

Council endorses changes to annexation restrictions

The Dickson City Council passed a resolution in support of changes to the statute regulating annexations currently under consideration in the Tennessee General Assembly.

At a special session March 16, 2026, the Council approved Resolution #2026-25 in support of House Bill 1176 by Rep. Ryan Williams, R.-Cookeville, and Senate Bill 997 by Sen. Paul Bailey, R.-Sparta, that would reinstate a process for municipalities to annex property that was repealed three years ago.

Under current state law, municipalities only can annex property if requested by the property owner or if approved in a referendum by a majority of the property owners in the territory proposed to be annexed.

The bill being considered in the 114th Tennessee General Assembly would reinstate the previous provision that a municipality can annex property without holding a referendum if:

- Two-thirds of the property owners within the territory proposed for annexation consent in writing;
- The total area of the property owned by the owners consenting to annexation is more than one-half of the territory proposed for annexation; and
- The proposed annexation consists of nine or fewer parcels.

The General Assembly passed a statute in 2014 that eliminated a municipality's power to unilaterally annex property and put in place requirements for property owners to request annexation or for a referendum to be held. A referendum was not required under the majority rule method of annexation but that provision was repealed effective Jan. 1, 2023.

"Right now, if one property owner is in objection, that kills the annexation right there," said Mayor Don L. Weiss Jr. "If they are an adjoining property and they request it" they can be annexed.

If an area proposed for annexation contains nine individual parcels and annexation is requested by six property owners whose property accounts for more than half of the territory being annexed, a referendum would not be required and the three property owners who did not consent to the annexation could be annexed. If the three non-consenting property owners possess more than half the proposed area, a referendum would be required.

The Council approved Resolution #2026-25 7-0-1 with Councilperson Dwight Haynes (4th Ward) abstaining and it was forwarded to Rep. Mary Littleton, R.-Dickson, Rep. Jody Barrett, R.-Dickson, Sen. Kerry Roberts, R.-Springfield, and the members of the House and Senate State and Local Government committees.

HB1176/SB997 is scheduled for committee consideration in the House and Senate State and Local Government committees March 24.