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Belton annexation plan upsets some residents



Sara Talbert The Killeen Daily Herald | Updated Aug 15, 2012

By Sara Talbert

Killeen Daily Herald

BELTON With growth in mind, the Belton City Council set forth plans Tuesday to annex parts of its extra territorial jurisdiction and many residents are not happy about it.

We dont want to be a part of that city, said Bell County resident Debbie Berg. I dont need them out here.

About 30 people Tuesday filled the Municipal Courtroom at the Belton Police and Courts Building to hear what Belton City Council members had to say.

After some disagreement among the members about the previously presented annexation boundaries, Belton City Manager Sam Listi presented new boundaries to the City Council.

Seven revised tracks proposed for annexation were approved with a 4-3 vote. Another voluntary area was approved unanimously.

Council members disagreed among themselves on some of the issues regarding annexation.

The hardest thing we have to do is annexation, said Councilwoman Marion Grayson. The choices we have to make are tough. This (annexation) is going to benefit the community as a whole.

Protest came from some residents of the Stillhouse Hollow area who want to incorporate and become their own entity. Berg and others have sent a request for incorporation to County Judge Jon Burrows.

There has to be a vote on the incorporation, said Berg.

The petition for incorporation was filed before the consideration of annexation was filed, and Berg hopes that means, first-come, first-served.

If the incorporation is approved, it would block any growth of Belton's ETJ in that location.

I don't want to pay Belton taxes, Berg said. There are a lot of people out here who can't afford it. I feel like this is a land grab. That's greed. That's all that it is.

Listi said that the purpose for annexation is growth.

It's primarily a growth issue, Listi said. If approved, this would extend our ETJ to the north, west and east. Growth issues are important to cities.

Listi said that the city of Belton hopes to be in a good position to serve its people on the growth issue.

Salado is also feeling the effects of annexation. State law allows Salado to extend its ETJ reach to accommodate contiguous petitions from county residents.

Almost all residents of The Woods of Salado, off Farm to Market 2484, have petitioned to be a part of Salado's ETJ, thus shielding themselves from the reach of the growing city of Killeen.

The voluntary incorporation into Salado will have the effect of blocking Killeen in that direction, Listi said.

Belton's proposed annexation includes:

n Tract 1 170 acres along and on both sides of U.S. 190, beginning in the vicinity of Airdale Road, and extending one mile west to 800 feet west of Dog Ridge Road.

n Tract 2 174 acres along and on both sides of FM 1670, beginning approximately 1,000 feet south of U.S. 190 and extending one mile south to 800 feet south of Sunflower Lane.

n Tract 3 122 acres along and on both sides of the Lampasas River, southeast of I-35, extending one mile.

n Tract 4 126 acres along and on both sides of the Lampasas River, northwest of I-35, extending one mile.

n Tract 5 26 acres, beginning at the northwest and southwest corners of the intersection of Tahuaya Road and I-35, and extending south approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection.

n Tract 6 either a.) approximately 145 acres along and on both sides of Elmer King Road, beginning at its intersection with I-35. or b.) approximately 84 acres along and on both sides of Elmer King Road, beginning at its intersection with I-35, and extending south approximately 3,200 feet.

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

n Tract 8 16 acres at the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection of I-35 and East Amity Road, extending approximately 1,000 feet eastward.

The next Belton City Council meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Municipal Courtroom of the Police and Courts Building at 412 E. Central in Belton.

Contact Sara Talbert at stalbert@kdhnews.com

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