

*Jasper County Planning Commission
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**Minutes of the July 16, 2024
Regular Scheduled Meeting**

Members Present: Mr. Alex Pinckney, Chairman; Mr. Thomas Jenkins; Mr. Lee Gramling; Ms. Sharon Ferguson; Dr. Earl Bostick, Sr.; Mr. Brent Robinson. **Absent:** Dr. Debora Butler, Vice-Chairman

Staff Present: Ms. Lisa Wagner and Ms. Tara Hayes

Others Present: Giacomo Cernjul, Qcells USA; Katherine Ross, Parker Poe; Don Brant; Freddie Brantley; other members of the community were present but did not sign-in

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the electronic and print media were notified. During periods of discussion and/or presentations minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased. The recorded version is available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/@jcmedia6537/streams>

Call to Order: Chairman Pinckney brought the meeting to order at approximately 6 p.m.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Bostick.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Jenkins moved to approve the Agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Ferguson. The Commission Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approval of May 14, 2024, Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes: Mr. Jenkins moved to approve the Minutes of June 18, 2024, seconded by Mr. Robinson. The Commission Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

Zoning Map Amendment - Solar Farm Floating Zone, Tax Map Numbers 050-00-06-002, 050-00-06-005, 059-00-01-002, 059-00-01-003, and 059-00-01-033: Ms. Wagner gave an update on information she had obtained since the last meeting. Mr. Cernjul came forward with a memo from an expert stating that there are no public health risks associated with herbicide use at a solar facility. There was discussion about other solar farms, herbicides, runoff, citizens in opposition, and the health and safety of the community. Ms. Ross came forward to speak about a soil monitoring plan. Don Brant asked about revenue received from the current solar farm, restrictions placed on Rural Preservation Zoning, and renewable energy credits. Freddie Brantley asked about zoning change and the impact on the community. Mr. Cernjul answered questions about revenue the solar farm will generate for the county. Ms. Wagner read stats from SCDNR about solar energy. **Ms. Ferguson moved to approve the Zoning Map Amendment - Solar Farm Floating Zone with a recommendation to require the applicant to develop a soil monitoring plan, seconded by Mr. Gramling. Mr. Bostick asked about replanting after the Decommissioning. The Commission Members voted in favor of the motion with Mr. Jenkins voting in opposition of the motion.**

Discussion:

Open Discussion: There was discussion about notifying the property owners about upcoming zoning changes, scheduling a Special Called Meeting, and placing a time limit on public comments.

Adjourn: Dr. Bostick moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ferguson. The Commission Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Hayes