

FEATURED

Belton City Council to finalize annexation of three areas Tuesday

BY JACOB SANCHEZ | TELEGRAM STAFF 14 hrs ago



The Belton City Council discusses how to proceed with its annexation plans during a meeting on Nov. 21.

Richard Creed/Special to the Telegram

BELTON — Come Wednesday, the city of Belton may be slightly larger.

The Belton City Council is expected to finalize the annexation of three areas when it meets in the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander St., at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The three areas poised for annexation are:

- n Area one is 10.96 acres located on the east of Toll Bridge Road, between Shanklin Road and the Lampasas River.

- n The 284.46 acres that compose area two, which is south of Loop 121, along Shanklin Road and extends south to the intersection of Shanklin and Mesquite Lane.

- n Area three is a 51.48 acre tract along Old Golf Course Road and the eastern portion of Auction Barn Road.

Areas two and three are significantly smaller than what the City Council began studying in September. Initially, area two was 847.33 acres and area three was almost 447 acres.

Both areas are directly impacted by Belton Independent School District's 109-acre tract off Loop 121 that will have a new campus in the next decade.

While area two was whittled down to 284 acres, its size will decrease on Tuesday. Councilman David K. Leigh's motion directed City Manager Sam Listi and city staff to restrict Belton's annexation of area two on areas near the school district's property.

The city has to improve the infrastructure around Belton ISD's future school site, Leigh said.

For area two, that means improving Mesquite Road to provide a better access to Interstate 35 for future school traffic. For area three, roads and existing water lines will need to be improved.

The City Council dropped its plans to annex area four, north of Interstate 14.

Listi provided three reasons as to why this area should not be annexed: Development is not expected anytime soon; the city cannot provide it with water service; and code enforcement would place an unnecessary burden on residents.

The City Council voted unanimously to move forward with the annexation of area one. For areas two and three, the Belton City Council voted 5-2, with Councilmen John Holmes and Paul Sanderford dissenting.

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