**City Council Staff Report **

**May 21, 2025**

**REQUEST**

Request to extend the municipal boundaries to include the property included in the Staheli Payson Annexation, consisting of eight parcels totaling approximately 26.6 acres.

**BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Staheli Payson Annexation is located along Goosenest Drive at about 675 South. The parcels being considered for annexation are immediately adjacent to city limits and are currently used for residential and agricultural purposes (crop production & livestock).

The property is currently zoned Transitional Residential and RA-5, Residential Agriculture Zone (Utah County designation). Upon annexation, the applicant is requesting zoning designations as identified in the attached zoning map.

The annexation sponsor Nathan Staheli and most property owners intend to utilize the properties for low density residential development. Some properties may retain their residential agriculture uses despite any zoning designation determined at the time of annexation.

**APPROVAL PROCESS**

Annexation is a complex and extremely important issue for any municipality. Extension of the municipal boundaries should only be completed when it can be clearly shown that including the property in the city will be a benefit to the community. The flip side of this is that annexation should NOT be granted if the impact on existing city services, infrastructure, etc. would be detrimental to existing residents of Payson City.

Annexations are regulated by Utah Code and Payson City Code, and it is the responsibility of the annexation sponsor to understand and sufficiently address these regulations. The applicant has gone through the process outlined in state and local code and is prepared to bring this petition to the planning commission for a recommendation.

City council is the final legislative authority for annexations and thus holds any public hearings for such land use decision. The application process still requires a review and recommendation by the planning commission. The applicant has obtained a positive recommendation from the planning commission for final approval on January 15, 2025 and now seeks final approval from the city council for this annexation.

**Annexation Name:**

Staheli Payson Annexation

**Annexation Sponsor:**

Nathan Staheli

**Property Owners:**

Phil & Julie Staheli

Daryl & Sheree Molyneux Staheli

Staheli Properties LLC

Ross Staheli & Patsy Benson Huff

Utah County

660 South Goosenest LLC

Secure Private Fund LLC

Wayne Barben

**Utah County Parcel(s):**

30:055:0037

30:055:0048

30:054:0314

30:055:0051

30:054:0108

30:055:0054

30:055:0030

30:055:0040

**Location:**

Approx. 675 Goosenest Drive

**Acreage:**

26.6 Acres

This was approved by City Council on February 19th, 2025, however staff felt that with the proposed changes to the annexation agreement, and since the 30-day period to submit the annexation to the Lieutenant Governor’s office has lapsed this request is being brought before the council again. No other processes, meetings or activities need to take place except for the council’s approval in a public meeting.

Annexations are legislative matters, and the city council is not obligated to approve any petition for annexation, regardless of location, even if the proponent of an annexation is prepared to comply with all provisions required for annexation. At any time during the annexation process, the city council may deny the proposed annexation following written notice to the applicant. If the city council takes action to deny a petition for annexation, there will be no appeal process. If a petition for annexation is denied by the city council, the proponent of the annexation will be required to submit a new application and pay all associated fees to have the petition reviewed again by the planning commission, city council, and staff.

A map of a neighborhood

Description automatically generated

**EVALUATION**

This annexation petition has been reviewed by staff for completeness and consistency with the General Plan and Payson City Code. The area included in the annexation plat is designated as low density residential according to the Future Land Use Map. As the applicant is requesting various low density residential zones, the parameters of the Future Land Use Map for this area would be met if the current proposal is approved.

City staff have worked with the application sponsor on the language and exhibits necessary for an annexation agreement. This annexation agreement and its accompanying exhibits are included with this annexation request and may be accepted with the final decision for acceptance of the proposed annexation.

Staff met with petitioners and discussed concerns they had. A revised Annexation Agreement is included in the council packet that reflects the changes made as a result of theses conversations.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Because annexation is such an important issue, the city council may require additional information to make a well-informed decision. The crux of the issue is whether the proposed annexation will benefit Payson City. As with all annexations, the final approval or denial should be based upon whether the newly annexed parcels will have a positive impact on the community. Although the council’s primary concern should be focused on what takes place inside city limits, the council will also want to carefully consider the potential impact that an annexation could have on property owners that are still in the county but adjacent to the newly annexed land.

Staff are recommending approval of the proposed annexation as it agrees with all applicable city codes and plans. The Future Land Use Map designates this area as low density residential, and this annexation would allow the land to develop to that end. In seeking a approval from the city council, staff ask that any decisions that are made be supported by findings of fact in the motion to approve, deny, or table the item.