



Town of Walkertown, North Carolina

Website: townofwalkertown.com

Walkertown Town Council Meeting

Walkertown Library Auditorium

THURSDAY 4:00 P.M. MARCH 8, 2007

minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN AN INFORMAL MEETING.

This is a summary of the meeting with Town Council, Walgreen's and McDonald's representatives, and NC Department of Transportation. Present were Mayor Doc Davis, Councilmembers Wayne Hester, Sarah Welch, Ralph Landreth, and Brenda Mabe. Among the presenters present were Mike Kelley, Ramey Kemp, Jay Clapp, and Ed Zotian. The D.O.T. staff included Pat Ivey, J.P. Couch, Robert McMath, and John Rhyne.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. stating that this meeting was strictly for the Town Council to ask questions for informational purposes. He then handed over chairmanship to Ramey Kemp. Mr. Kemp gave a brief presentation showing how the buildings of Walgreen's and McDonald's would be situated on the site and trucks would move in and out of the proposed sites for loading and unloading. Mr. Kemp said there would probably be no more than three trucks per week passing through and they would come during off-peak hours.

Widening of 158 was discussed -- Would there be a traffic signal coming out of Lowe's shopping center on to NC-66? What about future three laning of NC-66, and will there be a right turn on NC-66. Other dialog continued with a question on reducing the speed limit from 55 to 45 or even 35 on US-158 – to which D.O.T. officials responded by saying that they go by the 85-percentile rule – 85% of people will travel at a speed they feel comfortable with – and the speed most people go is what the speed limit is set at. Speed limit is currently 55 and D.O.T. has no plans to reduce that. D.O.T. was requested to perform another speed limit study at this site. Having a U-turn at the intersection of 158 and 66 would be more beneficial than not having one but U-Turn traffic on US-158 could be an issue with the competing right turn lane traffic from NC-66. U-turns on US-158 will be allowed on a green turn arrow. The future development of a right turn lane on NC-66 would be likely to cause more confusion and D.O.T. would rather not have the right turn lane.

D.O.T. has required the developer to construct a concrete median from Martin Street down NC-66, which would eliminate left-turns onto NC-66. This median is a requirement by D.O.T. no matter who builds what at this corner. The developer also intends to spend \$300,000+ to extend the center turn lane on NC-66 down to the Whitehall Subdivision which is above and beyond D.O.T.'s requirements. Mr. Ivey said D.O.T.'s only role in this development is to make recommendations and requirements on road improvements to make the road safe. Everything in

the plan has been reviewed by D.O.T. He urged the town to continue participating in the MPO and the TIP programs.

Traffic and speed were the major topics of discussion but other issues were discussed as well. Mr. Kemp said that peak times were usually 7 to 9 in the morning and 4:30 to 6:30 in the evenings. However, if traffic was unusually heavy, the count continued another 15 or 20 minutes. An accelerator lane coming out of the Walgreen's and McDonald's is not planned but councilmembers thought that without one, there would be a road hazard. Closing Martin Street to where traffic could only make right turns was suggested. Mr. Ivey told the council that Martin Street is a "town" street and as such, the town would need to make those types of decisions, along with the D.O.T. requirements.

The audience was reminded of the April 3rd Planning Board meeting and the April 26th town council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:03 p.m.

Lynn McKinnie
Town Clerk