



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Proposed Annexation of 2.0 Square Miles in Kaufman County

Why is the City of Mesquite annexing more land?

Development in and around the Mesquite extraterritorial jurisdiction is creating growth pressure in the Interstate 20 corridor. That area of Kaufman County is unincorporated and not subject to land use control. Annexation provides the City with the opportunity to ensure that the eastern gateway into Mesquite is properly planned and regulated to the benefit of the city.

Doesn't the City have to give three years notice in advance of its intent to annex new territory?

Not in this case. A three-year annexation plan and notice are not required when there are fewer than 100 tracts of land with a residence in the area to be annexed. Texas law makes this exception for annexing sparsely populated areas, such as the area under consideration.

What services will new residents receive?

The City will start providing police, fire and other emergency services immediately upon the date of annexation. By law, the City cannot supplant existing contracts that solid waste collection companies have with residents and businesses for at least two years. The City will perform routine maintenance on local streets not under state or county jurisdiction. The City will also provide new capital improvements when necessary to serve the area at the same level as other parts of Mesquite with similar topography, land use and population density. Mesquite residents are entitled to discounts and reduced fees on many recreation and athletic activities, as well as facility rentals.

Further details will be included in the Service Plan and become part of the annexation ordinance to be adopted by the City Council.

What land uses are permissible after annexation?

Current land uses can continue after annexation. However, the City will enforce regulations pertaining to:

- Sexually oriented businesses
- Public nuisances (dilapidated structures, junk vehicles, etc.)
- Flood control
- Prevention of imminent harm to persons or property
- Hazardous substances
- Sale and use of fireworks

Will the discharge of firearms be prohibited following annexation?

The City cannot prohibit discharging certain firearms or weapons after annexation on properties of at least 10 acres and more than 150 feet from any other residence or occupied building located on another property. More restrictive rules apply for center fire or rim fire rifles or pistols of any caliber. (See Local Gov. Code Sec. 229.002). The City may also grant a permit allowing for certain limited discharging of firearms for lawful purposes under Sec. 10.9 of the Municipal Code.

Will the City enforce code violations (high grass and weeds, trash and junk, etc.) in the newly annexed area?

Nuisance codes would apply. However, Code Enforcement Officers will be authorized to exercise administrative flexibility under the circumstances and take into account that the area is rural in nature. Non-agricultural structures that are dilapidated or burned-out will be subject to removal.

What school district will my children attend?

School district boundaries are not affected by a person's city of residence. Residents whose children attend Forney ISD or Crandall ISD schools will continue to do so. School district boundaries frequently overlap multiple city limit lines.

Will my postal address change to Mesquite, Texas?

Addresses will not change unless the City of Mesquite requests a change. If a change is requested, the Postal Service will survey residents of the area regarding their preference.

What entity is responsible for establishing taxable values for land Mesquite may annex in Kaufman County?

The Kaufman County Appraisal District (KCAD) will continue to appraise property.

When would property owners in the annexation area receive their first tax statements from the City of Mesquite?

The tax statements issued in October 2011 will be the first tax bills newly annexed residents would receive from Mesquite.

Will Mesquite supply water service to the newly annexed area?

Homes and businesses within the area planned for annexation are currently located within the Markout Water Supply District or the Talty Water Supply District. By law those districts are responsible for providing water service within their respective boundaries.

Once newly annexed residents begin paying City of Mesquite taxes, when can they expect to have a sanitary sewer connection at their homes?

Property taxes are not the funding mechanism for the construction of sanitary sewer lines. Water and sewer customers pay for the cost of sewer lines through separate charges for these services. Customers not connected do not pay for services they are not receiving. Developers are responsible for infrastructure construction in new residential subdivisions or commercial developments.

The density of development generally triggers construction of sanitary sewer lines. Residents of an existing development who want sanitary sewer extended to their home may make a request to City Council. Staff would then evaluate the cost and number of homes in the area the line would serve.

Will the City be annexing more land in the future?

It is not possible to answer that question at this time. Just as with the current annexation proposal, future decisions about additional annexation will be made based on criteria that best serve the interests of the City of Mesquite.

Who can I speak to regarding the proposed annexation?

You may visit with the Staff of the Mesquite Planning Division located in the City Municipal Building at 1515 North Galloway Avenue, or call 972-216-6343.