

Falls City Council OKs Zoning Change for CGB Addition

(KTNC) - The Falls City, City Council, unanimously approved the recommendations of the Planning Commission regarding the platting and zoning of 162 acres of land recently annexed into the city. The approval came during Monday's council meeting.

The council first approved the plat for the Towle Addition, which straddles Highway 73 on the south edge of Falls City. City Attorney Mike Dunn explained. (play audio :33)

The council then approved the plat for the area west of Highway 73 known as the C-G-B Addition. Again, Dunn explains. (play audio :44)

The area is where Consolidated Grain and Barge has proposed building a large grain handling facility. Second Ward Councilwoman Judy Murphy asked Dunn whether it is already known – since the area is called the C-G-B Addition – that the company would be locating a facility there. (play audio :12)

After approving the plat of the area, the council then approved the recommendation of the Planning Commission to change the zoning of the CGB Addition from agricultural to industrial.

During a public hearing preceding the vote on the zoning change, Dave Irwin, the General Manager of Salem Grain, reiterated his and his company's objection to the CGB project. He questioned the amount of state and local economic development funds that might go to CGB for the project, and the cost of providing utilities and electricity to the addition.

Irwin, along with representative from other local grain elevators and local truck drivers have expressed opposition to Consolidated Grain and Barge locating in Falls City. They say the facility would adversely affect their businesses and the local economy.

The council approved the zoning change unanimously following the public hearing.