

Hoover council OKs agreement for new phase of Village at Lee Branch

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The Hoover City Council tonight authorized Mayor Tony Petelos to enter an agreement to annex about 15 acres in Shelby County to expand The Village at Lee Branch shopping center, with incentive payments going to the developer.

Although the council authorized Petelos to sign the agreement with AIG Baker East Village, it did not annex the property Monday night.

The council scheduled a vote on the annexation ordinance for its next meeting, on Nov. 3.

The agreement calls for the city to pay the developer an amount equal to 50 percent of sales, lodging and entertainment revenues paid to the city by businesses in the new development during their first three years of operation.

City Council President Gary Ivey said the incentive is needed to bring the development into the city.

"There was no enticement for them to come into the city unless we helped," Ivey said.

City Attorney Mark Boardman said the agreement was the same as the one the city used to annex the land for the existing Village at Lee Branch, an 86-acre shopping center with more than 500,000 square feet of retail space on U.S. 280.

The new phase will be at the south edge of the shopping center and borders Farley Lane, a two-lane county road.

Plans call for AIG Baker East Village to use the 15 acres for a hotel and retail development, according to the agreement. Plans also call for the developer to improve part of Farley Lane.