

March 28, 2024

TO: Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe & Decatur City Council Members

FROM: Scot Wrighton, City Manager

RE: Involuntary Annexations included on the April 1<sup>st</sup> Consent Agenda

There are 21 involuntary annexation ordinances on the consent agenda. In accordance with procedures spelled out in state statute, the City Council approved resolutions in February indicating their intent to annex these parcels and tracts, directing that notices of these intentions be published, and that property owners be notified. Final action on these annexations is set for April 1<sup>st</sup>.

All of these annexations are fully surrounded parcels and, to differing degrees, have benefited from city services or the close proximity of city services for years. They are now the “holes in the Swiss cheese” and it is recommended that these islands be eliminated through annexation. I do not anticipate objections from most owners, but there may be a few in-person objections on Monday night. The council can opt to remove from the consent agenda those annexations that are the subject of an in-person protest to give anyone who attends the council meeting to speak an opportunity to be heard. But after they are discussed, it is recommended that council adopt all 21 of the annexation ordinances. Consistent and equitable governmental service delivery is disrupted by unincorporated islands that are fully surrounded by the city limits, and they can create confusion for first responders.

Sometimes owners object to involuntary annexation because they think that annexation will alter school district boundaries (it does not), or because they want to continue to receive services from a rural fire protection district (they can continue to have dual services and dual taxation with a rural fire protection district if they wish).

Most of the proposed involuntary annexations are in the following locations: Boiling Springs, south of the Westend around Lakes Rhodes & Tokorozawa, near Red Tail Run Golf Course, in the southwest part of the city off Taylorville Road, near Faries Parkway & Brush College Road, and in the far west.