

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
(JOINT MEETING WITH ALBANY COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION)**

VIA ZOOM

AUGUST 12, 2020

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SPECIAL MEETING: 4:00 p.m.**

1. **Roll Call.**

The August 12, 2020 Special Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Moore from the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission. Chairperson Jones and Commissioners Gosar and Richardson present along with Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Miller and Mr. Spiegelberg.

2. **Comments from the public.**

Mr. Moore, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission informed the public that Albany County does not currently have any regulations regarding Commercial Solar Energy Regulations. The State of Wyoming has adopted minimum standards that requires anyone applicant who would like to go with solar must apply with the County.

Several comments were made in support of efforts being made to bring in solar energy to help diversify the economy. There were also comments made to support a moratorium to allow for time to develop regulations and there was also opposition to a moratorium with suggestions that minimum standards be imposed for now.

Public Comment closed at 4:40 p.m.

3. **Disclosures.** – None.

4. **Consideration of changes on the agenda.** None.

5. **Discuss** Commercial Solar Energy Regulations and Potential Moratorium.

Mr. Cunningham, Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission noted that he appreciated the comments and believes that a moratorium should be established.

Mr. Miller, Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission wasn't in favor of adopting standards when very little is known about this at this point.

Mr. Kennedy, Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission stated that as he reviewed the proposed regulations, he does believe we need to move forward with the minimum. He suggested a 60-day moratorium to go through the whole process and allow the Commission two meetings to examine.

David Gertsch, County Planner gave background information as to why consideration is being made to enact regulations and explained the changes in state statute and reviewed the proposed solar regulations to both bodies.

Commission Richardson commented that he preferred the minimum standards as the process and that he was not in favor of a moratorium.

Commissioner Gosar agreed that this needs to be well thought out and that language is very important and compliance with minimum standards is necessary. He suggested that the Environmental Advisory Commission could assist.

Chairperson Jones agreed that minimum standards should adopted and working with the Environmental Commission would allow the Commissioners to move forward and continue to work on this.

Mr. Spiegelberg, Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission agreed to minimum standards.

MOTION by Keith Kennedy to recommend that the County Commissioners ADOPT the state minimum standards to the Solar Regulations with the addition that Mr. Gertsch made on item 8 and changing battery to energy.

Roll call showed Kennedy, Cunningham, Miller, Spiegelberg and Moore. Aye. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Gosar to DIRECT Staff to Publish Amendments and SCHEDULE a Public Hearing for October 6, 2020.

Roll call showed Gosar, Richardson and Jones. Aye. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Present for Approval, Resolution 2020-024, A Resolution Declaring a Freeze or Temporary Moratorium on Solar Energy Facility Development in the Unincorporated Areas of Albany County for (90) Days. (Commissioners) – Removed
7. Adjourn.

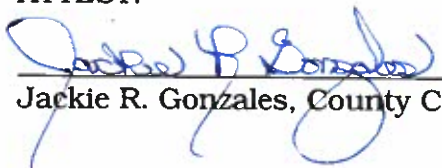
MOTION by Gosar to ADJOURN the August 12, 2020 joint meeting with the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission at 5:28 p.m.

Roll call showed Gosar, Richardson and Jones. Aye. MOTION CARRIED.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Terri Jones, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
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Jackie R. Gonzales, County Clerk