

105 S. Long Street
Post Office Box 339
East Spencer, North
Carolina 28039



Telephone: (704) 636-7111
Fax: (704) 639-7734
Website: www.eastspencer.gov

“HOME OF HERITAGE & PROMISE”

Ordinance 25-07

TOWN OF EAST SPENCER, NORTH CAROLINA ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ANNEXATION POLICY AND GROWTH BOUNDARIES

Section 1. Title

This Ordinance shall be known as the **“Town of East Spencer Annexation and Growth Boundary Ordinance.”**

Section 2. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Ordinance is to:

1. Promote orderly, efficient, and fiscally responsible growth.
2. Establish defined growth boundaries to guide future annexation decisions.
3. Ensure that annexation supports the Town’s ability to provide municipal services effectively.
4. Protect public health, safety, and welfare.
5. Prevent urban sprawl and encourage compact, contiguous development.

Section 3. Authority

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by the State of North Carolina, including but not limited to N.C. General Statutes Chapter 160A and Chapter 160D.

Section 4. Definitions

For purposes of this Ordinance:

- Annexation: The legal incorporation of territory into the corporate limits of the Town.
- Growth Boundary (Rural Growth Area – RGA): A defined geographic area designated by the Town within which future annexation and urban development are encouraged.
- Contiguous Area: Land that directly abuts the existing municipal boundary.
- Service Capability: The Town’s ability to provide services such as water, sewer, police, fire, and solid waste collection.

Section 5. Establishment of Growth Boundary (*Revised*)

1. The Town hereby establishes an Rural Growth Boundary (RGB) as identified on the official Town of East Spencer Growth Boundary Map, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference.
2. In addition to the adopted map, the Growth Boundary shall include the following described area: **“East Spencer’s growth to the east shall be bounded by Long Ferry Road as it turns southeast, then extending to and connecting with Goodman Lake Road to Bringle Ferry Road and then back to the existing ETJ and municipal limits to complete the circle. ”**
3. This boundary description is intended to:

- Define the Town’s eastern growth limit;
 - Guide annexation decisions and infrastructure planning; and
 - Promote orderly and contiguous expansion of municipal services.
4. The Growth Boundary shall:
 - Reflect logical service extension areas;
 - Align with infrastructure capacity and planned improvements; and
 - Promote compact and contiguous development patterns.
 5. The Growth Boundary Map and accompanying narrative description shall be maintained by the Town Clerk and reviewed at least every five (5) years.

Section 6. Annexation Policy

A. General Criteria

All annexation requests shall meet the following minimum standards:

1. The property must be contiguous to the Town limits unless otherwise permitted by law.
2. The property must be located within the designated Growth Boundary or Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.
3. The Town must determine that it can provide services within a reasonable time and cost.
4. Annexation must be consistent with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and land use policies.

B. Priority for Annexation

Priority shall be given to:

1. Properties within the Growth Boundary.
2. Areas already receiving Town services.
3. Areas that eliminate irregular municipal boundaries or “donut holes.”

C. Non-Boundary Annexations

Annexation requests outside the Growth Boundary shall:

1. Be strongly discouraged; and
2. Require a supermajority vote of the Town Board and a finding of extraordinary public benefit, including:
 - Significant economic development
 - Public infrastructure improvements
 - Regional or state importance

Section 7. Service Provision Requirements

Prior to annexation approval, the Town shall:

1. Prepare a service plan outlining how and when services will be delivered.
2. Ensure financial sustainability of service delivery.
3. Require developer participation in infrastructure costs where applicable.

Section 8. Growth Management Principles

The Town adopts the following principles to guide annexation and development:

1. Encourage infill development within existing Town limits.
2. Promote efficient use of infrastructure and public resources.
3. Coordinate land use with transportation and utility planning.
4. Preserve open space and environmentally sensitive areas where feasible.

Section 9. Amendment of Growth Boundary

1. The Growth Boundary may be amended by the Town Board following:
 - Planning Board review and recommendation
 - Public hearing

2. Amendments shall consider:
- Population growth trends
 - Infrastructure capacity
 - Economic development needs
 - Intergovernmental coordination

Section 10. Severability

If any section of this Ordinance is declared invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions.


Section 11. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Adopted this 6 day of April, 2026



Barbara Mallett - Mayor



Isabel Santana Perez - Town Clerk