

**Hood River County Board of Commissioner  
Special Work Session Minutes**

Monday, March 25, 2024, 3:00- 5:00pm  
601 State Street, Hood River OR

Chair Euwer opened the work session. Present: Commissioner Babitz, Commissioner Weathers, Administrator Williams, County Counsel Davies, Land Use Counsel Crean and Community Development Director Walker

Absent: Leticia Moretti

**Welcome / Introductions**

John Morgan, Morgan CPS Group, stated he was asked to talk about the County request to the City of Hood River to discuss how annexations work and the costs and benefits associated with annexation.

The hope today is for the Commission to identify what their thoughts/position is around annexation.

**Annexation – Legal Framework – John Morgan**

John shared a PowerPoint presentation. See archive packet for full presentation.

Covered areas:

- Annexation Process Options
- City of Hood River policies around annexation
- City of Hood River annexation criteria (developed land)
- City of Hood River annexation criteria (undeveloped land)
- Costs & Benefits
- City and County positions

**Urban Growth Boundary administration issues – Eric Walker**

Provide staff perspective on how the administration of the UGMA with the city works.

Discussion of possible study for cost by independent consultant that would show the benefits of annexation and the cost. Possible grants for the study.

Allison spoke about possible public health concerns with some of the lots in the UGA that have failing septic systems.

Land Use Counsel, Chris Crean discussed options for landowners that have no interest in being annexed and removed from a special district.

Babitz spoke to an agreement with the city of Hood River and the special districts, and the terms listed for withdrawing from the special districts.

Discussion around consent to annexations, that run with the land.

### **Commission discussion and development of position.**

Commissioner Babitz stated he doesn't see the purpose of this discussion if the city has determined they will not be mandating annexations and or if they will not be withdrawing lands from the special districts for services, i.e. water, fire protection etc.

Chair Euwer asked the Administrator her thoughts on that line of thinking. Allison stated staff has been working through the county letter to the city and if the Commissioners want to keep the joint meeting with the city and have discussion, we can relay this concern/question to see if keeping the joint session with the city is still needed, if the city has already stated their position around annexations.

General discussion on what the thoughts of the City Council are or may be regarding this topic and if it would be beneficial to still have a joint meeting to discuss annexations.

Commissioner Weathers is open to discussion if the decision is not already made and 100% solid. Chair Euwer will run this down with the County Administrator reaching out to the city manager.

Chair Euwer feels it is worth bringing the issue up to the City.

Comm Development Director, Eric Walker stated we have had broad annexation discussions, but perhaps there is efficiencies to be had by having this conversation with the city.

Commissioner Babitz feels that what Eric is suggesting there will need to be an analysis and if they are opposed to that discussing strategy doesn't have much value.

Babitz asked for clarity of the purpose of the meeting with the city before a meeting is held.

Work session ended at 4:21pm.