

**CITY OF KNOX PLANNING COMMISSION
101 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
KNOX, INDIANA 46534
574-772-5445**

Members Present: Jeff V. Berg; Jeff Houston; James Brown; Dave Metz; Ronald Parker; Sherry Cowen

Members Absent: John Wilson; Don Kring; Jim Jenkins

Staff Present: Lonnie Boley; Justin Schramm

Staff Absent: None

The April 2, 2024 Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Vice President Jeff V. Berg with the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call preformed.

Amendment to the Agenda:

Jeff Houston made a motion to add discussion of the solar ordinance to the agenda. Jim Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed with six (6) ayes and no (0) nays.

Approval of Minutes:

Sherry Cowen made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2024 meeting as presented. James Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed with five (5) ayes, no (0) nays, and one (1) abstention – Dave Metz.

Solar Ordinance Discussion:

Building and Code Compliance Director, Lonnie Boley, reported that Hoosier Solar representatives were supposed to attend the meeting, but cancelled.

Their proposal is to construct a solar farm on 300+ acres North of Knox. The land falls within the two-mile jurisdiction.

Jim Brown noted that he is not familiar with terminology used in the ordinance.

Berg said the company would probably go before the Tech Committee first.

A general discussion took place concerning enforcement of ordinances within the two-mile jurisdiction. Wellhead protection, permit fees, and Kilowatts were also discussed. The company may get their permits from the county first. Lonnie also noted that the Mayor wants to know if we could stop further development after the initial permit is issued.

Attorney Schramm said it is within the Planning Commission power to restrict the development to established Revitalization areas or to cap the maximum amount of acreage for development. A public hearing would have to be held.

Ron Parker made a motion to send a recommendation to the City for a moratorium on the construction of the solar farm for a period of up to one (1) year. Jim Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed with six (6) ayes and no (0) nays.

Tech Committee Report:

Jim Brown reported that their work on Rules of Procedure is finished and they are just waiting to have them typed up.

Change of Planning Commission Meeting Date:

Bice President Berg stated that the next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2024 which is Election Day. He suggested moving it to May 8th. Jim Brown made a motion which was seconded by Sherry Cowen to move the next meeting date to May 8, 2024. Motion passed with six (6) ayes and no (0) nays.

Review of Ordinances:

Jeff Berg said both the Tech Committee and the Planning Commission as a whole will be working for the next year updating ordinances. He said we should set goals and make recommendations to the City.

Citizens Comments:

None

Other Business:

James Brown asked Lonnie to look into getting rid of the storage container behind the Historical Society.

Adjournment:

James Brown made a motion which was seconded by Ron Parker to adjourn at 6:53 P.M. Motion passed with six (6) ayes and no (0) nays.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

Jeffery Houston
Secretary