Pickens may annex planned

Officials give preliminary approval to deal that includes 30 acres on State 8

By Julie Howle
Staff Writer
jhowle@greenvilleonline.com

Pickens city officials have given preliminary approval to annexing several parcels into the city, including property where a new Walmart is planned.

The property is along State 8 near Roberts Drive, according to City Administrator Katherine Brackett.

Brackett said the annexation includes three parcels for the Walmart and four other parcels, two of which are business, one residential and one vacant.

The annexation requires another reading, which is expected in November, she said. There will be a public hearing at the meeting before the vote, Brackett said.

She said about 30 acres are being annexed, but they will know more specifically at second reading.

Officials have said a 90,000-square-foot Walmart with a grocery, a garden center and a pharmacy is planned along State 8 in Pickens.

"We anticipate approximately 200 permanent full-time jobs and much more than that during the construction period," Brackett has said.

"It's jobs for the city. It's a great impact on our tax base."

She said Walmart requires that the property be annexed before it will buy it.

Chris Carlson, an architect with LawKingdon Inc. who was representing Walmart Stores Inc. at a recent meeting of the city's board of architectural review, said the site now has an auto repair shop and a vacant former Ford dealership.

Carlson has said site work could start in April and construction could start in summer next year.

He has said he expected the grand opening of the Walmart to take place in 2013.

Staff writer Julie Howle can be reached at 864-298-4303.

Walmart site