

Belton City Council scheduled to vote on annexations

DAVID L. TIJERINA | Posted: Tuesday, November 2, 2004 12:00 am

BELTON - Belton City Council is scheduled to vote on the annexation of eight strips of land generally north and south of Interstate 35 during a special meeting today.

Also during the 5:30 p.m. meeting at the Municipal Court Room of the Police and Courts Building at 711 East 2nd Ave., the first of two ordinances required for the annexation process will be read.

City Council agenda also includes a discussion of how to present to Belton residents bond package recommendations the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) committee suggested be included in a proposed Feb. 5 bond election.

"We're just looking for some guidance for the bond attorney for the wording of the ballot propositions," said City Manager Sam Listi.

After holding public hearings on possible annexations in September and October, City Council decided to reduce the amount of land to be annexed. Factored into its decision was Salado's annexation of 477 homes at the owners' request. The annexation extended the village's extra-territorial jurisdiction - the amount of land it is allowed to claim for planning and growth purposes - and blunted the encroachment of Killeen which was headed toward Belton's "logical sphere of influence."

The Capital Improvement Committee recommended that \$3.5 million be spent on street and other miscellaneous projects and that \$1 million be spent on parks and recreation projects.

When asked about the two main agenda items on Monday several members of the council responded as follows:

"I'm not sure I'm fully decided (on the annexation)," said Mayor pro tem Clifton Peters. "I think it is something we need to look at as time goes on. I think Belton will move in that direction and I think we need to take steps to be prepared when it does happen."

"As far as the CIP is concerned I think the group did an excellent job in deciding what needed to be done and I think the time they spent on it was important," said Peters. "They did an outstanding job."

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"I've always said that annexation is fine as long as the majority of the people being annexed want to be annexed," Councilman Bill Stanford said. "I am against forced annexation."

"The CIP report I am pretty much in agreement with, it's always nice to get citizen input," Stanford

said.

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"I know we have modified the boundaries some. As it stands with changes in the annexations I think I'm going to be in favor of the annexations," said Councilwoman Marion Grayson.

"I am all for (the CIP recommendations) I think it's all good. If 17 people can come into agreement I'd like to think the town can because they were from a cross-section of the community," said Ms. Grayson. "And I think its is great that UMHB decided to put in almost half of the money for the streets surrounding UMHB because those streets belong to the city."

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The following are the tracts of land the city will vote on annexing.

Tract 1: About 174 acres along and on both sides of U.S. 190, beginning in the vicinity of Airdale Road, extending west one mile to a location about 800 feet west of Dog Ridge Road.

Tract 2: About 174 acres along and on both sides of Farm Road 1670 beginning about 1,000 feet south of U. S. 190 extending south one mile to a location about 800 feet south of Sunflower Lane.

Tract 3: About 122 acres along and on both sides of the Lampasas River, generally southeast of I-35, extending for a distance of one mile.

Tract 4: About 126 acres along and on both sides of the Lampasas River, generally northwest of I-35, extending for a distance of one mile.

Tract 5: About 26 acres beginning at the northwest and southwest corners of the intersection of Tahuaya Road and I-35, and extending about 1,0000 west of the intersection.

Tract 6: About 145 acres along and on both sides of Elmer King Road, beginning at its intersection with I-35, and extending south and southeast about one mile.

Or about 84 acres along and on both side of Elmer King Road, beginning at its intersection with I-35, and extending south about 3,200 feet.

Tract 7: About 103 acres along and on both sides of West Amity Road, beginning at its intersection and with I-35, and extending west 3,600 feet.

Tract 8: About 16 acres at the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection of I-35 and East Amity Road, extending about 100 feet westward.

WHAT: Belton City Council set to vote on annexations, as well as, two ordinances on eight strips of land. WHEN: 5 p.m. today. WHERE: Municipal Court Room, Police and Courts Building, 711 East 2nd Ave.

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