

ANNEXATION

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ANNEXATION

What is it? – The legal process by which a city extends its boundaries. A city may annex property only within its extraterritorial jurisdiction, unless city owns the area.

Full-Purpose Annexation – The legal process for annexing an area in order to provide full municipal services. The city enforces all ordinances, provides services as provided by law, and assesses property taxes and sales taxes.

Limited-Purpose Annexation – The legal process for annexing an area in order to provide only certain regulatory services for a specified period of time. Cities with populations of more than 225,000 have the authority to annex property for limited purposes. Cities may enforce planning, zoning, health and safety ordinances in areas annexed for limited purposes, but do not collect property or sales taxes or provide full municipal services. Residents may vote in city council elections and charter elections, but may not vote in bond elections or be elected to a city office.

EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ)

What is it? – Unincorporated area extending generally five miles from the city limit, excluding other incorporated municipalities and their ETJ, in which the City has the authority to annex property.

Purpose of Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) – The legislature declares it the policy of the state to designate certain areas as the extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities.

ETJ-Release – Reduction in extraterritorial jurisdiction with the written consent by ordinance or resolution of the governing body of the municipality.

PRE-ANNEXATION

What is it? – Water/Sewer Service for Property in the City's ETJ: When a property owner requests City water service and/or sewer service within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction, then the owner must agree to connect to both City water and sewer service and either:

- Petition the City to be annexed if the property can be annexed per state law, or
- Enter into a **pre-annexation** agreement with the City to be voluntarily annexed at the time the property can be annexed per state law. The City Council may approve or deny any annexation petitions or **pre-annexation** agreements.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

What is it? – Adjustments to jurisdictional boundaries between two or more Municipalities. Boundary adjustments may include: incorporated areas; areas in extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ) or both. When land is exchanged the designations will remain. As such, incorporated areas will transfer as incorporated areas into the receiving municipality. Areas transferred from one municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be transferred into the receiving municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

- **Section 43.015 of the Texas Local Government Code** authorizes adjacent municipalities to make mutually agreeable changes in their boundaries for areas that are less than 1,000 feet in width.
- The purpose of these changes in boundaries is to promote orderly development, public safety and effective delivery of municipal services