

**STAFF ANALYSIS
ANNEXATION REQUEST
*Unified Zoning Ordinance***

ZONING CASE:

Metro Investments is seeking annexation of a parcel (#12-159-01-029) into The City of Dalton. located at 1822 Chattanooga Road within the General Commercial (C-2) zone district. Dalton's current corporate boundary flanks the subject property along all of its boundaries.

The surrounding land uses and zoning are as follows: 1) All adjacent tracts to the north and east are zoned and developed as C-2 while the tracts to the south and west are zoned and developed as M-2. Zoning will not be affected by this annexation if it is approved since both the city and the county share the Unified Zoning Ordinance.

CONSIDERING FACTORS FOR A REZONING/ANNEXATION ANALYSIS

(A) Whether the proposed amendment would allow a use that is generally suitable for the site compared to other possible uses and whether the proposed change is consistent with the established land use pattern and zoning of adjacent and nearby properties.

As stated previously, the zoning of the subject property will not be changed in the event that it is annexed into the City of Dalton since the City and County adopted the UZO in 2015. The existing C-2 zoning is appropriate in regard to the existing land use in this area as well as the Comprehensive Plan and Future Development Map. The annexation, if approved, would simply bring the subject property into the City of Dalton's jurisdiction. The subject property is an unincorporated county island, which makes it a strong candidate for annexation into the city.

(B) Whether the proposed amendment would adversely affect the economic value or the uses of adjacent and nearby properties.

No impact is expected if this annexation is approved as the subject property has already been developed.

(C) Whether the subject property has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned, considering the suitability of the subject property for the proposed zoned uses.

This annexation will not affect the subject property's use or character. If this property is annexed, then it will be able to benefit from city services that are already offered to the majority of adjacent and nearby properties since the property is a small, unincorporated county island within the City of Dalton. Unincorporated county islands create issues related to public service delivery and are encouraged to be annexed to create more consistent jurisdictional boundaries.

(D) Whether there is relative gain to the health, safety, morals, or general welfare of the public as compared to any hardship imposed upon the individual owner under the existing zoning.

No impact. The zoning will be the same, but the jurisdiction will change. The property owners have completed an application to annex under the 100 percent method, which means it is by the choice of the property owner to be annexed.

(E) Whether the proposed amendment, if adopted or approved, would result in a use which would or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, schools, sewers, water resources, police and fire protection, or other utilities, as contrasted with the impact under the existing zoning.

No impact is expected. Service extensions to the area have occurred through the years. More

properties in the vicinity are now within the City of Dalton as compared to the unincorporated County. Water and sewer utilities are already available to the subject property with no concern for capacity. The annexation of the subject property would have a negligible impact on public utilities for this area. The subject property is already served by City emergency services due to the automatic aid agreement between the City and County.

(F) Whether the property sought to be annexed is in conformity with the policy and intent of the adopted joint comprehensive plan or equivalent. If not, has the plan already been amended, officially or unofficially, by the development of uses which are contrary to the plan recommendation, and if the plan has been amended, does this rezoning or annexation request allow uses which are compatible to the existing uses in the vicinity.

The subject property is within the Regional Activity Center character area. This character area is shared by both Whitfield County and the City of Dalton. This annexation would have no conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or Future Development Map based on the existing character of the subject property and adjacent zoning and development.

(G) Whether there are any other conditions or transitional patterns affecting the use and development of the property to be rezoned or annexed, which give grounds for approval or disapproval of the proposed zoning proposal. Whether the proposed zoning change constitutes an “entering wedge” and is a deterrent to the use, improvement, or development of adjacent property within the surrounding zone districts or would create an isolated, unrelated district (spot zone) as interpreted by current Georgia law.

This request, if approved, would eliminate an existing unincorporated county island within the City of Dalton.

(H) Whether the subject property, as currently zoned, is vacant and undeveloped for a long period of time, considered in the context of land development in the vicinity or whether there are environmental or cultural factors, like steep slopes, flood plain, storm water, or historical issues that influence the development of the subject property under any zoning designation.

N/A

CONCLUSION: The staff recommendation is that the subject property is well-suited for annexation into the City of Dalton. The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and the uses and zoning of most properties in the vicinity.