

**WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP AND CITY OF WATERTOWN
SPECIAL JOINT-MEETING MINUTES
Orderly Annexation Agreement Discussion
January 3, 2008
Watertown Township Hall**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the Watertown Township and Watertown City Council was called to order, on Thursday, January 3rd, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Watertown Township Hall.

Upon the Call to Order the following Council members were present: Dan Geiger; Steve Duske; Earline King; the Honorable Mayor McDonald. Council member Rick Mann was absent.

The following Township Council members present: Township Clerk, Ann Bruner; Si Tesch; Vern Richter; Neil Johnson; Treasurer: David Heldt

The following City Staff were present: Dave Mandt; Mark Kaltsas; Crystal Foust; Karyn Islam

Others present included: Interested members of the City, Township and surrounding community

II. INTRODUCTION

Mark Kaltsas began the meeting at 7:00 PM with brief introductions, and by explaining the 2030 Land Use Plan. He explained how the Orderly Annexation process would occur, and how the Orderly Annexation Agreement fits in with the City's 2030 Land Use Plan as a recognized growth area.

III. PRESENTATION

Crystal Foust provided a presentation that outlined the terms of the Orderly Annexation Agreement between Watertown Township and the City of Watertown. She stated that Minnesota State Statute requires a public hearing in order to finalize the terms of the agreement. Foust briefly explained the Orderly Annexation agreement of 1976, adding that more than 75% of the land included in the 1976 agreement has since been developed. In order for the Metropolitan Council to officially review the anticipated 2030 growth boundary area for the City of Watertown's 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, as Foust explained, an Orderly Annexation Agreement must exist between the City and Township.

Foust explained that the reasons for an Orderly Annexation Agreement are to promote logical and efficient extensions for municipal services and development opportunities, to encourage the retention of Township property in agricultural use, and to promote an orderly planning process and transition as the City outgrows its current boundary area. She stated that the Orderly Annexation Agreement provides property owners with options

for the future, adding that property lying outside the Orderly Annexation boundary cannot be annexed by the City unless the Township and the City agree upon the annexation.

Foust emphasized that the Orderly Annexation Agreement does not automatically annex properties into the City once it is adopted. The agreement simply creates a uniform and fair process for all properties that may one day wish to become annexed into the City. The process for annexation would involve the consent of property owners by either requiring a petition from them, or by becoming completely surrounded (100%) by properties that are considered within City limits. Therefore, should any property owner wish to one day subdivide his/her property, the Orderly Annexation Agreement would provide the City and Township with a uniform process to ensure that current and/or future generations will be treated equally in the annexation process.

Finally, Foust explained how taxes would be affected, stating that the City of Watertown has a designated Rural Taxation District. This district allows properties to remain at a lower tax rate than the City rate until the property is either subdivided into smaller lots or sold. Should the property become developed or sold into smaller parcels in future, she added, the tax rural rate would then default to the City rate.

Kaltsas reiterated the points made by Foust while explaining the Orderly Annexation Area Map, which was provided to meeting attendees. He added that a task force studied the projected growth of the City, and concluded that the growth boundary will accommodate 7,700 to 9,000 people by the year 2030. Kaltsas stated that the Orderly Annexation Agreement would establish a set of criteria that would consider cost and taxes. He added that by creating such an agreement, the Township would consequently lessen the brunt of initial costs and lengthy processes associated with adherence to Metropolitan Council requirements, than if the Township decided to dismiss the proposed agreement.

IV. ADJOURN

Kaltsas and Foust concluded the presentation at 7:20 PM and subsequently opened the forum for general questions. Kaltsas and Foust remained in the Township Hall to answer individual and/or more specific questions until 9:30 PM.

ATTEST:

Steven Wallner
Clerk-Treasurer

K.J. McDonald
Mayor