

RESOLUTION #42-23

AMENDING THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Floyd County Board of Supervisors (Board) heard presentations on August 21 and 28 from two wind turbine companies seeking voluntary easements from Floyd County landowners to develop utility-scale wind projects in the County, and

WHEREAS, the Board was presented with a petition from County residents on October 9 calling for the enactment of a moratorium on utility-scale wind projects in the County and requesting an update of the County Ordinance pertaining to utility-scale wind projects, and

WHEREAS, the Board has taken into consideration the concerns and requests of the signers of the petition and the wind turbine companies by discussing options available to the Board and how to proceed in the best interest of Floyd County, County residents and Floyd County's agricultural producers at public meetings on October 9, 16, 23, and 30, and

WHEREAS, the Board has requested the help of the North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG) to assist the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board in amending the Floyd County Ordinance pertaining to utility-scale wind and solar projects and battery storage projects, and

WHEREAS, the Board believes the development of Floyd County's renewable wind and solar energy resources has the potential to benefit the County and County residents by providing lease or easement payments to landowners, increasing needed property tax revenue to the County, increasing the use of the County's clean, renewable energy resources, and by enhancing local economic development through job creation, and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to facilitate the construction, installation and operation of Floyd County's renewable wind and solar energy resources in a manner that ensures the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Floyd County, and avoids any adverse impacts to the residents of Floyd County and Floyd County's agricultural producers, and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to balance the needs, interests, and concerns of Floyd County, County residents, Floyd County's agricultural producers and the renewable energy companies seeking to develop renewable energy projects in Floyd County, and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to ensure a timely, expeditious, thorough, transparent and open-to-the-public review and amendment of the Floyd County Zoning Ordinance pertaining to utility-scale wind and solar energy projects and battery storage projects,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Floyd County Board of Supervisors hereby approve:


- An Agreement Between the North Iowa Area Council of Governments and Floyd County pertaining to amending the Floyd County Zoning Ordinance for utility-scale wind development, battery storage and related sections of the ordinance in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 335 County Zoning. Payment for the agreement with NIACOG shall be from American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- An Agreement Between the North Iowa Area Council of Governments and Floyd County pertaining to amending the Floyd County Zoning Ordinance for utility-scale solar development and related sections of the ordinance in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 335 County Zoning. Payment for the agreement with NIACOG shall be from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Planning and Zoning Commission shall comply with Iowa Code Chapter 21, the Iowa Open Meetings Law, during all meetings regarding amending the ordinance pertaining to renewable energy projects, including all listening sessions, workshops and public hearings, and

The chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Zoning Administrator shall not impose any requirement that all members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment be present to schedule and/or conduct business at any meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 6th day of November, 2023

ATTEST:


Gloria A. Carr, Auditor


Mark A. Kuhn, Chair
Floyd County Board of Supervisors