



~ Final Minutes ~

## City of Fort Walton Beach Workshop of the City Council of Fort Walton Beach

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

5:30 PM

107 Miracle Strip Parkway  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

### CALL TO ORDER

5:30 PM Meeting was called to order on June 5, 2018 at Recreation Center, 132 Jet Drive NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dick Rynearson	Mayor	Present	
Nic Allegretto	Council Member	Present	
Mike Holmes	Council Member	Present	
Amy Jamieson	Council Member	Present	
Diane Keller	Council Member	Present	
John Mead	Council Member	Present	
David Schmidt	Council Member	Present	
Scott Smith	Council Member	Present	

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Rynearson called the workshop to order and turned the meeting over to City Manager Beedie who asked for Public Comments, and there were none.

### DISCUSSION - ANNEXATION / GROWTH OF THE CITY

City Manager Beedie stated that the topic of the workshop is annexation. The presentation started with a slide of the City of Fort Walton Beach Annexations by Decade, a brief overview of the governance for annexation by Chapter 171 of the Florida Statutes, and a definition of annexation. (The adding of real property to the boundaries of an incorporated municipality.)

City Attorney Dykes discussed the statutory requirements of annexation, stating the two types being voluntary or involuntary. He reviewed the process and procedures required by statute that must be taken to annex property. Items covered included whether the annexation would be Voluntary or Involuntary, the City's requirements as detailed in the statute (ordinance, maps, etc), the referendum, timing, who votes (City Wide or Area Wide), and the City must pay the expenses and costs.

Registered electors of the area proposed to be annexed vote on the referendum (one vote method). If the City chooses to submit the ordinance to a separate vote of the entire city (two

vote method) and either is against annexation, the referendum fails. If the vote fails, the area may not be involuntarily annexed for two (2) years.

Mr. Beedie then discussed the requirements of annexation including obtaining a feasibility study/report, generating maps, creating a statement certifying the area to be annexed meets the criteria in Florida Statutes, filing the report with the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, and noticing all affected property owners.

Some of the issues to be addressed include costs to pursue annexation, developing public education campaigns, master planning infrastructure, and coordinating with Okaloosa County.

This workshop is meant to be generic, but there are four (4) specific areas that have been discussed: Sylvania Heights; Mar Walt Drive; Eglin Parkway Corridor; and Kenwood (aerial maps of the areas were on display).

The next steps in the annexation process will be to prioritize the area(s), if any; issue an RFP for a feasibility study/report; conduct public meetings with property owners; develop educational materials for distribution; embark on a door-to-door education campaign; develop an annexation ordinance; and coordinate with the Supervisor of Elections.

Mr. Beedie answered several questions from the City Council and the audience.

County Administrator John Hofstad stated that the County would support annexation but would like to be at the table for discussions and negotiations due to the possible impact on the County's enterprise funds.

Council Member Schmidt expressed interest in annexation of Sylvania Heights, Council Member Smith expressed interest in annexation of the Eglin Parkway Corridor, and Council Member Allegretto expressed interest in the costs for feasibility studies for all four (4) areas.

Mr. Beedie stated that staff could provide initial cost analysis to include the feasibility studies/reports, estimated revenues if the properties are annexed, and projected staffing needs.

Mr. Beedie closed the meeting by stating that tonight's meeting was for educational purposes, and the statutes are written to protect those properties that do not wish to be annexed.

Mayor Rynearson thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting, and stated that the meeting was adjourned.

## **ADJOURNMENT 6:20 PM**