



City Council Listens, Limits Annexation

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TERRELL - Terrell City Council met April 25 at the Terrell ISD auditorium to vote on items related to the City's conclusion of annexation efforts.

After listening to public comments, Council approved on second reading Ordinance No. 2973, related to Annexation Area L, consisting of approximately 80 acres along the southern dead end of CR 239. Council postponed this vote on April 18 due to a desire to allow a single resident the opportunity to finalize a 30-year agricultural non-annexation agreement. The landowner signed that document on April 24, allowing Council to take action to leave his ranch out of the City limits for 30 years or until development occurs.

Council then passed Resolution No. 2066, releasing approximately 34 square miles of land granted grandfathered status under HB 347. Because of Council's action, that land can never be annexed under the Jan. 1, 2019 State annexation laws. Areas listed in Resolution No. 2066 would require public votes or voluntary petitions prior to annexation.

"Although annexation is never an easy process, I hope our community realizes the City Council has seriously reviewed the input by all of the affected landowners and has proceeded with those annexations we believe are absolutely necessary in order for the City to effectively manage this unprecedented growth," said Mayor Rick Carmona. "Many attended the first hearing on March 20 and asked if the City would take public comments to heart. Council listened."

Addressing concerns voiced during a series of public hearings, Council decided to extend agricultural non-annexation agreements from four years to 30 years and extend City property tax reimbursements from four years to 10 years. In addition, they reduced by 30 percent both the number of houses and the amount of land initially considered for annexation.

"I am proud Council looked at detailed issues and found ways to balance current landowner needs today with public safety needs that will come with future growth. Council did a good job of listening, and offering what we believe are unprecedented offers to property owners," Carmona said. "I truly believe that the tough decisions made by this Council are for the good of the City and will ensure Terrell continues to be a place people where people will want to live and work for generations to come."

For more information, including a copy of Resolution No. 2066, visit www.cityofterrell.org and click on "2023 Annexation" in the top banner.