

## WARD 2 CANDIDATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

September 17, 2020

The Ward 2 Candidate Selection Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma, met in a virtual session hosted at the Municipal Building Multi-Purpose Room at 201 West Gray on the 17th day of September, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. Notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

### **Item 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Members Melissa Houston, Ellen Kanak, Julie Knudsen, Jermaine Peterson, and Chairman Gabriel Bird
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
OTHERS PRESENT:	Kathryn Walker City Attorney

### **Item 2. INTERVIEWS WITH INTERIM WARD 2 CANDIDATES:**

Aleisha Karjala  
Terry Van Winkle  
John Argo  
Sean Boyd

Committee members received responses from the applicants to the questions below prior to the interviews and asked additional follow-up questions of each applicant in person in a round table environment.

1. We have all received your applications and resumes but, more informally, tell us a little bit about yourself.
2. What do you see as the most important resource(s) and challenge(s) facing Ward 2?
3. What do you see as the most important resources and challenges facing the City as a whole?
4. Do you perceive this appointment to be interim only, or do you intend on filing for the Ward 2 seat in next year's election cycle? If interim only, then why? If intending to file for next year's election, then why?
5. Give an example of a contentious issue, which you helped to resolve with others, to illustrate how you approach conflict resolution, consensus building, or problem solving?
6. Have you attended City Council meetings, boards and commissions meeting or ward meetings? How much time do you expect to spend on City Council matters if appointed?
7. How do you see balancing City Council commitments with other responsibilities and obligations you currently have?
8. How would you balance the interests of Ward 2 with the interests of the city as a whole? Would your vote reflect your constituents' desires, the interest of the city, or your own interests?
9. What expertise or experiences, professionally, personally, or in the community, do you have that you feel would make you a contributing member of the City Council?
10. Describe what you believe to be effective means of communicating with ward constituents including how you would combat misinformation?
11. Is there anything else you would like the Panel to know regarding your application to serve as the appointed Council Member for Ward 2?

Follow-up questions asked during the interview.

1. The recent bond election failed that would have provided funding for the construction of a stand along Senior Wellness Center. What ideas/options do you have for coming up with the \$5 million funding deficit to complete the project?
2. What do you see your role as with regard to public health issues as a result of COVID 19?
3. What are your thoughts on the recent approval of the \$21 million private investment for the NOUN boutique hotel on Campus Corner?
4. Do you support the SRO Program and would you support approving the pending \$500,000 grant to hire additional SROs?
5. Have you done any research on the national statistics of SRO Program and their effect on black students?
6. What are your thoughts on Council's recent action on the Police Department's budget reduction?

Items submitted for the record

1. Questionnaire response from Aleisha Karjala
2. Questionnaire response from Terry VanWinkle
3. Questionnaire response from Sean Boyd

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**Item 3. DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES AND MOTION TO RECOMMEND A CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.**

The Committee discussed their number one choice of the applicants and the reasons for their selection. Committee members were impressed with all of the applicants. All were sincere, service-minded and community-oriented and they hoped they would remain engaged in local government.

Member Houston moved that Sean Boyd be approved for the Ward 2 Interim Council seat and his name be submitted to City Council for formal consideration, which motion was duly seconded by Member Knudsen; and the question being upon approving Sean Boyd for the Ward 2 Interim Council seat and upon the subsequent submission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Members Houston, Knudsen, and Chairman Bird

NAYES: Members Kanak and Peterson

Chairman Bird declared the motion carried and Sean Boyd for the Ward 2 Interim Council seat approved; and his name will be submitted to City Council for formal consideration.

The members that voted no did not have a consensus on another applicant rather each indicated a preference for a different candidate.

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**Item 4. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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