

ORDINANCE NO. O-1314-11

ITEM NO. 7

STAFF REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

APPLICANT

Board of Regents of the University
of Oklahoma

REQUESTED ACTION

Closure of street right-of-way of
Farmer Street lying between Jenkins
Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and
between Blocks 1 and 8, Hardie
Rucker Addition.

BACKGROUND: Amended plat of Hardie Rucker Addition was filed of record May 11, 1923 with a fifty foot (50') street right-of-way known as Farmer Street between Jenkins Avenue to the west and Lincoln Avenue to the east.

DISCUSSION: A great amount of transition has taken place in this area. Beginning with the construction of Headington Hall by the University of Oklahoma north of Farmer Street, a University of Oklahoma parking lot south of Farmer Street, the construction of Lindsey Street from Lincoln Avenue to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks, and the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Jenkins Avenue and Stinson Street and Lindsey Street and George Avenue. With the street closure, a public street will no longer be in conflict with the University's plans for continuity of their property. The proposal is green space and landscaping in the place of the street paving, an element of open space will make a break from the multi-story structure to the north and the existing parking lot to the south. With the neighborhood to the east and southeast, there are other outlets provided with the best locations at the signalized intersections of Stinson Street and Jenkins Avenue and Lindsey Street and George Avenue. The Lindsey Street Project installed wide sidewalks on both sides of the street. The University of Oklahoma constructed the same width sidewalks for Lindsey Street and Jenkins Avenue as part of the Headington Hall Project.

Also, sidewalks were constructed adjacent to Lincoln Avenue and Farmer Street. A City project installed a sidewalk on the south side of Farmer Street from George Avenue to the east to Jenkins Avenue to the west. With this proposal the sidewalk will terminate at Lincoln Avenue.

It should be noted that the City has a sanitary sewer main that runs north and south about mid-block of the closure and a storm sewer located on the north side of Farmer Street running east and west (draining Jenkins Avenue to the east). The City will need easements to cover these facilities. City staff has received one response from AT&T Southwest needing an easement for their facilities. There have been no other responses from the utility companies.

RECOMMENDATION: With the proposal of the green streetscape by the University, the newly installed traffic signals and sidewalks providing pedestrian capabilities, staff can support the request for the closure of Farmer Street between Jenkins Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and between Blocks 1 and 8 of Hardie Rucker Addition.