



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

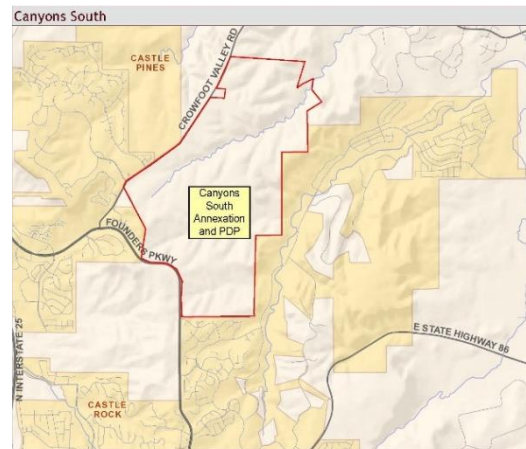
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

From: Teri Whitmore, Development Services Department

Title: **Resolution No. 2016 - __: A Resolution Finding a Certain Petition for Annexation Known as the Canyons South Annexation to be in Substantial Compliance with Section 30 of Article II of the Colorado Constitution and with the Requirements of §31-12-107(1), C.R.S.; and Establishing a Date, Time and Place for the Hearing prescribed under §31-12-108, C.R.S. to Determine if the Property Petitioned for Annexation to the Town of Castle Rock is Eligible for Annexation under Section 30, Article II of the Colorado Constitution and the Municipal Annexation Act of 1965 [Substantial Compliance Hearing, South of Crowfoot Valley Road / North and East of Founders Parkway]**

Executive Summary

The purpose and intent of this staff report is to demonstrate to Town Council that the Canyons South Annexation Petition is in Substantial Compliance with the applicable requirements of the Municipal Annexation Act (Act). After the Council concurs that a conforming annexation petition has been submitted, the Act mandates that the Council set a hearing date to determine if the allegations made in the petition are supportable and that the property is eligible for annexation (Eligibility Hearing). The Eligibility Hearing will be held on April 5, 2016.



Vicinity Map

The Substantial Compliance and Eligibility Hearings determine whether a proposed annexation application may later be annexed to the Town. The Town Council, however, has no obligation to approve an annexation simply because the property is eligible for annexation. Council will determine whether it is in the Town's interest to annex the property when the annexation and zoning ordinances are considered at public hearing later this year.

Staff finds that the petition substantially complies with State requirements and recommends approval of the Substantial Compliance Resolution.

Discussion

The Property

The proposed 1,584 acre annexation is located south of Crowfoot Valley Road, north and east of founders Parkway generally. The property boundary is adjacent to a number of significant-sized residential developments in the Town of Castle Rock, the City of Castle Pines, and the proposed Pioneer Ranch Annexation. Some of the adjacent Castle Rock neighborhoods include: Sapphire Point, Diamond Ridge, Timber Canyon, Terrain, Liberty Village, and others in the vicinity (**Attachment A**). The Canyons South Annexation property is in a concurrent Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) amendment process to designate the site as an area of “growth and annexation” by Douglas County and the Town of Castle Rock.

Annexation Process

There are three steps required in the annexation process. The following summarizes the three steps:

1. **Substantial Compliance** – The Town must determine if the annexation petition is in the prescribed form and contains the necessary statutory allegations. In addition, a finding must be made that the petitioners constitute more than 50% of all the landowners and that the petitioners own more than 50% of the total area of the property, excluding certain public ownership. The Town must also set a date, time and place for the Eligibility Hearing.
2. **Eligibility** – After four consecutive weeks of public notice in a newspaper of general circulation, the Town will determine if the assertions in the annexation petition are supportable and that the property is eligible for annexation under the Act. The Eligibility Hearing must occur between 30 and 60 days after the Substantial Compliance Hearing. If this Substantial Compliance Resolution is approved, the Eligibility Hearing for the Canyons South Annexation will be scheduled for April 5, 2016 (**Attachment B**).
3. **Annexation and Zoning** – Once a request has been found to be eligible for annexation, the Town can proceed with the annexation and zoning hearings at Planning Commission and Town Council. Substantial Compliance and Eligibility determine whether the parcel **can** be annexed; this final step determines whether a parcel **should** be annexed.

Substantial Compliance Findings

This application meets the requirements of the first step in the annexation process. Staff recommends that Town Council make a finding that this application substantially complies with Section 30 of Article II of the Colorado Constitution and with the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) Section 31-12-107(1) given that:

1. The Annexation Petition has been signed by more than 50% of the landowners, owning more than 50% of the land, excluding right-of-way and property owned by the Town of Castle Rock. In fact, the Annexation Petition is signed by all of the property owners.
2. The petition was filed with the Town Clerk on January 28, 2016.
3. The petition contains:
 - a. An allegation that it is desirable and necessary that such territory be annexed to the Town;
 - b. An allegation that the requirements of Sections 31-12-104 and 31-12-105 exist or have been met;
 - c. An allegation that the signers of the petition comprise the landowners of more than fifty (50%) of the territory included in the area proposed to be annexed, exclusive of streets and alleys;
 - d. A request that the municipality approve the annexation;
 - e. The signatures of the land owners;
 - f. The mailing address of each signer;
 - g. The legal description of the land owned by such signer;
 - h. The date of signing of each signature; and
 - i. The affidavit of each circulator of such petition, whether consisting of one or more sheets, that each signature therein is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be.
4. Four copies of the annexation map (**Attachment C**) were filed with the Clerk, containing:
 - a. A written legal description;
 - b. A map showing the boundary of the area proposed for annexation;
 - c. An indication of ownership tracts; and
 - d. A depiction of the contiguous boundary of the property with any municipality.
5. No signatures on the petition are dated more than 180 days prior to the date of filing.

Staff finds that the annexation request meets the statutory requirements and it should be deemed sufficient.

Budget Impact

The action of determining substantial compliance does not have any financial impact.

Staff Recommendation

The application substantially complies with the State requirements and staff recommends setting an Eligibility Hearing date of April 5, 2016.

Proposed Motion

I move to approve Resolution No. 2016 - ____ as introduced by title.

Attachments

Attachment A: Vicinity Map
Attachment B: Resolution (includes annexation petition)
Attachment C: Annexation Plat