

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
February 9, 2017

The City Council Finance Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Multi-Purpose Room on the 9th day of February, 2017, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in 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: Members Heiple, Castleberry, Chappel, and Mayor Miller

ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Aleisha Karjala, City Council Member  
Steve Lewis, City Manager  
Anthony Francisco, Finance Director  
Suzanne Krohmer, Budget Manager  
Jeff Bryant, City Attorney  
Gala Hicks, Director of Human Resources

Chair Heiple called the meeting to order.

Item 1, being

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS AND/OR REQUESTS  
FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Social and Voluntary Services Commission
- 89er Day Parade Committee
- Veterans Day Parade Committee
- Center for Children and Families
- Firehouse Art Center
- Cleveland County Historic Museum
- Sooner Theater
- Aging Services-Kiwanis Kruiser
- Performing Arts Studio
- Norman Economic Development Coalition (NEDC)
- Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART)

Chair Heiple stated that he would be recusing himself from the entire meeting and having Mayor Miller run the meeting due to possible conflict of interest with his wife running Food and Shelter (a Social and Voluntary Services Commission Funds recipient) and requesting City money. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recusal and was passed unanimously.

Mayor Miller stated that it was extremely impressive to see the work that these agencies put into their requests for funding from the City. Member Castleberry stated that this has not been the case in the past, so last year the Finance Committee requested the organizations provide more information along with their requests for funding.

Anthony Francisco gave the presentation. He stated that if the agencies were not requesting an increase in their funding then the Committee could just continue their current level of funding. If the agency is asking for an increase then the Committee can vote on that increase. The main agency that is requesting an increase is the Center for Family and Children, who have requested an additional \$20,000 to expand the after school neighborhood services program. Mayor Miller stated that Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) also requested an additional \$50,000. Member Castleberry asked if the rest of the overall budget was going to be flat. City Manager Lewis stated that generally the budget has been flat. Member Castleberry stated that adding this additional funding while the overall budget was going to be flat worried him. Mayor Miller stated that the most prudent thing to do is keep every agency funding at the current level. Member Castleberry stated that he would also recommend holding at the current level. Member Chappel stated that he was also for leaving the funding at the current levels. City Manager Lewis stated that the partnership that the City of Norman has with OU for the transit system is very good, especially compared to other cities that have to fully fund their transit systems. He also agreed with the decision to hold the current level of funding flat.

Items submitted for the record:

1. Outside Agency FYE 2018 Budget Requests and supporting documentation

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Item 2, being

#### DISCUSSION OF THE FYE 2017 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

Francisco gave the presentation. A handout (the first page of which was reprinted from an economic presentation to the Oklahoma City Council) was given to the Committee for the presentation. Francisco stated that there is a lag between the macro economy and what happens in the sales tax for the local economy. The handout talks about where we are going on the employment side in the next 12 months. The local economy has gone through a recession in the last 12-18 months, but if things continue the way they are we can expect to see a slow but gradual improvement based on historic economic cycles. The regional economic recession has been felt in Norman over the last 8-10 months and we should expect to start to grow out of that. The month of February sales tax report reflects this gradual improvement. We were down