

Annexation Discussion Meeting

Neighbors,

The City of Athens is researching the possibility of annexing the contiguous residences and subdivisions immediately surrounding the City into the City limits. The majority of these residences currently utilize or have access to City utilities including water and garbage pick-up. Annexation would allow the City to pursue grants to fund extending City sewer service into these areas. City provided sewer would increase property values to the homeowner and relieve them of the costs associated with maintenance, repair and replacement of septic systems. Additionally, annexation into the City would provide residents:

- 1) **In-town water rates**. Currently, in-town residents pay \$27.24 for their first 0-2,000 gallons and \$5.53 for each additional 1,000 gallons. Out of town residents pay \$32.49 for their first 0-2,000 gallons and \$8.48 for each additional 1,000 gallons. Newly annexed residents would not pay any sewer fees until such time sewer lines were installed and the resident hooks into the system.
- 2) **24/7 Police Coverage**. The City of Athens Police Department (APD) would be responsible for patrolling and responding to service calls in all newly annexed areas. APD is routinely dispatched by Menard County to emergency calls in these areas because of their proximity and quick response times. Residents in the newly annexed areas would see an increase in police presence and visibility of officers on patrol during all hours of the day and night.
- 3) **Brush pick-up**. City residents are allowed to place landscape waste and limbs/brush curbside to be picked up by Athens Public Works bi-weekly during the months of March through November (weather permitting).
- 4) **City Ordinance Compliance**. Newly annexed residents would be subject to the current City of Athens ordinances found on the City website. This will assist in regulation and enforcement of tall grass and weeds, abandoned and disabled vehicles, parking, etc.

Annexation would not remove any of the rights and independence you currently enjoy. Homeowner Associations would not be affected and community owned property such as the lake in Country Lake Estates would be exempt from the annex and remain the property of and in control by the homeowner's association.

The City of Athens will be hosting a meeting to further discuss annexation on July 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Athens City Hall prior to the July council committee meeting.

Affected home-owners are encouraged to attend to provide input and concerns. We look forward to discussing this exciting opportunity and development with you further.