

ORDINANCE NO. O-1213-53

ITEM NO. 11

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**STAFF REPORT**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

APPLICANT

First Baptist Church of Norman

REQUESTED ACTION

Partial closure of the north twenty-feet (20') right-of-way running east and west adjacent to Lots 1 through 16, Block 71, Norman Original Town.

**BACKGROUND:** The Norman Original Town was filed of record on December 8, 1890, with twenty-foot (20') rights-of-way (alleys) and eighty-foot (80') rights-of-way (streets). The First Baptist Church is interested in closing and vacating the north twenty feet (20') of the Comanche Street right-of-way. Upon researching this area, most of the utilities are in the rear alley right-of-way north of the church structure. City owned water main is located south of Comanche Street.

If this property is platted under the current Subdivision Regulations and Engineering Criteria, the required right-of-way for Comanche Street would be fifty-foot (50'). Staff, in considering this item, focused on the fact that Comanche Street is not proposed to be physically closed and eliminated. Other discussions related to the public pedestrian sidewalk located on the north side of Comanche Street. A portion of the sidewalk will be realigned by the church, but will still allow pedestrians to walk east-west on the north side of Comanche Street.

City Council, at its meeting of April 23, 2013, approved a revocable license to occupy street right-of-way for placement of a new staircase and entrance along Comanche Street to serve the First Baptist Church. The church would rather close and vacate that portion of the right-of-way so that they will not need to keep up with the revocable license. This method was used to give them an opportunity to move ahead with their plans until the closure and vacation could be completed.

**DISCUSSION:** All franchised utilities were notified to assess the impact on their facilities if the right-of-way was closed; there were no objections. The utility companies and City staff are not opposed to the closure of the right-of-way (street). It should be noted a pedestrian sidewalk easement will be needed as a condition on the vacation of the right-of-way.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the request to close the north twenty-feet (20') of an eighty-foot (80') right-of-way located adjacent to Lots 1 through 16, Block 71, of the Norman Original Town.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Recommend approval or disapproval of the request to close the north twenty-feet (20') of an eighty-foot (80') right-of-way located adjacent to Lots 1 through 16, Block 71, Norman Original Town.

**ACTION TAKEN:** \_\_\_\_\_