

## **WEST LAFAYETTE ANNEXATION ORDINANCE PASSES FIRST READING**

*City Council approves first step in annexing U.S. 231 corridor, adopts fiscal plan;  
neighborhood meetings, public hearing planned*

**West Lafayette, IN – May 21, 2013** – With the goal of transforming West Lafayette to create economic development and future growth opportunities, Mayor John Dennis introduced – and the City Council passed the first reading of – an annexation ordinance to adopt a fiscal plan and annex the U.S. 231 corridor into the City at last night’s Council meeting.

“Last night’s action by our Councilors was an important first step in our planned annexation process to add approximately 5,000 acres to the City, including Purdue University and Purdue Research Foundation. We want to transform West Lafayette into a community of choices.

“We heard from many residents who asked valuable questions that we certainly will take into consideration as we move through the process. As I continue to say, annexation serves a valuable purpose for our community, but it must be a community-driven decision.

“With the passage of the ordinance and adoption of the fiscal plan, we now can move forward with our plans for continued conversations with a series of neighborhood meetings with any residents who want to talk with us about our plans and their concerns and needs.

“Overall, our annexation plans will allow us to capture the intellectual capital found at Purdue and Purdue Research Foundation and give those ideas room to grow by providing the space necessary within our expanded boundaries for economic development to flourish.

“In addition, we can make West Lafayette a location talented Purdue graduates and other entrepreneurs want to call home. Our planned annexation will provide a distinct gateway via U.S. 231 to West Lafayette and Purdue University for significant, planned growth and our community’s – and in turn, our residents’ – success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

“I applaud our Councilors’ long-term vision in seeing the wisdom of starting the process for this planned annexation. Annexing land along the 231 corridor and possibly property currently served by City sewer will help us promote private investment on the west side that fits the personality of our community. Last night’s action by our City Council was the first major step in a long, discussion-filled process we look forward to pursuing,” Dennis said.

Current plans call for approximately 1,500 parcels to be affected in the annexation, including the subdivisions of Wake Robin and Huntington Farms.

A map of the proposed annexation, a U.S. 231 Corridor Annexation Fiscal Plan, an annexation tax calculator (showing parcel-by-parcel property tax differences), an annexation process chart, a question-and-answer document, a one pager *Annexation 101* and another one pager *Transforming a Community and a State* are available on a dedicated section of the City’s Web site: [www.westlafayette.in.gov/annexation](http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/annexation)

The purpose of the fiscal plan is to determine whether municipal services could be provided to the areas being annexed at the same level as those same services currently provided to West Lafayette residents.

Careful, detailed analyses by City department heads working in tandem with the City’s economic development and financial consultants concluded municipal services of increased fire and police protection, snow removal, street sweeping, recycling, brush and trash collection can be cost effectively extended for approximately \$1 - \$2 per day in property tax increases for those in the annexed area.

“Annexation provides the opportunity to redefine not only our local economy, but Indiana’s economy. By annexing Purdue University and the surrounding area along with Purdue Research Foundation, we can take steps to transform Indiana from a manufacturing economy to an idea economy where 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers are born *while* providing residents in the annexed areas with enhanced City services,” Dennis said.

Partnerships resulting from annexation are intended to elevate the local, regional, national and international brand of West Lafayette, Purdue University and Purdue Research Foundation, including improved identity along I-65 where more than 20 million people pass the current Exit 178 each year and see the misnomer “Purdue Stadium.”

With the first reading of the annexation ordinance last night, a public hearing notice will be sent certified mail to each property owner in the proposed annexation area at least 60 days prior to a public hearing date. The public hearing is residents’ opportunity to hold public discussion about the City’s plans.

West Lafayette is Indiana’s most densely populated city and the 27<sup>th</sup> most densely populated in the U.S.

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For questions or interview requests, contact Mayor Dennis at 765-775-5100 or Development Director Chandler Poole at 765-775-5160.