



Jackson County Planning Commission

Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC)

120 W. Michigan Avenue • Jackson, MI 49201

Phone (517) 788-4426 • Fax (517) 788-4635

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2022

5th Floor Commission Chambers • Jackson County Tower Building • Jackson, Michigan

- Members Present:** Mr. Eric Beda, Industry and Economics; Mr. Timothy Burns, At Large; Ms. Nancy Hawley, At Large; Mr. Ted Hilleary, Education; Mr. Russ Jennings, At Large; and Mr. Jim Videto, Agriculture
- Members Absent:** Mr. Roger Gaede, Environment; Ms. Pat Gallagher, At Large; and Mr. Corey Kennedy, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
- Liaisons Present:** Mr. Grant Bauman, Principal Planner, and Mr. Stephen Bezold, Associate Planner
- Others Present:** Mr. Jeromy Alexander and Mr. John Spencer

- Item 1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** Chair Hawley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance rose and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item 2. **Public Comment.** Mr. Spencer stated he was in attendance concerning the Solar Energy Ordinance in Leoni Township.
- Item 3. **Approval of Minutes.** Comm. Videto made a motion, seconded by Comm. Hilleary, to **approve** the March 10, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. *The motion was approved unanimously.*
- Item 4. **Approval of the Agenda.** Comm. Burns made a motion, seconded by Comm. Beda, to **approve** the April 14, 2022, meeting agenda as presented. *The motion was approved unanimously.*
- Item 5. **Request(s) for Review, Comment, and Recommendation.**
- a. **Consideration of Township Zoning Amendment(s).**
 - (1) **CZ | #22-04 | Leoni Township**

Staff summarized his report regarding the proposed text amendments pertaining to 'Solar Energy Systems'. Staff advised County Planning Commissioners to recommend **disapproval** of the proposed text amendments (please see the staff report); the proposed amendments need significant changes before they are approved. Comm. Hawley voiced concerns over the need for section and article numbers as well as other issues summarized by staff. Comm. Beda asked what the community thought. Comm. Jennings said he understood that the Township Board will refer the amendments to the Township Attorney who will address the deficiencies. Comm. Videto saw a lot of holes in the amendments.

Comm. Jennings made a motion, seconded by Comm. Hilleary, to concur with the staff advisement to recommend **disapproval** of the proposed text amendments regarding 'Solar Energy Systems' to the Leoni Township Board (please see the staff report). *The motion was approved unanimously.*

(2) **CZ | #22-05 | Spring Arbor Township**

Staff summarized his report regarding the proposed text amendments pertaining to 'Owner Occupied Businesses'. Staff advised County Planning Commissioners to recommend **approval** of the proposed text amendments (please see the staff report). In response to a question asked by Comm. Beda, staff stated that the amendments add a new use rather than taking away anything. Comm. Videto thinks the new use should be available to an owner and their immediate family.

Comm. Burns made a motion, seconded by Comm. Jennings, to recommend **approval with commissioner comments** of the proposed text amendments regarding 'Owner Occupied Businesses' to the Spring Arbor Township Board (please see these meeting minutes). *The motion was approved unanimously.*

- b. **Consideration of Master Plan(s).** None.
- c. **Farmland & Open Space Preservation Program (PA 116) application(s).** None.

Item 6. **Other Business.**

- a. **Unfinished Business** – None.
- b. **New Business.**

(1) *2021 JCPC Annual Report.* Staff summarized the annual report.

Comm. Beda made a motion, seconded by Comm. Videto, to **approve** the *2021 JCPC Annual Report* as presented. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

(2) Staff announced the release of a notice of intent to prepare a master plan by Columbia Township.

Item 7. **Public Comment.** None.

Item 8. **Commissioner Comment.** Comm. Hawley provided Commissioners, staff, and guests with a flyer regarding a class offered by Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) on 'Planning and Zoning for Solar Energy Systems'. A session is scheduled in Jackson on May 24.

Item 9. **Adjournment.** Chair Hawley adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Grant Bauman, Recording Secretary