

APRIL 8, 2022

SPECIAL SESSION

## PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in Special Session Friday April 8, 2022 at 08:30am EST at the Pulaski County Highway Garage Building, Winamac, Indiana. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Michael McClure with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Commissioners Maurice Loehmer was absent.

Also present were Niki Clemons, Jake ??, Jeff Phillips, Derrick Stalbaum, Dale Chu, Steve Eberly, Harold Johnson, Carol Johnson, Brenda Krulik, Joe Krulik, Doug Podell, Jared Brown, Karla Redweik, Tina Dunn, Norman Welker, Mark Kolish, Gery Welker, Devey ??, Scott Fritz, Debra Nuest, Ed Cotner, Keith Davis, David Fields, Rich Knebel, Franna Barger, Robert Barger, Bill Boehning, Randy Davis, Gail Lambert, Larry Lambert, Jerry Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Jennifer Knebel, Rich Knebel, Dan Knebel, and Chris Schramm.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The special session is for the Pulaski County Commissioners (the legislative body of Pulaski County Government) to consider the certification of the proposed changes to the Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). This is the Advisory Plan Commission (APC) response to the proposed changes to the UDO initiated by the legislative body under Ind. Code 36-7-4-607, and discussed in detail by the APC at their meeting and public hearing on March 16, 2022 and subsequent hearing resulting in the certification of proposed changes attached to the notice of special session. A list of all changes to the UDO being considered are available at the Pulaski County Building Department and are available to the public through a link on [www.pulaskionline.org](http://www.pulaskionline.org). The changes are included in Section 2 (Solar Energy System (CSES)), Section 4, Section 7 (Wind Energy Conveyance and Solar Energy Systems) and Section 8 (Definitions + Measurements).

Pulaski County Commissioners submitted typed text amendments to the UDO, Ordinance 2021-03 (as amended) and the PCAPC favorably certified the text amendments with some adjustments to Commissioners' text amendments:

- 4.1 Use Standard Chart page 102 add "Special Exception",
- 7.14.A.1 add "at date of application",
- 7.14.D.2 add "or as industry standards require",
- 7.14.E.1 revise to "112" miles per hour
- 7.14.F.1. add (to NEC regulations at date of application"
- 7.14.G.4. add "pesticide"
- 7.15.A.1. revise to "50 dBA"

Charles made the following personal statement:

"I would like to take this opportunity to address a couple of concerns that were brought up during the community comments on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. A question was asked "Who is behind all this?" If you are looking for someone to cast stones upon, it is I. Each time I have spoken at an open meeting on this topic, I have stated that I was the initiator. To be perfectly clear, I want everyone to know that I asked the County Attorney to look at the UDO to determine what we might do to help streamline Solar Development in the County, as it appears to be going nowhere. In time, the County Attorney presented me with some suggested amendments for review that he had developed, along with the help of other County Government agencies. I am certainly aware that changing the UDO as we have proposed will benefit Solar Development and in turn, the property owners who stand to profit from the development of their farms. This action is intentional on my part. I strongly believe it's the right decision.

To address the issue of transparency, I have largely remained silent in the face of criticism over my actions to promote solar development in this county. I have done this because there is pending litigation over some issues and because responding to each and every criticism would be unproductive. Some have taken my reservation to speak openly about my position, as a sign that I am unclear about what is best for the County. This is far from the truth. I have read and reviewed a great deal about solar development; listened to the presentations; sat through countless hours of debate on this issue, either in person or virtually, over the last 6 months. I also served on the abatement committee. Most importantly, I have listened to many of the silent majority of county constituents, who ask "when are you going to make this happen".

With that being said, this is my opinion:

1. My support starts with a deeply held belief that farmers have the right to enjoy and profit off their land. My conservative principals make me critical of government interference in property owners' rights. I of course realize there are limitations that need to be in place when it comes to the wellbeing of others. I will always seek a balance that does as little as possible to interfere with farmers' rights while still considering the public concerns.

