

AGENDA

Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:00 p.m. Merrick County Fairgrounds Conference Room

- Call meeting to order _____ p.m.
“The Merrick County Joint Planning Commission meeting will now be called to order. The Open Meetings Act is available for inspection on the table in the back of the room. Notice of this meeting and hearing was publicized in the Central City Republican Nonpareil, the Palmer Journal, and in the Merrick County Courthouse as required by law.”
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
- Approve Minutes from Thursday, September 23, 2020
- Rules and Regulations Governing Public Participation at Meetings and Public Hearings
- Public Meeting Notice
- Open Public Hearing _____ p.m.
- Public Hearing Notice
- Sub-Committee and Planning Commission present the proposed amendment changes to the current Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations, Merrick County Zoning Regulations, 2016.
- Open Discussion/Comments on proposed amendment changes to the current Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations, 2016.
- Close Public Hearing _____ p.m.
- Possible Action/Options on the proposed amendment changes to the Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Merrick Regulations, 2016.
 - No amendment changes to current regulations
 - Make amendment changes to current regulations
- Roll Call Vote

- Possible Action – Send *“Letter of Recommendation of Approval or Denial”* of proposed amendment changes to the Merrick County Zoning Regulations, 2016?
 - Vote to Send Letter of Approval/ Denial to Board of Supervisors
 - Table for further consideration at a public meeting and public hearing

- Roll Call Vote

- Public Comments/ Discussion

- Administrative Report/Commission Open Discussion
 - Sub Committee met four times to draft amendment change proposal to the current Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations, 2016
 - Planning Commission met on Thursday, September 23 to review and discuss the draft of the amendment change proposal to the current Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations, 2016
 - Other items
 - A Huge Thank You to Jess Brandes, David Miller, and Pat Robinson for the countless hours they spent on the sub-committee doing research; and for drafting the proposed amendment changes to the current Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations, 2016.
 - Thank you to the Planning Commission for the grueling process of reviewing the proposed amendment changes; and for their time, commitment, and dedication to representing the best interest of the citizens of Merrick County.

- Adjournment “It is now _____ p.m. and the meeting is adjourned.

Next Planning Commission Public Meeting/Public Hearing:

Optional dates: Thursday, November 5, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: 1st floor, Room 104, of the Merrick County Courthouse or alternate site

Points to Ponder MEMO:

TO: Merrick County Joint Planning Commission
 FROM: Kay Lyons

- A gentle reminder... the Planning Commission (and Board of Supervisors) is expected to consider and represent the best interest of citizens of Merrick County.

- When making a recommendation for Approval or Denial of any issue or request; **and** when voting; special care should be taken to avoid voting according to personal opinions or biases.

- Any amendment changes to the Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations, 2016, must be done with serious consideration for public health, safety, and welfare.

- When stating ***“Findings of Fact”*** on the Approval/ Denial forms, legitimate reasons for amending the current regulations must be clearly stated.
 - The Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems amendment changes are listed in the document.
 - As required by law, the Planning Commission is required to hold a Public Hearing to allow the public to attend and be heard.
 - Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems can be a very emotional, and at times, controversial subject. The Commission is challenged with listening to the will of the people, then make sure that amendment changes represent the best interest of the citizens of Merrick County.
 - **The Commission has 2 options for proceeding with the proposed amendment changes:**
 - 1. Vote to send a “Letter of Recommendation of Approval or Denial” to the Board of Supervisors *at the conclusion of this public hearing.***
 - 2. Table the issue to review public input from the hearing.**
- Tabling the issue would require:**
- *An additional Public Meeting
Possible dates: November 5th or 12th, 2020.
 - *An additional Public Hearing
Possible dates: November 12th or 19^{th, 2}
 - *A “Letter of Recommendation of Approval/ Denial” sent to the Board of Supervisors.
- Options on how to proceed with Commercial/Utility Grade Wind Energy Systems Regulations:
 - No amendment changes to current regulations
 - Make amendment changes to current regulations