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TOPICAL FEATURED

City honors women who helped shape its history

By Mack Burke | Transcript News Editor 14 hrs ago



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Norman Mayor Lynne Miller, left, shakes hands with former Mayor Cindy Rosenthal at city hall Tuesday during the city council's regular meeting. Miller presented Rosenthal with a proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month in Norman.



NORMAN — Norman Mayor Lynne Miller hugged former mayor Cindy Rosenthal at city hall Tuesday night as she presented her with the city's latest proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

"Since its origin in 1981 as Women's History Week, Women's History Month recognizes, honors and celebrates the achievements of American women," Miller said. "Who better exemplifies leadership than Dr. Cindy Rosenthal?"

Stepping to the lectern, Rosenthal took a moment to honor the women who paved the way and reflected on the power of proclamations.

"I think the reason why they asked me to accept this is because I'm officially history," Rosenthal said. "I guess that qualifies me to say a few words."

"The value of celebrating women's history or, for that matter, black history or Hispanic history or LGBT history is that it challenges what we think we know. It completes our picture and the understanding of who we are as a people."

The proclamation was another symbolic moment for the city, but Rosenthal said it goes beyond that.

"Importantly, I think these proclamations, which I've had the opportunity to be on the other side of for many years, they're not just celebratory symbolism," she said. "They also remind us of truths about inequality and continued discrimination that contradict our American values of freedom, liberty and equality."

• **East side library contract approved:** The city council awarded the new east side library contract to Globe Construction Company, whose \$3.65 million bid came in at \$190,000 under budget. That allowed for the inclusion of aesthetic and functional additions, bringing the total estimated construction cost to \$3.8 million.

Ward 6 representative Breea Clark said the new library will have a tremendous impact on east side residents who have longed for a modern library in their area.

"I am so happy to have it for east Norman ... There are expectations that we voted on with Norman Forward, and I think a part of that was accessibility and equitability," she said. "I'm very excited to have a state-of-the-art facility for our east side residents where they can study, they can play, they can work and they can meet."

The library will be built on Alameda Street, directly east of Fire Station No. 9 at 24th Avenue Southeast. That falls within Clark's ward, but she said its benefit will extend to the entire east side.

"And a lot of people of Ward 5 will be able to get to this library without going through a stoplight," Miller said.

A Globe Construction Company spokesperson said the company is aiming to have the project complete by May 1. The project has a 464-day completion requirement. Damages of \$500 per day will be assessed if it's not completed on time.

• **Water report:** The city approved the submission of its 2016 annual report to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

In Fiscal Year 2016, about \$3 million was allotted to the city's stormwater division for maintenance and capital projects. In FY 2017, that figure has jumped to roughly \$3.8 million and includes the addition of a second stormwater compliance inspector and an additional street sweeper to fulfill state-mandated obligations from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Many council members said the rising costs underline the need for a stormwater utility. Norman is the largest city in Oklahoma without a stormwater utility.

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