



# MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda  
Item No. IX.M.  
7/7/2020

## The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Resolution receiving adaptokc, the citywide sustainability plan, as an amendment to the comprehensive plan.

### Background

Oklahoma City is among more than 120 U.S. cities and counties with established sustainability offices and positions. First conceived in 2008 by a taskforce of City leaders convened at the behest of the City Manager, the Office of Sustainability was created with City Council's adoption of the FY10 budget and began operation on July 1, 2009.

In 2015, Oklahoma City adopted planokc, which planted the seeds of a community-wide sustainability plan. Over the past several years, the Office of Sustainability has been working with City staff and members of the community to develop "adaptokc," the City of Oklahoma City's first sustainability plan. Through adaptokc, many of the environmental and economic components of the comprehensive plan are explored more deeply, especially amid the rapid changes we are continuing to see in every facet of society.

adaptokc is a policy document that identifies how we can strengthen our community in the face of economic, environmental, and social challenges. adaptokc will help our policymakers, businesses, residents, and institutions work together to face volatility and change with practical solutions.

Three principles are at the core of adaptokc:

1. Position Oklahoma City to lead by example as a steward of public resources. We must demonstrate approaches to natural resources and conservation that may seem new but are proven in peer cities to effectively manage risk. We can serve the public good by demonstrating practical and efficient ways to meet needs that will reduce long-term operations and maintenance costs.

2. Adapt our infrastructure, services, and communities to Oklahoma City's changing climate. We are already experiencing the effects of climate change and, even in the most optimistic scenarios, our climate will continue to change well into the future. To ensure our resilience, we need to plan and design for instability.

3. Identify how to use technological innovations to our advantage. Emerging technologies can help us streamline processes and respond proactively to the needs of our residents. From renewable energy to driverless vehicles, we have opportunities to chart new territory that can yield social, economic, and environmental dividends for all Oklahoma City residents.

The planning process for adaptokc centered around groups of private and public sector subject matter experts as well as specialists within the City who participated in one of six focus groups, each on a different topic: energy; water; natural assets; materials management; transportation; and preparedness and resilience. Each focus group discussed Oklahoma City's present situation including strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, learned about successful programs developed and implemented in comparable cities, and responded to and refined prospective topic goals, objectives, and targets. These discussions provided staff with a preliminary assessment of needs, available data, and feasibility - both practical and political.

Additionally, surveys were provided to all participants following each focus group session. These allowed for an anonymous means of input and feedback, recommendations for future session discussion, an opportunity to verify conclusions reached by staff, recommendations for additional participants, and general satisfaction with meeting organization and presentation. Focus group feedback helped establish a framework and direction for staff research and plan development.

In August 2019, City departments were provided an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan to ensure inter-departmental cooperation and coordination for implementation. City Council members were provided copies of the draft plan to review between March 20 and April 15, 2020. On April 22, 2020, the draft plan was released for public comment. Input was collected through May 20, 2020 and has been incorporated into the final draft of adaptokc.

Previous Actions

On May 28, 2020, a Planning Commission study session was held to discuss adaptokc.

On June 11, 2020, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to adopt adaptokc as an amendment to planokc.

Review

Planning Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.

Attachment

## RESOLUTION

### **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY RECEIVING ADAPTOKC, THE CITYWIDE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma Statutes, Title 11, § 47-101 et, seq. provides that the Planning Commission of The City of Oklahoma City may adopt and amend a Comprehensive Plan to guide the development of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Oklahoma City's Comprehensive plan, **planokc**, adopted in 2015, planted the seeds of a community-wide sustainability plan and, through **adaptokc**, many of the environmental and economic components of the comprehensive plan are explored more deeply; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** has been prepared utilizing extensive research and data analysis, the incorporation of data from previous plans and studies, information gathered from City departments and other agencies, and public input via stakeholder groups, public comment, and surveys; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recruited private and public sector subject matter experts as well as specialists within the City to each participate in one of six focus groups, each on a different topic: energy; water; natural assets; materials management; transportation; and preparedness and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** incorporates input from these groups to establish a framework and direction for staff research and plan development; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** identifies three core principles of the plan summarizing key concerns and priorities of the community, reflecting the community's vision, and identifying tools and strategies to accomplish the goals of the plan, including to position Oklahoma City to lead by example as a steward of public resources, adapt our infrastructure, services, and communities to Oklahoma City's changing climate, and identify how to use technological innovations to our advantage; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** identifies risks, including increases in: temperatures marked by drier, hotter summers, cost and demand for electricity, inundating rainfall events and associated flooding, operating and maintenance costs of infrastructure and assets, and cultural, linguistic, and age-related challenges to public service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** proposes adaptation measures to: reduce electricity costs with increased efficiency and renewable energy use, mitigate heat through development requirements and more natural urban environments, reduce emissions that threaten our health and economy, strengthen our infrastructure against extreme weather and declining revenue, enhance our approach to disaster recovery and response, protect and conserve our water resources, and reduce our economic vulnerability through strong wages and job growth; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** includes an implementation framework with specific goals, initiatives, policies, and actions for the City and the community to implement through partnerships, programs, education, communication, regulation, process, and procedure; and

**WHEREAS**, City departments were provided an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan in August 2019 to ensure inter-departmental cooperation and coordination for implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft plan was released for public comment from April 22, 2020 through May 20, 2020 and collected input has been incorporated, into the final draft of **adaptokc**; and

**WHEREAS**, **adaptokc** was presented to the Planning Commission at a special meeting on May 28, 2020; and

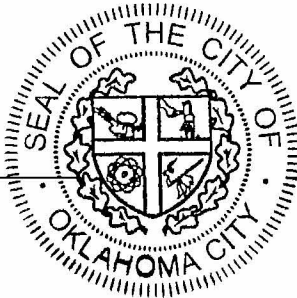
**WHEREAS**, on June 11, 2020, the Planning Commission adopted **adaptokc** as an amendment to **planokc**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Oklahoma City does hereby receive **adaptokc**, the Citywide Sustainability Plan, as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

**RECEIVED** by the Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Oklahoma City on this 7th day of July , 2020.

**ATTEST:**

  
CITY CLERK



  
VICE MAYOR

**REVIEWED** for form and legality.

  
Assistant Municipal Counselor