

Synopsis of Mims Community Group Meeting on August 29, 2019

Thank you to everyone who attended. Good to see you.

Our speaker for this meeting was Scott Knox, Former County Attorney for Brevard County. He spoke on the topic of Annexation: What is it - What are the requirements - What is the Process - What are potential effects – and Who has a say in it.

As defined in Florida Statute Chapter 171, “Annexation” means the adding of real property to the boundaries of an incorporated municipality, such addition making such real property in every way a part of the municipality.

The area to be annexed must be contiguous to the municipality’s boundaries, must be reasonably compact, and must be developed for urban purposes. “Contiguous” means that a substantial part of a boundary of the territory sought to be annexed by a municipality is coterminous with a part of the boundary of the municipality. He pointed out a few past annexations that did not meet these requirements.

Generally, it requires two public hearings on an ordinance and a referendum by the city. However, Voluntary annexation only requires adoption of an ordinance and newspaper publication for two weeks.

Residents of the annexed area get municipal services (water, sewer, etc.) and pay different taxes (frequently, higher taxes) than they paid as a county resident.

“Parties affected” means any persons or firms owning property in, or residing in, either a municipality proposing annexation or owning property that is proposed for annexation to a municipality or any governmental unit with jurisdiction over such area. *Residents owning adjacent properties are not considered “affected parties”.* He pointed out that the statute only allowed 30 days to file a protest in court, before the annexation became official.

When asked how residents of Mims could prevent the continued piecemeal annexation of Mims by the city of Titusville, he said there are two ways: Incorporate into a city or ask the State Legislature for help (such as creating a special district).

I plan to setup a meeting with our local State Representative, Rene "Coach P" Plasencia, so that we can explain our concerns to him and to ask for his help. I will let you when this meeting is scheduled.

Please stay safe as Hurricane Dorian does whatever it will do,
Ron Bartcher
President, Mims Community Group