



RESOLUTION #19-07-2022

APPLICATION for AMENDMENT TO FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO AMEND Chapter 11 (Utilities), Goals, Objectives, and Strategies of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan pertaining to renewable energy. The purpose of the amendment is to address residential, commercial, and utility scale renewable energy in Franklin County (Case # A-01-22-0001).

WHEREAS, The Franklin County Planning Commission, did proposed to amend Chapter 11 (Utilities) Chapter of the 2007 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan for Solar Facilities, and

WHEREAS, after due legal notice as required by Section 15.2-2204/2205 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors did hold public hearings on January 11, 2022, and July 19, 2022, respectively, at which time parties in interest were given an opportunity to be heard, and

WHEREAS, after holding a public hearing the Planning Commission has recommended APPROVAL of amending Chapter 11 (Utilities) of the 2007 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan for Solar Facilities; finding that the public necessity, health and safety, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice would be achieved by this amendment, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors in adopting this resolution expressly adopts, ratifies, affirms, and concurs in the action of the Planning Commission stated above, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Virginia, that it hereby APPROVES the amendments to Chapter 11 (Utilities) of the County's Comprehensive Plan, and

Public Utilities

Goal: Develop and implement a long range countywide utility infrastructure plan which assures equitable level of access for all County citizens including but not limited to water, sewer, solid waste, telecommunications, electrical power, television access, broadband access, and natural gas that supports and complements the County's long range plan for transportation, residential, commercial and industrial development; and community facilities. This plan will also be consistent with the County's plan for environmental quality and the Commonwealth's goals for renewable energy.

Objective:

36.0 To promote the use of residential, commercial, and utility scale renewable energy in the way of solar generator facilities and wind turbines while minimizing the impact of such facilities on Franklin County's view shed and the County's natural, agricultural, scenic, tourism, and cultural resources.

Strategies:

- 36.0a Avoiding impact of solar facilities and wind turbines on available farmland, including prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance.
- 36.0b Solar facilities should be screened from all public rights-of-way and all adjacent properties.
- 36.0c Solar facilities should not visually impact scenic and cultural resources, including the view shed from residential areas and event venue spaces.
- 36.0d Promote sustainable building design and management practices to serve current and future generations.
- 36.0e Assist local businesses to lower financial and regulatory risks and improve their economic, community, and environmental sustainability.
- 36.0f Promote Agrivoltaics (APV) for farmers to still use the area of their land where solar facilities are located.
- 36.0g Solar facilities should not generally be located within Designated Growth Areas (DGAs).
- 36.0h Proposed project shall be evaluated for compliance with the most recently adopted Solar Energy Facility Siting Policy document to assist the County in making substantial accord determination under Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia. This policy shall serve as guidance for County staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to evaluate whether the proposal is in substantial accord with the Comprehensive Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of the Planning Commission and the Franklin County Zoning Administrator and that the Clerk be directed to reflect this action to APPROVE the comprehensive plan amendment.

The ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

On the motion by Supervisor Tim Tatum to APPROVE the requested amendment to the County's comprehensive plan, and seconded by Supervisor Tommy Cundiff, said motion was approved by the following recorded vote:

VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Carter, Cundiff, Tatum, Thompson

NAYS: R. Mitchell

ABSENT: Smith, L. Mitchell

Roll Call was taken



Madherleyne Torres, Clerk
Franklin County Board of Supervisors

7/21/2022
Date

