

CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 2, 2010

The City Council Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 2nd day of June, 2010, 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: Councilmembers Atkins, Griffith, and
Chairman Dillingham

ABSENT: Councilmember Kovach

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Angelo Lombardo, Traffic Engineer
Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works
Mr. Mike Rayburn, Assistant Traffic Engineer
Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Assistant

DISCUSSION REGARDING FYE 2010 PROGRAM UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING.

Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, said because the traffic calming budget had been eliminated in the FYE 11 Budget, there were concerns among citizens that the program had been eliminated completely. He said there are still lots of interest in the program and policy changes Council made a year ago has had positive results. He said he would like feedback from Council on whether or not Staff should continue taking requests, having meetings, and developing the program with no construction in FYE 11 or put on hold until funding in the budget resumes.

Mr. Angelo Lombardo, Traffic Engineer, said Council had shown interest in using speed feedback signs as a permanent tool in traffic calming and provided an overview of the findings. He said the City deploys three portable trailers to three separate locations for one week with the direction changed mid-week. He said data is downloaded and sent monthly to the Norman Police Department for use in enforcement. He said permanent installations are possible using electrical or solar power sources at a cost of approximately \$7,500 each. He said reports from Minneapolis and Washington indicate a minimum 4% speed reduction even after three years.

Mr. Lombardo said speed trailers are placed in neighborhoods where citizens have complained of speeding or neighborhoods that have met the criteria for traffic calming. He said sometimes the Police Department makes a special request to have a trailer placed in an area. Studies have concluded that the trailers are excellent in reducing speeds, but like other calming devices, drivers speed up after passing the device. He said the trailers need a power source to keep them operating and effective, which can be costly. He said the effective of the trailer does not seem to diminish over time deployed.

Mr. Lombardo said, in FYE 10, Staff received 52 inquires for traffic calming; 19 studies have been completed; 13 neighborhoods met the criteria; nine neighborhood meetings have been held; seven petitions have been submitted; 589 citizens have engaged in the petition process; and 392 of those citizens support calming initiatives. He said there are eight traffic calming projects left in FYE 10 to be constructed and Council will consider the contract on its June 22nd agenda. He said the projects are on Morren Drive; Brookhaven Boulevard; Pheasant Run; Melrose Drive; Willoway Drive; Garver Street; Walnut Road; and Carrington Lane. Mr. Lombardo said there is \$215,000 available and the projects will cost \$175,000.

Mr. Lombardo said more neighborhoods are embracing traffic calming devices other than speed tables such as traffic circles, medians, and chokers. He said Staff continues to receive requests from citizens and asked Councilmembers how Staff should deal with these calls. He said Staff could continue taking requests, gather petitions, and hold meetings with the understanding there will be no construction until FYE 12. He said there are four neighborhoods that meet the criteria and are ready for neighborhood meetings if that is Council's desire.

Chairman Dillingham said she was excited to see other calming devices being considered and asked about the height of the medians on Walnut Road and Mr. Lombardo said the middle of the road would be cut out and curb and gutter would be formed. He said the neighborhood was not interested in landscaping so the City will cap the median with concrete stamp decorative and brick paver.

Chairman Dillingham said the money is there so she has no problem continuing with the FYE 10 projects and Councilmembers agreed. Councilmember Griffith said he would like to see investigation into speed remediation continue through FYE 11 and construction when funding will allow. Councilmember Atkins suggested the police do more enforcement in areas where speed trailer data depicts significant non-compliance and Chairman Dillingham agreed. Chairman Dillingham asked Staff to keep their eyes on the pulse of speed calming devices nationwide in order for Council to have the best information available for FYE 12.

Councilmember Griffith was concerned that Northcliff Avenue had a poor neighborhood meeting turnout and was not one of the projects even though speeding is a big problem there. Mr. Lombardo suggested placing speed trailers on Northcliff for a longer period of time in 2011. Mr. O'Leary said this would be a great pilot program and will give Staff the chance to test the process, the numbers, and the financing as well as providing the neighborhood with some type of speed calming. Councilmember Atkins asked what the ongoing maintenance costs would be for the speed trailers and Mr. O'Leary said that is to be determined. Chairman Dillingham felt this was a great idea for the area as well as other areas throughout the City with problems and Councilmembers agreed.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "FYE 2010 Program Update Traffic Calming to City Council Oversight Committee" dated June 2 2010

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.