

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Proposed Seymour Annexation

Q. What is annexation?

- A. Annexation is the legal process by which municipalities add land to their boundaries and expand. It does not change the ownership or zoning of the property.

Q. What area is the city proposing to annex?

- A. The proposed annexation area comprises approximately 719 acres, located south of the city between N. State Road 11 and N. County Road 975E in proximity to Home Depot and Walmart.

Q. How many properties are included in the proposed annexation?

- A. There are 210 parcels included.

Q. Why does the city want to annex this property?

- A. If the city is to grow in the future, this is the area it will develop. This growth has been discussed over the years and planned for with the construction of the Burkart Boulevard South Extension and the sewer interceptor projects.

Q. How will annexation impact property taxes?

- A. While the average total net monthly impact will be about \$7.58 with trash and utility benefits figured in, the amount of the property tax increase will vary depending on current assessed value, classification (residential, commercial) and deductions, but on average is 89%.

Q. What happens to agricultural land?

- A. Property classified as agricultural is exempt from paying the city property tax rate, unless the parcel is rezoned at the property owner's request and reclassified as something other than agricultural.

Q. When will I have to pay the city tax rate if annexation is approved?

- A. If approved, the anticipated date of annexation adoption will be before the end of the year. Property will be assessed in 2022 and owners will begin paying the city tax rate in 2023.

Q. What are the benefits of annexation?

- A. Increased fire and police protection with faster response times will improve ISO ratings and result in savings on home insurance, substantially reduced trash pick-up costs and reduced sewer bills, public transportation for elderly or disabled residents, snow removal and street maintenance, ability to vote in city elections.

Q. How quickly will those benefits be offered if annexation is approved?

- A. Within three years, however, trash/recycle collection and police and fire protection will begin almost immediately.

Q. What is the difference between annexation, rezoning and eminent domain?

- A. Annexation adds properties into the city's physical geographic boundaries, rezoning changes the use of a property and eminent domain gives ownership of the property to the city with financial compensation to the property owner. What is being proposed in an annexation.

Q. Will I have to hook up to city water and sewer?

- A. The city does not provide water service. Water in city limits is provided by Indiana American Water. Residents will not be required to hook up if they have an approved water source (rural water, well). If a homeowner of an existing home has an approved septic system, they will not have to hook on to the city sewer system. New builds will be required to hook into city sewer.

Q. Will field burning be allowed on agricultural property in city limits?

- A. Yes. The fire department will work with the property owner to allow the safe practice of open burning for agricultural purposes.

Q. What if I don't want to be annexed?

- A. There is a remonstrance period. Remonstrance petitions must be filed no later than 90 days after the date that notice of the adoption of the annexation ordinance was published. A remonstrance petition requires 65% of the owners of land or the owners of at least 80% in assessed valuation of the land. Owners of property that was exempt from property taxation for the immediately preceding year may not be counted.