Pickens nears OK on annexations

One World Technologies among properties to be added to city

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More than 100 acres could get final approval for annexation into the city of Pickens next month, including the One World Technologies property as well as parcels where a Walmart is planned.

Pickens City Council has approved on first reading the annexation of the One World Technologies property, which is about 95 acres on State 8, said City Administrator Katherine Brackett.

"It will have a big impact for the city — business license, stormwater and taxes," Brackett said.

"They've been such a big part of the city in terms of jobs for a long time," she said. "It just touches so many different roads in the city that it makes sense that it should be annexed."

Brackett said that a number of years ago someone ran sewer lines to the company as well.

"Our policy now is that in order to get city sewer you need to come in the city," she said. "In order to keep in-city rates, they were asked to annex in order to comply with our policy."

City Council also has given approval on first reading to the annexation of several parcels, including property where a Walmart is planned, along State 8 near Roberts Drive, Brackett said.

She said the Walmart site is about 21 acres, and said that annexation will be about 30 acres in total with the other parcels, which include businesses and residential.

Brackett said the second reading and public hearings for both annexations are expected Dec. 5.

"It will be over 100 acres coming in so it's great news," she said.

Officials have said a 90,000-square-foot Walmart with grocery, garden center and 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.

The One World Technologies property will be the largest annexation into the city since the new Pickens High School site was annexed in October 2009, she said.

Brackett said the city annexed about 100 acres for the new school on U.S. 178.