

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held on March 9, 2026, to hear public comments regarding the Proposed Annexation.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Frankie Santos Fritz, Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Jamarie Spencer, Production Assistant; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Meeting Overview

A public hearing was held to gather resident feedback regarding the City of Greenbelt's proposed annexation of three areas of federally owned, tax-exempt land.

Resident Comments and Public Input

Several residents expressed overall support for the proposed annexation, citing environmental protection as a primary benefit. Residents emphasized that annexation could help preserve open space and safeguard sensitive natural areas.

Residents sought greater clarity on the city's long-term objectives for annexation and how those objectives align with preservation goals.

Jack Patterson, a resident of Greenbelt, expressed strong support for annexation and suggested that it could be expanded to include the Beaver Dam Creek Watershed to enhance environmental protection.

Residents emphasized the need to preserve open space and the ecological significance of the annexation areas, highlighting the importance of long-term environmental safeguards. They generally agreed that annexation could be a valuable conservation tool if the city clearly outlines its goals and strategies.

Council clarified that annexation would not alter federal ownership of the land, which would remain federally owned and tax-exempt. However, it would allow Greenbelt to have a say in future decisions: "If there were ever a change, the city would have a seat at the table to express our views," should any changes to federal land uses be proposed.

The council noted that a gap between two proposed annexation areas contains privately owned residential property, which was excluded to avoid new municipal service obligations.

Council acknowledged resident concerns and indicated that public feedback would be considered as the annexation process continues.

The meeting ended at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk