

**CITY OF WALKER  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES FOR  
VACATION OF A PORTION OF THIRD STREET  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER –Gary Wilkening**

- Gary Wilkening called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.
  - Council members present: Nelson, Moore, Bruns (5:37 p.m.), Wilkening, McMurrin
  - Council members absent:
  - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Wayne Tennis, Police Chief  
Travis Bakker, Police  
Jim Schluz, City Engineer  
Pamela Smith, City Employee  
John and Lara Stewart

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator  
Neil Lange, Public Works Director  
Terry Freeman,  
Steve and Jane Ekholm  
Travis Baker

Gary Wilkening asks John Stewart if he would like to begin this public hearing by presenting their Vacation request.

John approaches the Board at the center table to review pictures of the proposed site.

John -As you know we are trying to build a new dairy queen. What we are proposing to do here is (showing pictures) if you're coming off the highway in here, there's this little piece that goes back through here into the City parking lot. What we're hoping to do is; this is the piece we are proposing to vacate and in doing that that would allow us to add quite a bit more parking along this side. And we would open up this piece in the back so you could come through.

Lara explains that the traffic would flow better and allow bigger vehicles to get through their lot.

McMurrin-So the drive-thru will stay the same?

Lara-The drive-thru will stay on the Southside lane, but you will be able to get cars through here (pointing to pictures).

John-It actually lines up a little bit better to Third Street.

Lara- It makes the road straighter, then what it currently is right now. Everybody has to make this big swing and they can't make the swing through that piece.

John-Here is an example of we get a truck/fifth wheel. As of right now they can drive around this piece they can get back out which when we move this building back and this into a single lane if we can.

Lara-If we build the building as it exists without the 13 feet it would be closer to Orton's and back a lot further. It would make this really skinny and we would never be able to get a trailer through there. So that 13 feet would allow the building to move over it also allows the front part to move back so that it can be further off the road than it currently is. So traffic trying to exist or enter would have an easier time seeing pedestrians and the cars leaving would have an easier time seeing traffic. Also there is a lot of busses that use these spots to park it would be nice to keep this space for bigger vehicles.

John-And the problem right now, is when he comes in here, this is a perfect example is when he parks there, that blocks this off completely so you can't make that swing through there anymore. So it would just make things a lot easier if we could open this up you could come off the highway come right back off of Railroad back here if you would like make this swing and come into the City parking lot would help us out.

Moore-I like this, because it moves back and is safer for the public.

John-Our building moves back about 12 feet, right now it's sitting right out on the end and these drive-thru cars are pulling out they always have to be careful of anybody that's walking across here; that would obviously help any of that.

Lara-We're going to still have the traffic, you will now be able to see it.

Nelson-When you do pull out of there right now it is a hectic situation especially if you have people standing there and even if you don't you still don't have a very good view when coming out of here. It would make it safer for pedestrians.

John-It will come back 12 to 13 feet, it currently it is sitting right on the property line.

Wilkening-What I like is that if you improve access you don't end up with vehicles potentially having to back out onto Highway 371. I also like the drive-thru, I've always thought that was a major safety concern with that being so close, obviously there was nothing you could do about it, it's been that way ever since I have lived here. The whole project makes sense to me what you are looking to do.

Wilkening-Does anyone have any questions or comment from the public?

Nelson-When you look at Third Street across the street there is no Third Street because the Court House is in the way and you go up another block and it's a dirt road and then you have the school and the football field, there is no Third Street.

Nelson speaks of the iconic nature that Dairy Queen has. And that by providing a year-round service would be good for business for the entire community; it's good for the tax base for the community.

Nelson-It keeps people coming; it gives them a reason to stop when they come to town. I'm all for it.

Moore-I'm for it too.

Bruns-The only other option that I threw out there is going up Third Street and having both Hardees and the Dairy Queen come off of the new opened up Third Street, but as John told me that potentially backs his drive-thru traffic right up onto that part of Third Street so I agree that does make more sense you can get more cars onto his lot and to go through the drive-thru is to do it the way it is being presented.

Bruns clarifies that the back door entrance would not be there and that it would be all parking spaces.

John-This allows us to correct the current exist to 371 because it currently comes out at an angle; we can straighten that out.

The Board discusses parking spaces that would be available.

There were no other public comments or suggestions.

**ADJOURNMENT –Mayor Bruns**

Mayor Bruns adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:44 p.m.

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Scott Bruns, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator