



# INFORMATION ON ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE

## BENEFITS OF ANNEXATION

There are numerous reasons why property owners and citizens desire to have their property added to the city limits.

### ➤ **Increased Levels of Service**

Many residents are interested in obtaining higher levels of government services than are provided in the unincorporated area.

- Extensive code enforcement services seven (7) days a week
- An expansive park system that encompasses, playground equipment, tennis courts, walking trails
- Garbage, recycling, bulk and yard waste collection services
- Municipal water service at rates that are more cost efficient for homeowners for business and property owners,
- The City has streamlined procedures and centralized processes for permits, inspections and, business licensure and other crucial services to provide efficient services to its stakeholders

### ➤ **Livable Communities**

Many residents wish to take advantage of the efforts that cities have made to create more livable and prosperous communities.

- Active downtowns, a strong sense of community and professional planning service coordination and infrastructure improvements like sidewalks and parks
- Annexation often results in increased property value

### ➤ **More Responsive Local Government**

Many residents enjoy having access to a smaller and more responsive local government. In the metro Atlanta area, where counties contain hundreds of thousands of residents, being able to rely on a Mayor and Council that represent only a few thousand people allows for decision making that respects the needs of individuals and individual neighborhoods.

## ANNEXATION PROCESS

There are intricacies inherent to each annexation method previously listed. However, a brief summarization of the process is as follows:

1. Application(s) requesting annexation
2. Verification of application and petitions
3. The City must notify the County by certified mail with within five (5) days of "receipt" of an annexation request.
4. The County has 30 days to respond to the notice of annexation. There is a strict list of procedures for the County to follow if they have objections to a proposed annexation. Additional information can be provided if the City becomes involved in such a matter.
5. If there is no objection to a proposed annexation from the County, the City is required to hold a properly advertised public hearing not less than 15 days nor more than 45 days from the date an application has been determined "complete and valid." Note that this date may be different from the "receipt" date.
6. The City must prepare a detailed report outlining the service strategies delivered to the annexation area at least 14 days prior to the public hearing.
7. The annexation can then be completed upon adoption of an annexation ordinance by the City Council. Adoption of this ordinance may occur after the public hearing but must be completed within 60 days of the application being validated.
8. Other reporting to residents, Local and State offices are required within 30 days of the effective date of annexation.