

**TWENTY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
regarding the  
**EAST ANAMOST-AIRPORT ANNEXATION**

**1) Why is the City of Rapid City considering the annexation of this area?**

The area south of the ridgeline and east of Elk Vale Road extending to the Rapid City Regional Airport has been identified as appropriate for the future expansion of Rapid City based on the extension of sewer service, water service and other urban services. Urban density development is occurring along Elk Vale Road and Radar Hill Road. The City is seeking to insure that the urban density development that is occurring within the annexation area is compatible with the long-term growth of the city. The City also wished to protect the multi-million dollar taxpayer investment in the Rapid City Regional Airport insuring the long term viability of this important regional transportation facility.

**2) What police services will be provided to my property?**

A dedicated patrol car will be assigned to the annexation area, in addition to the patrol car currently assigned in the Cambell Street area.

**3) Who will provide fire protection to my property?**

The City of Rapid City will assume primary responsibility for fire protection in the annexation area. The City has a mutual aid agreement with the Box Elder Volunteer Fire Department and the Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department to provide additional assistance.

**4) Will the Fire Department respond to the area from the Downtown Station?**

A fire station is already being planned for this area. Until a new station is constructed, the City intends to locate a crew at a temporary location near the annexation area, possibly entering into an agreement with the Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department to locate a city crew at the existing Rapid Valley Fire Station. Funds for the new City fire station could be obtained from several sources, including the City's Capital Improvement Budget or from 2012 Funds.

**5) Will my children attend the same school?**

The School District boundaries do not change upon annexation. No change in the school system will occur as a result of the annexation.

**6) Who will represent me on the City Council?**

Upon annexation, the newly annexed area will be assigned to a City ward and you will be represented by the two alderpersons elected from that ward. The City Council may redistrict at any time.

**7) When can I vote in a City election?**

Residents of the annexation area may vote in the next regular election or any special elections occurring after the effective date of the annexation.

**8) Will the City pick up the garbage from my residence?**

A petition may be submitted to the City requesting that City garbage service be provided to your residential property. The current fee for this service is \$13.97 per month. Recycling services for those obtaining City garbage services are provided at no additional cost.

**9) Will I have to rebuild my road to City standards?**

The City will not require the roads to be rebuilt to City standards unless you are developing your property. Any roads in a new development or proposed subdivision may be required to be built to City standards.

**10) When will new roads be built in the annexation area?**

As new areas are developed, the developer will be required to build the new roads in accordance with City standards. Developers are responsible for the costs of constructing these roads; however the City pays for any over sizing costs beyond a collector standard road.

**11) How will road improvements be funded?**

The City prioritizes public road improvements within the City each year. The newly annexed public roads will be included in this process and improvements prioritized along with all existing City roads. Possible funding sources include General Fund revenues, Capital Improvement Program funds, Surface Transportation Program (federal) funds, 2012 funds, property assessments and developer contributions.

**12) Will the City have a snowplow on Radar Hill Road?**

The City Street Department anticipates acquiring one additional snowplow and operator to serve the expanded City limits including providing snow removal on Radar Hill Road. Rapid City and Pennington County have agreements to trade the responsibility for snow removal for various areas to make sure that this service is provided in the most efficient manner possible. The City and County may consider entering into an agreement for snow removal on Radar Hill Road or other public roads within the annexation area.

**13) Will my road be maintained by the City?**

The City will maintain all public streets located within the annexation area.

**14) When will water be extended to my property?**

If landowners within the newly annexed area wish to have City water extended to their property, they must submit a petition requesting the creation of an assessment district

with the signatures of 50 percent of the affected property owners. The City has two years from the date the petition is submitted to develop an assessment project and construct the water system improvements.

**15) What will it cost me to extend water service to my property?**

The costs of extending water service varies from property to property depending on the location of the water mains, the distance to your property and the number of properties petitioning for water service.

**16) Do I have to connect my home to City water and sewer?**

If a private well and septic system is serving the home and properly functioning, no change in the system is required. However, State law requires that you connect your home to a public sewer system if your property is located within 400 feet of a sewer main whether or not your property is in a municipality. Annexation does not change that requirement.

**17) Will my property taxes increase?**

Depending on the existing taxing district your property is located in and the tax classification of your property, the property taxes may increase or decrease. Estimates based on the 2002 tax levies indicate that the taxes on land classified as agricultural for tax purposes will decrease by as much as 14%, while taxes on non-agricultural property may increase by up to 5%.

**18) What will my property be zoned?**

The Rapid City Council will determine the zoning of the property upon consideration of a rezoning request prepared by City staff and reviewed through the public hearing process. This rezoning must be completed within one year of the annexation. Property owners' requests will be taken into consideration along with the existing County zoning designation and the current as well as future use of the property.

**19) Can I continue the agricultural operations on my property?**

Yes. It is anticipated that much of the area currently used for agricultural purposes will be zoned General Agriculture District when the property is annexed into the City. This zoning district allows most agricultural activities including the raising of farm animals as well as agricultural crops. It does not allow the operation of commercial feed pens for livestock. If the property is not zoned General Agriculture District, the existing agricultural operations are considered a legal non-conforming use. Legal non-conforming uses may continue as long as the use does not expand and does not cease for a period of one year.

**20) Can I have an electric fence or a barbed wire fence in the City limits?**

Electric fences are not allowed in the City limits. However, barbed wire fences are allowed in the General Agriculture zoning district.