

Mr. Paul Benson, Urban Planner II, said that this public hearing was advertised on April 17 and 27, 2001. He said that he has filed a certification of notification with the City Clerk, as follows: "(1) Buncombe County tax listings were obtained from the Buncombe County tax office on March 13, 2001; (2) on April 2, 2001, one letter, including a notice of property owner's rights, a map and description were mailed to the property owner identified from said property tax listings of Buncombe County; (3) on or before April 23, 2001, the letter to the property owner was not to his office; and (4) on April 24, 2001, letters were sent to the solid waste providers identified as being active in the affected area, with said letters including the Resolutions of Intent adopted by the City Council on March 13, 2001."

City Clerk Burleson filed a certification of notification as follows: "(1) on April 2, 2001, a statement of impact was delivered to the Clerk of the Buncombe County Board of Commissions; and (2) a published notification in the Asheville Citizen-Times on April 17, 2001, and April 27, 2001, included a notice of property owner's rights, a map, and a description of the areas being considered for annexation. On March 26, 2001, a letter was received from the Enka-Candler Fire & Rescue Department Inc.; on March 29, 2001, a letter was received from the Skyland Fire Department; on April 18, 2001, a letter was received from the Reynolds Volunteer Fire

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Department Inc.; and on April 26, 2001, a letter was received from the Haw Creek Fire & Rescue, all

requesting to receive a good faith offer from the City of Asheville for fire protection services." The maps of the proposed annexations, the Annexation Services Plan and the property owners list have been displayed in the Office of the City Clerk for public inspection beginning March 30, 2001.

Mr. Benson explained that purpose of this hearing is for the City to explain the plan for extending City services to the proposed annexation area, and to give all persons resident or owning property within the area, and all residents of the City the opportunity to be heard. The effective date of annexation will be June 30, 2002.

The Best Inns area includes 4.3 acres, subdivided into one commercial property. Annexation of this area extends the corporate limits to the fourth and final quadrant of the Tunnel Road/I-40 access road, at Exit 55.

Mr. Benson then summarized the plan as follows: The Best Inns area qualifies for annexation in that it is 100% developed. Police protection is to be extended on effective date of annexation with no increase in personnel or equipment. Fire protection is to be contracted from Reynolds Rural Fire Department (.10/9/6) and supplemented by the City to bring service up to City standards. Solid waste collection is to be extended on the effective date of annexation with no increase in personnel, or equipment. New customers would receive the automated collection service. Street maintenance services are not planned for the Best Inns Area. Water distribution in the Best Inns area currently meets City standards. Sewer collection in the Best Inns area currently meets City standards. City Financial Impact - Annual Expenses = \$3,586; Annual Revenues = \$19,839; and Capital Expenditures = \$490.

Mr. Kevin Rollins questioned what the Best Inns will be getting from being annexed. Mr. Benson said that they would received professional police protection with a higher ratio of officers to population and also professional fire protection as opposed to a rural volunteer fire department. That could be a tangible savings from the fire insurance standpoint.

Planning & Director Scott Shuford also pointed out that properties on the fringe of our City that are developed at urban density should be brought into our City according to State law. In effect, the advantages of this property, and many of the other properties being considered for annexation today, are not tangible in terms of what they might be as a result of being annexed, but they do get the benefit of being proximate to the City of Asheville and have had that benefit for many years prior to the City initiating this program.

Mayor Sitnick closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor Sitnick said that the ordinance to extend the corporate limits into this area will be considered by City Council on June 12, 2001.

E. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ANNEXATION OF THE OLD DOMINION FREIGHT AREA

Mayor Sitnick opened the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.
