

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
MARY & JOSEPH WATSON ANNEXATION
AZ-24-03/DA-24-03

The above-entitled Annexation and Development Agreement application came before the Star City Council for their action on April 16, 2024, at which time public testimony was taken and the public hearing was closed. The Star City Council, having requested and taken oral and written testimony, and having duly considered the matter, does hereby make the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Procedural History:

A. Project Summary:

The Applicant is requesting approval of an Annexation & Zoning (AZ-24-03) and Development Agreement (DA-24-03) for 7.17 acres. The subject property is generally located on the west side of N. Can Ada Road, south of W. New Hope Road. Canyon County Parcel No. R3400101000.

B. Application Submittal:

A neighborhood meeting was held on February 21, 2024, in compliance with the application submittal requirement of the Star Unified Development Code (Section 8-1 A-6 C). The Land Use application was deemed complete on March 14, 2024.

C. Notice of Public Hearing:

Notice of Public Hearing on the application for the City of Star Council was published in accordance with the requirements of Title 67, Chapter 65, Idaho Code and the Star Unified Development Code on March 19, 2024. Notice of this public hearing was mailed to property owners within three-hundred feet (300') of the subject property in accordance with the requirements of Title 67, Chapter 65, Idaho Code and Star Unified Development Code on March 14, 2024. Notice was sent to agencies having jurisdiction in the City of Star on October 11, 2022. The property was posted in accordance with the Star Unified Development Code on April 1, 2024.

D. History of Previous Actions:

This property does not have any history of land use applications within the City of Star.

E. *Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map and Zoning Map Designations:*

	Zoning Designation	Comp Plan Designation	Land Use
Existing	RUT (County)	Estate Rural Residential	Agricultural/Single Family Residential
Proposed	Residential (R-1-DA)	Estate Rural Residential	Agricultural/Single Family Residential
North of site	RUT (County)	Estate Rural Residential	Agricultural/Single Family Residential
South of site	RUT (County)	Estate Rural Residential	Agricultural/Single Family Residential
East of site	Residential (R-3-PUD-DA)	Estate Rural Residential	Oliver Estates Subdivision
West of site	AG (County)	Estate Rural Residential	Vacant Ag Land

F. *Development Features.*

ANNEXATION & REZONE:

The applicant is requesting approval of an annexation and zoning application with a zoning designation of Residential (R-1-DA) on 7.71 acres. This zoning district would allow for a maximum residential density of 1 dwelling unit per acre. Staff is recommending that the Council approve a zoning designation of Rural Residential (RR). The property is located in an area that is not currently serviceable with central sewer and water provided by Star Sewer and Water District. The Applicant will be on a personal well and septic system which will require the necessary approvals. The property will be accessed from Stump Lane off of N. Can Ada Road, as it is today. The Applicant may need approval from the HOA to access the private road and may need to be deeded into the maintenance agreement and access for the road. The rezone request includes a development agreement.

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Through the Development Agreement process, the applicant is proposing to work with the City to provide further insurances that the development will be built as presented and/or modified by the Council through the review process. Items that should be considered by the applicant and Council include the following:

- Zoning District of Rural Residential (RR) vs. Estate Urban Residential (R-1)
- Future Development
- ITD Proportionate Share Fees for all future residences.
- Fire District Requirement for Private Road improvements

H. *On-Site Features:*

- ✪ Areas of Critical Environmental Concern – No known areas.
- ✪ Evidence of Erosion – No evidence.
- ✪ Fish Habitat – No.
- ✪ Floodplain – No.
- ✪ Mature Trees – No.
- ✪ Riparian Vegetation – No.
- ✪ Steep Slopes – None.
- ✪ Stream/Creek – Seasonal Irrigation.
- ✪ Unique Animal Life – No unique animal life has been identified.
- ✪ Unique Plant Life – No unique plant life has been identified.
- ✪ Unstable Soils – No known issues.
- ✪ Historical Assets – No historical assets have been observed.
- ✪ Wildlife Habitat – No known sensitive wildlife habitat observed.

I. *Agencies Responding:*

The following agencies responded, and correspondence was attached to the staff report.

City Engineer	March 7, 2024
HD4	March 7, 2024
ITD	March 19, 2024
SWDH	March 12, 2024

J. Staff received the following letters & emails for the development:

No public comments have been received.

K. *Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Code Provisions:*

Comprehensive Plan:

8.2.3 Land Use Map Designations:

Estate Rural Residential:

Suitable primarily for single family residential use. Densities in this land use area are a maximum of 2 dwelling units per acre. Densities not exceeding 1 to 2 units per acre are to be encouraged in areas of the floodplain, ridgeline developable areas, hillside developable areas, and where new residential lots are proposed immediately adjacent to existing residential lots of greater than one acre where those existing larger lots are not likely to be subdivided in the future. Clustering is allowed to preserve open space.

Rural Residential:

Suitable primarily for rural single-family residential use adjacent to agricultural uses, adjacent to other Rural Residential type uses, and adjacent to BLM land areas. Densities typically range from 1 unit per 2 acres to 1 dwelling units per 5 acres.

8.3 Goal:

Encourage the development of a diverse community that provides a mix of land uses, housing types, and a variety of employment options, social and recreational opportunities, and where possible, an assortment of amenities within walking distance of residential development.

8.4 Objectives:

- Implement the Land Use Map and associated policies as the official guide for development.
- Manage urban sprawl in order to minimize costs of urban services and to protect rural areas.
- Encourage land uses that are in harmony with existing resources, scenic areas, natural wildlife areas, and surrounding land uses.

8.5.3 Policies Related Mostly to the Urban Residential Planning Areas:

- A. The Estate and Neighborhood Residential Land Use is to encourage urban style development densities to limit urban sprawl.
- B. Low densities within the Estate and Neighborhood Residential Land Use are to be designed within the floodplain, ridgeline developable areas, hillside developable areas and where new residential lots are proposed adjacent to existing residential lots of one acre and larger where those existing larger lots are not likely to be subdivide in the future.

8.5.9 Additional Land Use Component Policies:

- Encourage flexibility in site design and innovative land uses.
- Work with Ada County Highway District (ACHD), Canyon Highway District #4 (CHD4), and Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) for better coordination of roadway and access needs.
- Support well-planned, pedestrian-friendly developments.
- Dark sky provision should be adopted within the code to assure down style lighting in all developments and Star should consider joining the International Dark Sky Association.

18.4 Implementation Policies:

F. Development Agreements allow the city to enter into a contract with a developer upon rezoning. The Development Agreement may provide the city and the developer with certain assurances regarding the proposed development upon rezoning.

Unified Development Code:

8-1B-1: ANNEXATION AND ZONING; REZONE:

B. Standards:

1. The subject property shall meet the minimum dimensional standards of the proper district.
2. The city may require a development agreement in conjunction with the annexation and zoning, or rezone, pursuant to Idaho Code section 67-6511A, which may include a concept plan. In addition to other processes permitted by city and state code, exceptions or waivers of standards, other than use, may be permitted through execution of a development agreement. A development agreement and concept plan shall be required for any rezone to a mixed-use zone, high density zone or land which includes steep slope (land over 25%) or floodway.
3. The termination of a development agreement shall result in the reversal of the official zoning map amendment approval and applicable development approval for any undeveloped portion of property subject to the development agreement. The undeveloped property subject to the development agreement shall be rezoned to the district classification as designated by the development agreement. When no designation is provided, the property shall revert to its original zoning or, if the original designation no longer exists, to the closest current equivalent zoning as determined by the current Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map designation.
4. An amendment or termination of a previously recorded development agreement shall be recorded in the office of the county recorder by the clerk.
5. An approved development agreement must be executed within ninety (90) days of the meeting at which the development agreement is approved by the city council. A one-time administrative extension of maximum thirty (30) days may be granted by the zoning administrator. Additional extensions may be approved by majority vote of the city council. Failure to execute the development agreement within the required timeframe will result in the denial of all related applications.

C. Required Findings: The council shall review the application at the public hearing. In order to grant an annexation and zoning or rezone, the council shall make the following findings:

1. The map amendment complies with the applicable provisions of the comprehensive plan;
2. The map amendment complies with the regulations outlined for the proposed district;

3. The map amendment shall not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare; and
4. The map amendment shall not result in an adverse impact upon the delivery of services by any political subdivision providing public services within the city.
5. The annexation (as applicable) is in the best interest of city.

8-3A-1: ZONING DISTRICTS AND PURPOSE ESTABLISHED:

R RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT: To provide regulations and districts for various residential neighborhoods. Gross density in a Residential (R) district shall be determined according to the numeral following the R. The numeral designates the maximum number of dwelling units per acre. In zoning designations of R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5, housing shall be single family detached unless approved with a PUD or development agreement. Connection to municipal water and sewer facilities are required for all subdivision and lot split applications submitted after the effective date hereof in all districts exceeding one dwelling unit per acre. Wells and septic systems may be permitted for larger lots in this land use designation that are not adjacent to municipal services, as determined by the Sewer District, and if approved by the applicable Health Department. Private streets may be approved in this district for access to newly subdivided or split property. This district does allow for some non-residential uses as specified in 8-3A-3.

(RR) RURAL-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT: To provide for rural single-family residential use adjacent to agricultural uses, adjacent to other Rural Residential type uses, and adjacent to BLM land areas. Parcels are to be two acres minimum. It is the intent of this land use designation to help to preserve Star's rural feel. Huge manicured "Rural Residential" lots are discouraged and therefore manicured home site areas on these properties should not exceed 1/2 acre. Uses may include active agriculture, viticulture, equestrian, and residential. Uses include native open space and small-scale active farmland. The Rural Residential land use is not amenity based (sewer, water, schools) and will usually be located away from goods and services. These areas encourage the keeping and raising of small-scale crops and/or animals and do not necessarily include manicured yards, sidewalks, bike paths, streetlights or planned park and recreation facilities. Density may be further limited due to the limited availability of infrastructure. Modified street sections and a reduction in light pollution (by reducing or eliminating lighting standards) may be offered for a more rural feel. Private streets may be permitted in this district for access to newly subdivided or split property. This land use designation is to be located such that it does not block extension of urban services at reasonable costs. Wells and septic systems should be permitted for lots in this land use designation if approved by the applicable Health Department. Easements of at least 20-feet in width shall be provided where determined necessary for the future extension of water and sewer mains. This district does allow for some commercial uses as specified in 8-3A-3.

DA DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT: This designation, following any zoning designation noted on the official zoning map of the city (i.e., C-2-DA), indicates that the zoning was approved by the

ZONING DISTRICT USES	A	R-R	R
Accessory structure	A	A	A
Dwelling:			
Multi-family 1	N	N	C
Secondary 1	A	A	A
Single-family attached	N	N	C
Single-family detached	P	P	P
Two-family duplex	N	N	P

city with a development agreement, with specific conditions of zoning.

8-3A-3: USES WITHIN ZONING DISTRICTS

The following table lists principal permitted (P), accessory uses (A), conditional (C), or prohibited

8-3A-4: ZONING DISTRICT DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS:

Zoning District	Maximum Height Note Conditions	Minimum Yard Setbacks Note Conditions			
		Front ⁽¹⁾	Rear	Interior Side	Street Side
R-R	35'	30'	30'	20'	20'
R-1	35'	30'	30'	10'	20'

Notes:

1. Front yard setback shall be measured from the face of the garage to the face of the sidewalk, allowing for 20' of parking on the driveway without overhang onto the sidewalk.
2. Zero-Lot-Line and reduced front and rear setback waivers may be requested through the Development Agreement process. All other side yard setback requests for detached structures shall not be granted waivers, unless as part of a Planned Unit Development.
3. All setbacks in the CBD, C-1, C-2, LO, IL, PS, RC and M-U zone shall maintain a minimum 15' when adjacent to a residential use or zone.
4. As approved by the Fire District.

8-1B-1C: ANNEXATION AND ZONING FINDINGS:

1. The map amendment complies with the applicable provisions of the Comprehensive Plan.
The Council finds that the purpose of the Star Comprehensive Plan is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the City of Star and its Impact Area. Some of the prime objectives of the Comprehensive Plan include:
 - ✓ *Protection of property rights.*
 - ✓ *Adequate public facilities and services are provided to the people at reasonable cost.*
 - ✓ *Ensure the local economy is protected.*
 - ✓ *Encourage urban and urban-type development and overcrowding of land.*
 - ✓ *Ensure development is commensurate with the physical characteristics of the land.**The goal of the Comprehensive Plan for Rural Residential Districts is primarily for rural single-family residential use adjacent to agricultural uses, adjacent to other Rural Residential type uses, and adjacent to BLM land areas. Densities typically range from 1 unit per 2 acres to 1 dwelling units per 5 acres.*

2. The map amendment complies with the regulations outlined for the proposed district, specifically, the purposes statement.

The Council finds that the rural residential purpose statement states that the purpose of the residential districts is to help to preserve Star's rural feel. Huge manicured "Rural Residential" lots are discouraged and therefore manicured home site areas on these properties should not exceed 1/2 acre. Uses may include active agriculture, viticulture, equestrian, and residential. Uses include native open space and small-scale active farmland. The Rural Residential land use is not amenity based (sewer, water, schools) and will usually be located away from goods and services.

3. The map amendment shall not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare; and

The Council finds that there is no indication from the material and testimony submitted that this annexation and zoning of this property will be materially detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare.

4. The map amendment shall not result in an adverse impact upon the delivery of services by any political subdivision providing public services within the city including, but not limited to, school districts.

The Council finds that the City has not been presented with any information from agencies having jurisdiction that public services will be adversely impacted other than traffic, which will continue to be impacted as the City grows.

5. The annexation is in the best interest of the city.

The Council finds this annexation is reasonably necessary for the orderly development of the City.

Public Hearing of the Council:

a. A public hearing on the application was heard by the City Council on April 16, 2024, at which time testimony was heard and the public hearing was closed. The City Council made their decision at that time.

b. Oral testimony regarding the application was presented to the City Council by:

- Shawn L Nickel, City Planning Director gave Staff Presentation
- Joseph Watson

c. Written testimony in favor of or opposing the application was presented to the City Council at the hearing by:

None

Deliberations and Conclusions of Law:

The Council reviewed the particular facts and circumstances of this proposed annexation application in accordance with the City of Star Title 8 (Unified Development Code), deliberated on the matter, resulting in review of the record, including the staff report, and discussions on the development. Review and discussion included access, zoning designation and ITD Proportionate Shares. The Council placed conditions of approval on the application in the development agreement. Council concluded that the Applicant's request, as conditioned, meets the requirements for annexation. Council hereby incorporates the staff report dated April 16, 2024 into the official decision as part of these Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law.

Statement of Compliance:

Council finds the Applicant has met all requirements of the Unified Development Code and the intent and purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and Map requirements.

Council added to the Development Agreement the following conditions of approval to their decision to approve the application to include the following:

- **Applicant shall be responsible for payment of ITD Proportionate Share for all new residential units.**
- **The applicant shall comply with all requirements of the Star Fire District, including any roadway improvements necessary to access the property.**
- **The property shall be zoned to Rural Residential (RR).**

Council Decision:

The Council voted 4-0 to approve the Annexation and Development Agreement on April 16, 2024.

Dated this 7th day of May 2024.

Star, Idaho

By: _____
Trevor A. Chadwick, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacob M. Qualls, City Clerk