The City of Baytown is providing the following information to help answer questions about the proposed annexation (see attached map). Please feel free to call the City at 281-420-5378 or 281-420-5397 with any general questions.

**Why does the City want to annex my property?**
The City has identified this area for annexation in order to manage land use for the city’s future growth.

**What do I gain from being annexed into the City of Baytown?**
You will have access to similar services provided to all land located in your area, including but not limited to: voting rights and local representation in the City of Baytown; maintenance of public infrastructure; police and fire protection; regulation of land use and density through zoning; code enforcement; animal control; building construction quality standards and enforcement through inspections (plumbing, electrical, foundation) and; protection of natural resources from uncontrolled growth and development.

**Can I use my property in the same manner that I do now?**
Yes. All land uses at the time of annexation will be permitted to continue. State law allows the City to impose regulations regarding: the location of sexually oriented businesses; public nuisances; flood control; storage and use of hazardous substances; food and drink sales; and the discharge of firearms.

**Do I lose my agricultural exemption or any other exemptions I have when annexed?**
No. Exemptions granted by other entities are not affected by annexation.

**If I have an agricultural, wildlife management or timber tax exemption, can I enter into a development agreement with the City?**
Yes. Property owners can enter into a development agreement with the City if they have an agricultural, wildlife management, or timber ad valorem tax exemption. The agreement means the City may enforce all ordinances, regulations and planning authority that do not interfere with agricultural, wildlife management, and/or timber uses of the land. During this time, the property remains outside the city limits and it is not subject to City property taxes. But property owners may not receive tax-supported services from the city such as police, fire and others.

**What happens to my property appraisal?**
The Harris County Appraisal District establishes property valuation for tax purposes. Annexation of land does not automatically increase the valuation. City taxes are assessed based upon the value of the property within the City’s corporate limits on the 1st of January of each year and are due by January 31st of the following year.

**Will I need to rezone my property?**
No, the current land use may continue. The City may change the zoning to comply with the adopted Comprehensive Plan or the property owner may apply to change the zoning.

**Will I need a building permit to make improvements on my property?**
Minor building maintenance does not require building permits, but new items like re-roofs, fences, air conditioning units and new buildings require permits. Permitting and inspections are provided to ensure Baytown residents are protected from potential substandard construction practices and health and safety hazards.

**Will I receive water service from the City?**
To receive water services, you must complete a Utility Availability application to make sure the appropriate lines are available near your property. If utilities are available, you can choose to connect. If utilities are not available, the City may provide utilities similar to the current services provided in the area.

**How much does it cost to connect my home to the City’s water and sewer system?**
Impact fees are based on the approved meter size to serve the property. The typical residential impact fee for water service is based on the standard residential 5/8” meter. The residential water tap fee for a 5/8” meter and the sewer tap fee are dependent upon the location and length of the lines. For available meter sizes and calculation of impact fees, refer to the Utility Availability application at [http://www.baytown.org/residents/permits](http://www.baytown.org/residents/permits) or call Engineering at 281-420-6545, for further information.

**How much does it cost to connect my business to the City’s water and sewer system?**
There are Impact fees which are based on meter sizes. Commercial taps must be made by a licensed plumbing contractor. For available meter sizes and calculation of impact fees, refer to the Utility Availability application at [http://www.baytown.org/residents/permits](http://www.baytown.org/residents/permits) or call Engineering at 281-420-6545, for further information.

**Can I connect into the City’s water system only?**
Yes, it is permitted to connect to the City’s water distribution system only.

**Can I connect to the City’s sewer system only and continue to use my well water?**
No. Without using City water there is no method to bill for sewer as the fee is based on water usage.

**I currently receive water and sewer service from the City. Will that continue?**
Yes, you will be able to receive City services, however you will be changed to an “in city” rate, which is lower than the “outside city” rate.

**I have a water well and a septic system on my property. Can I continue using it?**
Yes, water wells and septic systems can remain in use provided they are compliant with County and State regulations upon annexation; however, the City will require connection in the event of a system’s replacement. Permits obtained for maintenance will not require connection to City services. You will be allowed to tie in later subject to existing policies at the time of connection.

**Will I receive City recycle and trash collection services?**
If you choose to connect to the City water and sewer system, you will receive garbage and recycling services immediately upon activating your water/sewer account. If you do not choose to connect to water/sewer, you can request an account for garbage and recycling service only to be billed monthly. Contact Utility Billing to set up an account at 281-420-6515.

**I have more questions about the annexation process?**
Contact the Planning and Development Services Department at 281-420-5378 or 281-420-5397.