



Terrell Annexations Aim to Slow Growth, Improve Future Crime Prevention

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TERRELL – On April 18, 2023, the Terrell City Council again accepted public comments on proposed annexations. This was the fifth round of public comments in a series that began in March. The Council voted to approve a series of annexations aimed at slowing growth and improving future crime prevention.

Kaufman County currently ranks as the fastest growing County in Texas. “If the growth weren’t a reality, we wouldn’t be having this discussion. However, growth is a fact of life in Texas and we are the elected officials tasked with doing our best. I am proud Council listened to the public and made careful decisions about the details of annexation boundaries.” stated Mayor Rick Carmona. “Our top concern is public safety. We are making sure that when growth comes, the Terrell Police Department will be there to respond.”

Annexation also allows the city to apply zoning standards and work with developers to require infrastructure improvements that keep pace with growth.

Maps showing the areas impacted are available at cityofterrell.org Council approved items thus far include:

- 10 year reimbursement of certain City property taxes for newly annexed properties;
- Voluntary annexation of Areas A, B and C totaling 1,092 acres;
- 30 year non annexation agreement for Area D covering 550 acres;
- Revised Area E including 667 acres, down from original 1,172 acres under consideration.
- Areas G, H, I, J, M and O annexations were approved totaling 1,466 acres.
- Revised Area N including 412 acres, down from original 499 acres under consideration.

On April 11, Council declined to annex area F, leaving that 1,566 acres out of the City Limits.

The City Council began with 7,300 acres and 85 homes for consideration. Annexation actions taken thus far for a total of roughly 4,187 acres combined acres of annexed property and property placed into agricultural non-annexation agreements, including 60 homes.

Annexation L and P were postponed for further consideration. Together they total 1037 acres and 2 homes. These are the only land areas that remain under consideration from the March 20, 2023 meeting.

Mayor Carmona also stated, "Every Terrell City Council prior to this City Council only allowed 3 year agricultural non-annexation agreements. This Council extended that time to 30 years. No City Council in the State of Texas has ever created an M&O property tax reimbursement for newly annexed properties. This City Council created a 10 year reimbursement of certain property taxes. The short-term tax revenue coming to the City from these few homes and businesses is money the City can manage without. Our concerns are long-term growth, not short-term revenue. As Mayor, it's my duty to make sure we have effective crime prevention in Terrell not just today, but also for future generations. Development absent a local police department invites crime."