

September 11, 2026

**VETO OF ORDINANCE ANNX2605-011
Targhee Partners, LLC**

In accordance with **Section 2.23 of the Charter of the City of Canton**, I hereby veto ordinance **ANNX2605-011** approved by the Canton City Council by a vote of 3–2 on September 3, 2026.

The title of the ordinance is:

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX CERTAIN CONTIGUOUS AREA TO THE CITY OF CANTON, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXTENSION OF CITY SERVICES TO THE AREA ANNEXED, TO DESIGNATE A ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR THE AREA ANNEXED, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (Targhee Partners, LLC).

I am exercising the veto authority granted to me under Section 2.23 of the Charter for the following reasons:

1. Consistency with the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan

City staff formally recommended denial of the applications based, in part, on their nonconformance with the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Plan.

Staff appropriately noted the changing conditions along the Ball Ground Highway corridor, including the increasing prevalence of residential development, and recognized that those changing conditions may warrant future consideration of the City's long-term land-use vision for the corridor.

However, until that broader planning process occurs and the City's adopted plans are formally reconsidered, I believe we have a responsibility to honor the plans and policies currently adopted by the City.

Approving an annexation and associated development proposal that is inconsistent with those adopted plans, before the City has undertaken that broader review, would establish a precedent that I do not believe serves the City's long-term planning interests.

2. The need for a coordinated vision for the Ball Ground Highway corridor

Before considering this annexation, or similar annexations and rezonings in this corridor, I believe the **City of Canton, Cherokee County, and the City of Ball Ground** should have an opportunity to work collaboratively toward a shared vision for the future land use and development of the Ball Ground Highway corridor.

This is not an argument against growth or against residential development. It is an argument for thoughtful, coordinated growth.

The decisions we make today will shape this corridor for decades, and I believe those decisions should be guided by a deliberate regional vision rather than made one property at a time.

3. The resulting configuration and benefit to existing Canton taxpayers

I recognize that Georgia law provides a mechanism under which property may qualify as contiguous for annexation purposes even when separated from existing municipal boundaries by certain rights-of-way, including an interstate highway.

The fact that an annexation may be legally permissible, however, does not by itself mean that it is necessarily in the best long-term interest of the City.

In this instance, the proposed annexation would create a narrow extension, or peninsula, of the City's corporate limits into Cherokee County and the Ball Ground Highway corridor.

That raises a fundamental policy question that I believe every governing body should ask when considering annexation:

What is the long-term public benefit to the existing taxpayers and residents of the City of Canton?

I believe that question deserves careful consideration before we extend the City's boundaries in a manner that could influence future development patterns and infrastructure obligations along this corridor.

4. Annexation should provide a clear public benefit

As discussed during our consideration of this matter, I believe annexation decisions should begin with a fundamental principle:

How does this annexation benefit the existing taxpayers and residents of the City of Canton?

I understand and support the need for additional attainable housing options in our community. However, whenever reasonably possible, I believe we should pursue that objective within our existing city limits, where infrastructure, services and the City's long-term planning framework are already established.

This is not a rejection of attainable housing. It is a recognition that where and how we accommodate growth matters just as much as the growth itself.

Conclusion

I do not take the authority granted to the Mayor under Section 2.23 of the Charter of the City of Canton lightly. This is the first time I have exercised that authority.

I have the utmost respect for my fellow Council members, and I respect the authority granted to each member of this governing body. If Council elects to override this veto in accordance with the Charter, I will respect and abide by that decision.

My decision to veto this ordinance is not a statement against growth, development or attainable housing. Rather, it reflects my responsibility to consider the long-term interests of the City of Canton, the consistency of our decisions with our adopted plans, the responsible extension of our city boundaries, and the safety and quality of life of our residents.

I believe our community deserves growth that is thoughtful, coordinated and consistent with the standards we have established for everyone.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask the Council to reconsider the merits of this annexation, its implications for the future of the Ball Ground Highway corridor, and its potential impact on the residents and taxpayers we have been entrusted to serve.

Sincerely,



Bill Grant, Mayor
City of Canton, Georgia

Date: September 11, 2026