

Walkertown wants new annexation pact

Kernersville must OK agreement with new boundary line

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WALKERTOWN

Walkertown and Kernersville may put their annexation agreement back in place after a period in which Walkertown wanted out of the pact.

The Walkertown Town Council unanimously voted last week to propose a new annexation agreement with Kernersville. If approved by Kernersville, the agreement would outline the areas that either town could annex. Those areas lie between the two towns.

Walkertown voted in 2002 to give Kernersville five years' notice that it wanted to drop the existing annexation agreement. At the time, Walkertown officials criticized the annexation agreement for following the centerline of Old Valley School Road, one of the rural roads that lie between the two towns.

In the years since Walkertown made the decision to drop the agreement, officials in both towns have talked about putting into place a new annexation agreement if the boundary line could be agreed on.

Recently, Walkertown and Kernersville officials met again to talk about the boundary. Walkertown officials proposed that people on both sides of a portion of Old Valley School Road be included in any annexation agreement.

"What we did was take a section and move the line toward Kernersville, so that both sides of that section of Old Valley School Road are in the area that Walkertown could annex," said Ronald Bell, the town manager of Walkertown.

The affected area of Old Valley School Road extends approximately from King Williams Road to Old Hollow Road.

The annexation line between the two towns would stay the same as it is now, Bell said. Neither town is required to annex into the area between the towns.

"The agreement only lasts 20 years, so whether these areas would ever be annexed, I don't know," Bell said. "Probably these areas wouldn't be annexed for many many years."

In other business, the council discussed changing the length of its members' terms from two to four years. The change would include staggering the terms so that two members are up for election every two years.

The council passed a resolution in favor of the \$250 million school bond referendum to build and improve schools. Walkertown would get a combination high school/middle school if voters approve the referendum.

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