

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council

FROM: Bill Bruce

DATE: February 26, 2021

RE: Voluntary Annexation Policy

At the Town Council Strategic Plan Work Session held 1/21/21, Town Council instructed staff to research the requirements for voluntary annexation for parcels outside of the Oak Ridge ETJ and report back to Council. In consultation with Town Attorney Michael Thomas, the attached map has been developed to illustrate areas south and southeast of the corporate limits of Oak Ridge that may be eligible for voluntary annexation. The following statutes and restrictions apply for parcels within this area:

1. The Charter of the Town of Oak Ridge (Session Law 1998-113) prohibited annexation until July 1, 2018. Special legislation (Session Law 2005-245) subsequently authorized annexation in the Town's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction(ETJ). Now with the expiration of the moratorium on annexations outside of the ETJ, Oak Ridge is subject only to relevant state annexation statutes;
2. Annexation of property that is contiguous to the existing Oak Ridge corporate limits may be annexed with a valid voluntary annexation petition;
3. Annexation of non-contiguous property (satellite annexations) may be annexed with a valid voluntary annexation petition AND:
 - a. The nearest point on the proposed satellite corporate limits must be not more than three miles from the primary corporate limits of Oak Ridge;
 - b. No point on the proposed satellite corporate limits may be closer to the primary corporate limits of another city than to the primary corporate limits of the annexing city. This requirement may be waived if an annexation agreement with a neighboring jurisdiction exists;
 - c. Satellite annexation of subdivisions requires a valid petition of all property owners within the subdivision;
 - d. No more than 10% of the corporate limits of the Town may consist of satellite corporate limits.

Please note that the Cities of Kernersville and Greensboro are exempt from Section 3b (above) as it relates to the Town of Oak Ridge, per the Oak Ridge Town Charter.

Requested Action: Council's pleasure.

