

## CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MINUTES

June 9, 2015

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a conference at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 9th day of June, 2015, 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 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**PRESENT:**

Councilmembers Allison, Castleberry, Heiple, Holman, Lang, Miller, and Williams, Mayor Rosenthal

**ABSENT:**

Councilmember Jungman

Item 1, being:

**DISCUSSION REGARDING DEBRIS REMOVAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGES SUSTAINED IN NORMAN DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER BEGINNING MAY 5, 2015, INCLUDING CONTRACT K-1415-141 WITH TETRA TECH TO PROVIDE DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES RELATED TO SAID DAMAGE.**

Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, said the City has done a good job of documenting the obvious damage to infrastructure from storm events that have taken place since May 5, 2015, and are now focusing on the non-obvious damage to infrastructure. He said part of that process will be building a narrative for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) eligibility as quickly as possible. He said the City will pay for projects up-front then will be reimbursed by FEMA. He said project approval will be another part of the process and these projects will allow the City to bring a lot of the damaged bridges and culverts up to minimum City standards as many of the culverts were constructed in the 1950's and 1960's and do not meet current minimum standards. He said FEMA encourages cities and counties to meet current minimum standards on improvements. Staff is preparing documentation in advance of FEMA audits and the City wants to move at due speed, but still be very intentional about the engineering aspects of the projects. He said some projects may take longer to complete, but will have benefits in the end; however, there may be some frustration in the community in meeting expectations.

Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, said the May 6, 2015, tornado could have been so much worse because there was no loss of life and no serious injuries to citizens or Staff. He the storm caused temporary closure of I-35 and although that caused some inconvenience there were no serious collisions.

Mr. O'Leary said there was a great deal of debris from the tornado and the City's Debris Management Plan (DMP) that went into effect in 2006, was needed for the sixth time in seven years. He said the on-call contractor, TFR Enterprises, Inc., (TFR) responded within 12 hours to discuss the process for picking up the debris. On May 13th TFR began picking up vegetative and construction/demolition (C&D) debris (sheds, grills, fencing, patio furniture, grills, trampolines, etc.) in the designated areas with a June 5th completion date. TFR removed 12,388 cubic yards of vegetative debris and 2,217 cubic yards of C&D debris at an estimated cost of \$170,000, which is less than the City estimated.

Councilmember Allison asked what people are being told if they have not placed their C&D at the curb and Mr. O'Leary said Staff if telling them the removal process has been completed and gives them other options on getting rid of the debris.

Mr. O'Leary said if cities respond within 30 days of a disaster they will receive five percent additional points for reimbursement from FEMA so instead of 75% the City of Norman will receive 80% reimbursement from FEMA, 12.5% from Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM), and the City's share will be 7.5%.

Mr. O'Leary said there were five flash flood incidents between May 5 and May 23, 2015. During that time Norman received 23.4 total inches of rainfall which exceeded the previous record in the month of May by 10 inches as well as a previous record of 16.5 inches in the 1950's. There was substantial damage to private and public properties from the flooding; however, dam breaches caused minimal damage. He said the Robinson Street Underpass Storm Water System performed exceptionally well and that had been a real worry for Staff due to the depth of the underpass.

Mr. O'Leary said on a monthly level, Norman is approaching the 1,000 year storm event according to the National Weather Service. He said the storms on May 19th and May 23rd were 100 year storms, based on inches of rainfall per hour.

Mr. O'Leary said the Alameda Street Twin Bridges over Lake Thunderbird were built three inches over the top of the dam so flooding on the bridges was never supposed to happen and when it did flood Staff was really concerned about the safety of the structure. When the water receded City Staff had to remove trees, logs, other debris, and a large amount of silt off the bridges before it could be reopened. He said the Corps of Engineers was discharging water from the lake as quickly as they could, but could not keep up with the rising water in the lake.

Councilmember Holman asked if the bridges will be inspected for structural damages and Mr. O'Leary said yes, Staff inspected the bridge before reopening it, but it will be thoroughly inspected once the lake water has completely receded. Councilmember Castleberry asked how the integrity of a bridge is tested and Mr. Scott Sturtz, Capital Projects Engineer, said the City does a visual inspection looking for signs of settling, shifting, or twisting of the structure, things not in their normal shape, soil erosion around bridge supports, etc. He said the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) inspects frequently used bridges every two to three years to make sure the structures are safe and Staff may have them check bridges the City is unsure about to ensure there are no significant issues needing to be addressed. Mr. O'Leary said Staff is just now seeing the outcome of those floods on some of the bridge structures. He said there was not a single part of Norman that was not impacted by the flooding and there has been a total realignment of the Canadian River channel much further east than it has been in many, many years.

Mayor Rosenthal asked how much roadway has been lost due to the new riverbed alignment and if there are homes or structures no longer accessible. Mr. Greg Hall, Street Maintenance Superintendent, said two and a half to three miles of roadway was lost at Rock Creek Road and 72nd Avenue N.W.

Councilmember Heiple said there is an Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company (OG&E) power station at 48th Avenue N.E. and Lindsey Street that is very close to the river and asked about OG&E's protocol if that power station is flooded. Mr. O'Leary said rivers have historic right and left banks and the left bank of the river is outside of that power station as well as outside of the City's sewer pipeline system. He said the water may come close but Staff is not too concerned about that. Councilmember Heiple said the power station equipment is worth millions of dollars and asked if OG&E would shut the power station down and Mr. O'Leary said that could happen on a temporary basis. Mr. Sturtz said much of the equipment is elevated, but if water threatened to breach the equipment OG&E more than likely has installed switches that are triggered to shut the station down automatically.

Mr. O'Leary said the Imhoff Creek channel at Andrews Park was completely underwater and the pavilion flooded. He highlighted damages to roads and drainage culverts and said a City employee discovered a large washout at the State Highway 9 and I-35 Widening Project and contacted ODOT who had the roadway repaired within three to four days. He said several road crossing drainage culverts were damaged and those roads are closed until new culverts can be constructed.

Mr. O'Leary said the City has 54 infrastructure issues all over Norman as a result of the May flooding; however, the largest and most expensive issues are on the east side of Norman in Ward Five. The City has prioritized the 54 areas based on traffic volume; road classification; major routes; school routes; and public safety routes. He highlighted the top 17 major infrastructure projects as follows:

- Franklin Road between 24th Avenue N.E. and 26th Avenue N.E. – bridge repairs
- 48th Avenue East - to Alameda Street to Lindsey Street – culvert repairs
- Franklin Road – 36th Avenue East to 48th Avenue East – culvert repairs
- 120th Avenue N.E. – Indian Hills Road to Franklin Road – culvert repairs
- Indian Hills Road – East of 36th Avenue N.E. – culvert repairs
- 200 Block South Vicksburg Avenue – storm sewer repairs
- Rock Creek Road – 156th Avenue N.E. to 168th Avenue N.E. – culvert repairs
- 48th Avenue East – Franklin Road to Indian Hills Road – culvert repairs
- Post Oak Road – 108th Avenue East to 120th Avenue East – bridge repairs
- Etowah Road – 132nd Avenue East to 144th Avenue East – road repairs
- Rock Creek Road – 168th Avenue N.E. to 180th Avenue N.E. (Reynolds Lake washout) – road repairs
- Indian Hills Road East – 48th Avenue N.E. (west of intersection) – culvert repairs
- 108th Avenue N.E. – Indian Hills Road to Bethel/Stella Road – culvert repairs
- Post Oak Road at Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) tracks – road repairs
- Franklin Road – 144th Avenue East to 156th Avenue East – road repairs
- 72nd Avenue East – Robinson Street to Alameda Street – road repairs
- 1129 Whispering Pines Drive – channel repairs due to channel liner failure

Mr. O'Leary said Staff learned just before this meeting that Etowah Road between 132nd Avenue S.E. and 144th Avenue S.E. will be repaired by Cleveland County through their Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

Councilmember Miller said 120th Avenue S.E. is a heavily traveled road and Mr. O'Leary agreed and said the project will be a priority, but it is also one of the larger projects to be undertaken. He said mitigation may include a larger culvert, box culvert, or something more appropriate than what was in place.

Mr. O'Leary highlighted the minor infrastructure projects as follows:

- Robinson Street – 48th Avenue N.W. to 60th Avenue N.W. – road repairs
- 120th Avenue East and Camino Real Street – road repairs
- Franklin Road at 91st Avenue N.E. – road repairs
- 108th Avenue N.E. south of Alameda Street – road repairs
- 7481 East Rock Creek Road – shoulder repairs
- 168th Avenue N.E. and Tecumseh Road – shoulder repairs
- Franklin Road West of 180th Avenue N.E. – shoulder repairs
- Franklin Road and 180th Avenue N.E. – shoulder repairs
- Tecumseh Road – 156th Avenue N.E. to 168th Avenue N.E. – shoulder repairs
- Tecumseh Road and 180th Avenue N.E. – roadside ditch repairs
- 72nd Avenue N.E. south of Tecumseh Road – bridge repairs
- 2105 72nd Avenue N.E. – storm water system repairs
- Tecumseh Road at 68th Avenue N.E. – roadside ditch repairs
- Alameda Street and 12th Avenue East – storm water system repairs
- Robinson Street and Porter Avenue – storm water system repairs

Minor Infrastructure Projects, continued:

- 221 Chalmette Street – storm water system repairs
- 4524 Midway Drive – storm water system repairs
- 4712 Manor Hill Drive – storm water system repairs
- 1316 Brookside Drive – storm water system repairs
- 2801 Northglenn Lane – storm water system repairs
- 4012 Northwich Drive – storm water system repairs
- Rock Creek Road East of 60th Avenue N.E. – shoulder repairs
- 72nd Avenue N.E. at Stardust Lane – shoulder repairs
- 3232 72nd Avenue N.W. – storm water system repairs
- 72nd Avenue S.E. – shoulder repair on bridge
- 7481 East Rock Creek Road – shoulder repairs
- 419 Daws Street – storm water system repairs
- 1318 Quail Hollow Drive – storm water system repairs
- 1717 12th Avenue N.E. – other infrastructure repairs
- Summit Lakes Boulevard – South of Alameda – sidewalk repairs
- 24th Avenue S.W. – South of Riverside Drive – storm water system repairs
- Firehouse Art Center – sidewalk repairs
- 12th Avenue N.E. and Rock Creek Road – sidewalk repairs
- Indian Hills Road – 12th Avenue East to Porter Avenue – bridge repairs
- Tecumseh Road – 84th Avenue N.E. to 96th Avenue N.E. – road repairs (CDBG-DR)
- 4600 96th Avenue N.E. – road and shoulder repairs (CDBG-DR)
- 5907 Cardinal Lane – should repairs (CIP)

Councilmember Miller said the bridge on 72nd Avenue N.E. south of Tecumseh Road is prioritized as a minor project, but that bridge does not look safe to her. Mr. Hall said the bridge has been inspected and the City has taken some temporary measures so it is safe to drive on.

Mr. O’Leary said the last three minor projects have been identified as CDBG-DR projects or Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and will be funded through those programs.

Mr. O’Leary said the President signed a disaster declaration for 16 counties on June 4, 2015, including Norman/Cleveland County and FEMA set the eligible disaster period as May 5 through June 4, 2015. He said FEMA assistance will include mitigation and repair of public roads and storm water systems. He said mitigation includes upsizing/improvement of existing infrastructure to current City minimum standards, contracted engineering and monitoring services, and contracted construction services. Other eligible reimbursements include vehicles and equipment as well as traffic signs and signals. He said tornado and hail damage to vehicles and equipment totaled \$268,000 and damage to traffic signs and signals totaled \$15,000.

Mayor Rosenthal said today’s technology for storm water systems is better and asked if mitigation will allow the City to improve the technology of the projects and Mr. O’Leary said absolutely. He said City standards already encourage use of all natural materials.

Mayor Rosenthal said there are individual addresses on the minor infrastructure repair list for storm water system repairs and asked the nature of these problems. Mr. Hall said those are simply the address closest to the area that needs to be addressed.

Councilmember Allison asked if the City can recover overtime expenses and labor from FEMA and Mr. O'Leary said overtime yes, regular time no.

Mr. O'Leary said in tonight's meeting Council will consider a contract with Tetra Tech, Inc., for disaster recovery and financial management services. He said Tetra Tech will manage FEMA documentation to maximize the City's ability to obtain reimbursement allowing the City to start the projects more quickly. He said if the contract is approved, Tetra Tech will attend FEMA's assessment damage kick-off meeting with City Staff on June 10th. He said Tetra Tech and the City will begin reviewing temporary and permanent repairs, project needs, project costs, flood plain permits, etc., and the bidding phase should begin by the end of June. The plan is to start the construction phase of the projects in August 2015, with completion of *all* projects by June 2016; however, minor projects will be completed well before June 2016.

Mr. O'Leary said other flood related issues include the possible buy-out of flooded homes on East Main Street (Bishop Creek Watershed) and Ranch Estates Mobile Home Court (Little River Basin). The East Main property owners have had flooding issues for years and requested the City buy their property to be demolished and the Legal Department is negotiating those costs. The Ranch Estates Mobile Home Court was evacuated in 2007, during a flooding event and serious damage was done to some of the homes, which were removed and those lots can never have a structure placed on them again. He said the Ranch Estates was hit hard again in May 2015, to the extent that the private sanitary lagoon system was completely washed out into the Little River Basin. He said the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is working closely with the Ranch Estates owners, but it does not look favorable that they will be able to go back into business. He said this will be a challenge for the home owners to relocate and find new housing not to mention the owner being left with property that cannot be used.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if buy-out costs would be eligible for FEMA reimbursement especially since the properties are in a flood plain and Mr. O'Leary said the buy-out costs may be eligible through the FEMA Mitigation Grant Program; however, it is a very complicated program and he has heard the funds do not seem to be available to the City at this time. He said if negotiations become serious, the City will make an application for the grant in an attempt to recover as much of the costs as possible.

Mr. O'Leary said an analysis for the Imhoff Creek CIP Project is scheduled for Council's consideration tonight. He said Imhoff Creek banks continue to slough off moving water closer to properties so Staff is trying to accelerate work on the project.

Mr. O'Leary said the Vineyard Addition experienced flooding and two homes were flooded. He said this is a 20 year old subdivision, but the Vineyard Addition is literally at the bottom of the hill and has an enormous watershed. He said the dam behind Norman North High School overflowed into the Vineyard Addition and under the City Manager's authority Mishak and Associates have been hired to do a third party analysis of how this happened. The homes adjacent to the FEMA flood plain did not flood so there is something unusual happening in that area. Mayor Rosenthal asked if the analysis will help the City understand why that addition flooded and if it was due to poor detention pond engineering, poor maintenance, etc. Mr. O'Leary said yes and it is prudent to get an independent third party opinion especially if the engineer for the development did not do their job in that subdivision. The analysis will also give the City options on what can be done to help prevent future flooding issues.

Mayor Rosenthal said these are lessons learned in terms of public policy and Mr. O'Leary agreed and said there will be some policy issues coming before Council as Staff tries to figure out what happened and how the City can improve on developments. The Public Works Department has fielded 150 to 200 calls from citizens regarding flooding issues and Staff is doing their best to respond to citizens, but in regard to minor issues the City is telling citizens to be patient as Staff is trying to deal with the major issues of repairing bridges and roads that are currently closed or unsafe. He understands Council is getting these same calls and Staff is doing

the best they can to be responsive to everyone's concerns. He said citizens do not really see the big picture of what is happening in Norman beyond their problem because their problem is a big problem to them and while Staff appreciates that, in the grand scheme of things there is a hierarchy of what the City can do immediately at the very least.

Mr. O'Leary said Staff is doing their best in the basic repair and cleanup of storm water channels, pipelines, and inlets. He said over the next 6 to 12 months Staff is expecting to find more basic repairs and cleanup that is needed. He has seen things over the past month that he has never seen before such as people driving through flooded roads, which is dangerous because the road might not be there. He said more people lose their lives in floods than in any other disaster because people truly do not understand how hazardous this can be. Councilmember Miller has seen people moving the road block signs in order to drive through the water and that is scary. She said most of the calls she has received are citizens who live on private roads and the City cannot help them; however, City Staff has visited with them to help them find solutions. She is impressed with the job the City has been doing and Councilmembers concurred.

Councilmember Lang asked if minor repairs that may not be seen at this time can be added to the list later on and what is the deadline for this. Mr. O'Leary said Staff has to make sure the damage was caused by the floods first and the longer that takes the less chance there is of getting it turned in for FEMA reimbursement. He expects Staff to have a better picture of the heavy damages over the next 30 days, but felt most of the minor issues could be handled by the City. Councilmember Lang was concerned that sub-structural road damage may not show up until much later and Mr. O'Leary agreed and said Tetra Tech may advise the City to do some soil borings or additional investigations in some of the locations where this has not yet been done. Mr. Lewis said he heard the deadline date may be November 15, 2015, but that is not the definitive answer.

Mr. Lewis said the City has been fortunate to have a good partnership with Cleveland County through summer paving programs and the County is just as stressed as the City. He said there may be more damage in the County than in the City and the County is struggling to respond to these. He said coordination with Cleveland County on projects is critical and the City will coordinate with other agencies besides Cleveland County e.g., OEM, Norman Public School System, neighborhood HOA's, etc.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "May 2015 Storm Response and Recovery," presented by Shawn O'Leary, City Director of Public Works, dated June 9, 2015

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The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor