to explore all options before making a decision.

Mayor Miller said it is a policy now and it is done differently depending on the funding sources, but the City has charged the sales tax when it is the second entity and it is certainly something the Council can discuss. Her suggestion is to have a discussion about it as an item and the Staff would be able to explain pros and cons, because the Council is not doing the actual supervision of these projects. She thinks they need information before they make a decision. Councilmember Castleberry asked if there is a policy and wants to know what projects are not done on sales tax. He asked if the Lindsey Street Bond Project had sales tax paid on it. Mr. Francisco said that is a City project. Councilmember Castleberry asked if it applied when the project is done through a bond issue. Mr. Francisco said not so much.

Councilmember Castleberry asked if sales tax was paid on materials for the Water Treatment Plant improvements. Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, said they buy big giant pieces of equipment and cannot store a million dollars' worth of pipe. It is easier to keep track of when it is the contractor's responsibility.

Councilmember Castleberry asked what were the biggest material costs on the Griffin Project. Mr. Crosby said there is a lot of asphalt and concrete and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fence material, all of the buildings stated would have all of the building material, irrigation system, piping, heads, valves, water lines, sewer lines, and all of the piping for the sanitary sewer.

Councilmember Hickman said we have ADG and the City pays them as the project manager and he proposes the City has them bring forward a proposal.

Councilmember Clark said the Del Taco leaves their materials on-site with a fence built around the site. She agrees with Councilmember Bierman if this is Norman Forward phase one and we are envisioning something that will benefit the community, the Council has to have better management systems that will best utilize the budget. Mayor Miller said the Council is requesting ADG create a proposal for Council to review as to what the parameters would look like, the time it would take, and what that would cost. Councilmember Castleberry said Council increased the scope of ADG's contract to add additional projects and questioned whether this work could be covered by that amendment. Mr. Kyle Lombardo, ADG, said the scope was increased to add projects, but it did not include managing the procurement. He said that is not included in the scope of work for any of the projects they are working on.

Mr. Crosby said the design contingency and the owner's contingency would stay in place until the project is bid. He said he hopes not to use the contingency so it can be used to add back items that are being bid as alternates.

Mr. Evans said there are three or four major elements which change the overall master plan to the Phase One Master Plan. He said the park area on the north side was not included in the budget for the overall master plan and is a complete separate budget. He said the overall master plan budget was for the soccer complex area to the south, the trails, and everything south of the lake. He said there is a separate budget presented to the Parks Department for the park area. He said phase one of the overall master plan is what fits within the Norman Forward Budget. The major changes that were completed are the indoor facilities which were approved by the Ad Hoc Group. He said there was a lot of decision making and referrals on things the Ad Hoc Group may have wanted in the project that had to be referred to later projects, which will be funded from separate sources. One of the major items was the indoor facility, because it was a phased item and costs \$4,500,000. He said some of the other major items included in the project are a larger grass area along Robinson, which will cut out some of the parking and still have enough to meet the requirements of the fields. He said eliminating one bay of parking helped to save the budget around \$750,000. He said they have kept the same number of restrooms, but there are some major items that include street modifications on the east and south of the complex, the traffic light at State Street, and there are some smaller items such as lighting. He said there will be renovations to the existing maintenance barn to include a referee area, which is included in the budget. He said once some of these facilities move to Reaves Park as part of the baseball and softball complex, it will open up space in the existing maintenance facility to allow renovation into a referee room. He said the field lighting has been reduced along with sidewalks, which are included in the overall master plan. He said they can sod some of the fields that are important during the construction phases if needed immediately or, if not, until the following season, which will save money. He said those are the only major items that have changed. He said \$8,400,000 is the subtotal and sales tax is on the material, the design contingency is still there, the owner's contingency is still there, and the budget comes in at \$9,800,000 for the construction balance that is left after taking out fees, money spent up-to-date, and other items associated with the project for testing and surveying. He said out of \$11,000,000 there is still \$9,872,000 left in the construction budget for the project.

Councilmember Hickman asked if any of the fields have turf. Mr. Evans said there is no synthetic turf on any of the fields and it was approved by the Ad Hoc Group to use only sod on the fields. Councilmember Hickman said the Norman Forward website says the soccer indoor facility has at least two soccer indoor fields with a mix of turf and grass. He said those two items were promised to the public as part of the Griffin Park Soccer Complex and it is concerning. Mayor Miller said the reason is because of the costs and that is why the Citizen Committee prioritized things and did what they did. Councilmember Holman said he remembers a discussion about at least one field having turf, but there were concerns from people regarding the fields and health issues. He said he knows they are extremely expensive to install and asked if not putting the turf in will save money with the Budget. Mr. Evans said by not putting in the turf, it allows for multiple other items, which will make the facility better. He said one turf field costs around \$750,000 with a ten year life expectancy. Councilmember Castleberry understands Councilmember Hickman's concerns regarding the budget, but Council also talked with the Ad Hoc Group about reaching out to the public who use the parks to see what they want and need in the parks. Ms. Christy Fuentes, Ad Hoc Group member, said as Norman Forward has evolved, the budget has shrunk due to large wish lists. She said the indoor facility is something the Ad Hoc Group wants to have and it is built into the master plan, but it is not possible with an \$11,000,000 budget. She said the turf fields were discussed and there is lot of publicity regarding turf fields. Most older athletes prefer to play on grass rather than turf. She said the City could not guarantee a replacement every ten years, and it is not in the budget to replace every ten years. Councilmember Karjala asked if the operations and maintenance of the grass fields will be with NYSA or Parks and Recreation and Mayor Miller said NYSA.

Councilmember Hickman asked if there will be any cost to the City regarding Griffin Park if this project is completed. Mr. Foster said not with the soccer complex, NYSA will be responsible of taking care of it all and anything outside of the soccer complex such as the dog park, etc., would be the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilmember Hickman asked about the status of the agreement with NYSA. Mr. Evans said there is a current agreement that will have to be redone. It is a three year agreement and has been renewed several times throughout the years; it will be updated once things are put into place. Councilmember Hickman asked if Council approves that and Mr. Evans said yes.

Councilmember Karjala asked the Ad Hoc Group about minimal shade trees on the complex and wanted to know if that was a budgetary concern. She said there were a lot of trees around the parking area, but did not notice trees around the fields. Ms. Fuentes said because of rotation to prevent overuse on the fields, and because the fields shift up and down to preserve turf in the goal boxes, shade has been placed where possible, but every bit of real estate has been used to maximize the amount of fields. To host tournaments, Griffin Park needs as many fields possible. There are alternates for shade structures for the parents if the budget allows. Mr. Evans said there are about 15 shade structures in phase one, but trees require ongoing maintenance and during soccer season in the fall there will be maintenance to keep the leaves off of the field. He said there will be unit costs for different sizes of shade structures and they are inexpensive.

Councilmember Hickman said recreational teams are not allowed to practice on the fields and the NYSA website encourages recreational coaches to find public parks or school sites that have soccer fields to practice on and asked if there was any way to use the money to improve soccer fields at public parks in order for kids to practice or is there a plan set in place for that. Mr. Foster said this funding could only be directed to this site, but there will be the option to use funding that is set aside to renovate the neighborhood parks and this is where all of the practice fields will be. He said Parks and Recreation does the individual neighborhood park renovations and they are part of the Norman Forward PayGo projects, so that is certainly an option. Mr. Steve Gillis said they have 230 recreational teams and many years ago teams were allowed to practice at the complex. It became a turf management thing because the fields were down to the dirt. He said it is too much activity in too large of numbers. He said they have worked closely with Parks and Recreation and their Staff has made great improvements and a lot of the parks now have regulation goals with nets. He said the maintenance aspect is too much to handle with that much wear and tear five nights a week. Councilmember Castleberry asked if competitive teams were allowed to practice on the field. Mr. Gillis said some of the competitive teams do and pay a fee to practice. Mayor Miller said pretty much everyone is paying something to use the fields, because that is how NYSA is able to maintain the fields and provide the fields to the kids. Mr. Gillis said there are a certain number of fields on the far east, which will always be open to the public. Mr. Evans said there is design for certain fields to be open to the public. There are 22 fields and they wanted a minimum of 20 and these can be rotated throughout the whole complex to be for public use and would be coordinated through NYSA or they can designate two fields on the east end of the site or south end of the site. Mr. Crosby said they can also use the existing field that is more remote and will stay until something else is funded for the park. Councilmember Castleberry said one of the things Council talked about during Norman Forward discussions is making sure there is access given to everybody and not just to competitive kids and he understands Councilmember Holman's concerns on this issue. He asked if Council can work with the Ad Hoc Group to figure out a rotation. He said he appreciates the pay to practice, but not every recreational team can afford that. He said they should find a way to allow everyone access to the recreational facilities.

Councilmember Hickman asked about the stormwater plan with the additional parking and the stormwater runoff. Mr. Crosby said PDG has not prepared detailed plans, but will meet all of the stormwater requirements regardless of cost. He said the way the existing lake is constructed, it has normal water elevation with a high watermark to the spillway and one of the main objectives is to utilize the existing pond to its maximum ability allowed by the construction of the pond. He said PDG will irrigate with the water and are replenishing it with stormwater runoff and a well, which fills the pond up on a weekly basis. He said they do not anticipate any irrigation problems. Councilmember Hickman said the cost estimate is still preliminary and some things may need to be cut because there may be some costs associated with dealing with stormwater runoff. Mr. Crosby said that is why a large contingency was put into the project budget. There is a \$700,000 design contingency and it is not the contingency for the construction phase. He said if they didn't need it in one of the line items, more shade structures would be added, but all of that \$700,000 when it goes out to bid will be accounted for in another line item. He said the Master Plan will be a schematic plan and preliminary plans have not started. He said there is \$660,000 in earthwork and \$540,000 in storm sewer. Those are estimates at the moment based on previous projects of this size. He said it will not come out of the contingency and will not take away from the project.

Councilmember Hickman asked if Americans with Disabilities (ADA) features were reduced in Phase One. Mr. Crosby said ADA facilities have been increased. There is a ratio of parking spaces and all of the drop-offs will be ADA. He said there are drop-offs at all locations including handicap accessibility and PDG has increased everything from the traffic to pedestrian entrance into the complex and all of the sidewalks and restrooms will be updated to ADA standards. He said there will also be ADA baby changing stations. Mr. Evans said when he mentioned eliminating sidewalks earlier most of those are plaza areas. He said sidewalks that were reduced were not necessary to create the ADA or the pedestrian circulation in the area where a trail may not be outside of the complex that may need to reconnect.

Councilmember Hickman said the sales tax collections have been 4% less and this makes the budget tighter. He asked if, Council knowing they are collecting 4% less, should instruct the project to be designed on the lesser amount reduced by 4% than what was initially planned. He said if things get better then the Council can spend the money later, otherwise the Council is spending money that has not been collected hoping the collections improve. Mayor Miller said she thinks the process continues to have changes as they get through the project. She said if there is not enough money then the contract cannot be approved. Councilmember Hickman said the Council will approve the contract, because it will be within budget, but the budget is 4% less than what has been collected. Councilmember Clark said she thinks Councilmember Hickman is saying the Council needs to look at the budget closer, while sales tax collections are low. She said if \$9,872,000 is all that is left and the budget is still down 4% in sales tax collections, then the Council is ignoring a problem that they know is going to come back to bite them. Mayor Miller said the Council is accepting what they are going to be voting on in the Council meeting. She said they are not doing the construction contract yet. Mr. Francisco said this will be similar to a preliminary estimate. He said no construction budget has been approved yet. He said the future budget will be based on these estimates.

Councilmember Hickman said his concern is if the Council does not address this now, the Committee will continue to go forward and make plans to spend all of the money. He thinks maybe the Council should advise the Committee to put \$440,000 into an owner contingency so that money is not spent that has not been collected. Mayor Miller said this is the design report the Council is accepting.

Councilmember Hickman said he does not know what the next step is. Mayor Miller said the next money to be spent will be the acquisition of the property, which is already in the budget. Mr. Foster said as far as

this project goes after this step, Parks and Recreation would direct the consulting team to start in on the detail design work which takes several months of design work to prepare plans to be bid out for construction.

Councilmember Hickman asked if Council chose to pull \$440,000 out of the contingency if that would affect how they did the design plans that would then be used to bid out the job. Mr. Foster said Parks and Recreation would have to go to the Ad Hoc Group to ask for additional cuts. Mr. Evans said PDG would design for the ultimate amount and then if in the end, years from now, it isn't available then they would have to take out an item, which would involve the Ad Hoc Group. Councilmember Hickman asked if this was going to be multiple projects over five years. Mr. Foster said he was not sure how many years, but the project will be done in multiple phases. He said it cannot be done all at once, because they do not have the space available to do the project all at once. Mr. Evans said PDG will design the project for \$9,800,000 and if the budget is only \$9,400,000, there might be some items that will have to be cut out towards the end. He said they would still have all of the plans, but as Mr. Foster said this will be bid out in phases so the ultimate amount would not be spent unless it is in the budget.

Councilmember Wilson asked if the overall Norman Forward Project has built in contingencies. Mr. Francisco said each project has a contingency. He said it was always discussed that there are peaks in the sales tax and other collections and they would have to make adjustments as the project moves forward.

Councilmember Clark asked what the estimated completion date is. Mr. Evans said the complex could be built in twelve months and designed in six months, but it hinges on the purchase of the property. Councilmember Clark said she wants more realistic dates.

Mr. Evans said the first step when the construction documents are released to do smaller phases over in the area of the existing fields. He said the objective was to come up with three or four packages quickly that could be bid out as smaller projects.

Mr. Gillis said in a perfect world it would be nice to shut everything down and re-grade all of the fields and put all of the lighting in. However, when league play starts the park will need every square inch and it will have to be done in pieces and in unison with Reaves Park. Due to the schedules and demands, it cannot all be done at once.

Mr. Evans said if Council approved this package next week and authorized to go into the next stage, a package could go out to bid in 45 days.

Councilmember Clark asked if the phase two part of the master plan is a decade away depending upon funding. Mr. Foster said it would depend on a funding source being available.

Councilmember Hickman said he is interpreting the Griffin Sports Complex preliminary design report will be coming to Council on an agenda item to be approved. Mayor Miller said yes. Councilmember Hickman asked if Council approves the design report, what does that authorize them to do, because they don't have authority to do anything right now without Council approving it as far as spending money. Mayor Miller said she assumes if the Council does not approve it, they will not move forward with any more designs. Mr. Evans said if PDG were directed by the Council to hold off for six to eight weeks or two weeks, they will hold off even though they are under contract. PDG has to get authorization for the next steps and the master plan is the first step.

Councilmember Hickman asked if the Norman Forward Financial Oversight Committee said anything about the budget and the 4% drop in sales tax collection. He asked if they approved going forward with the preliminary design with the budget as is. Mayor Miller said the Committee is an Oversight Committee and they review what has been approved by the Council. She said the Ad Hoc Group was the Committee charged with the finer points of planning for the program. She said none of the other projects have gone to the Oversight Committee first. She said if the Council does not approve the report, then there is nothing for them to go over. Councilmember Hickman said the burden is on the Council to ensure that the project is staying within budget and asked if the Financial Oversight Committee is helping with that. Mayor Miller said one of the primary charges as a Councilmember is the budget and this is a budgetary matter, which is the Council's legal responsibility. Councilmember Hickman said he is fine with moving forward he just wants it to be clear that Council may have to scale down the scope of work on this project because of the budget situation being 4% less than what is collected. He said this has not been addressed on the other projects and Council needs to start addressing the budget now. Councilmember Castleberry said this is like the Porter Street Corridor project. A bunch of money was spent on a plan and money was never spent doing it. He said money is spent to get a plan in order to move forward at the appropriate time. He said these concerns may be valid six months from now when a contract comes forward to spend the money. Councilmember Bierman said her concern is if the project is being completed in small packages how will there be a clear sense of what will be trimmed back on if the sales tax collection continues to be low. She said if the budget issue is not discussed now, Council will be put in a difficult situation later on and have to cut items from the project. Councilmember Hickman said he would feel better if more agencies were looking over the budget of how the money is spent and he wonders who is watching the budget. Councilmember Castleberry said the Council can easily take some of the PayGo projects and move them six months out to do this. He understands Councilmember Hickman's concerns, but he is not that concerned about the budget, because in the past two months there has been an increase in sales tax.

Items submitted for the record

1. Preliminary Design Report for City of Norman Griffin Park Sports Complex submitted by PDG, GSB, and Johnson & Associates.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor