

THE SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET ON MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2020, AT 8:00 A.M. PRESENT WERE COMMISSIONERS NIGH, PARKER, ROSS, COUNTY ATTORNEY AND DEPUTY AUDITOR

MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 13, 2020 WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 19, 2020 WAS MADE BY ROSS, SECONDED BY PARKER, APPROVED 3-0

COUNTY BURN BAN:

MOTION TO LIFT THE BURN BAN EFFECTIVE 10/20/2020 WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / REQUEST TO DISPOSE:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS IS REQUESTING TO DISPOSE OF THEIR 2006 HHR CHEVROLET NOT RUNNING AND NEEDS REPAIRS, MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

UTILITY REQUEST:

EVERSTREAM LLC - C/O VERITA TELECOMMUNICATIONS REQUEST TO BORE WEST OF 1200 N FROM SOUTH CARROLL ROAD TO NORTH 600 W

CHANGE ORDER #2 / ANNEX #2:

COMMISSIONER NIGH PRESENTED CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR THE ANNEX II. BUILDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,742.00. MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

CONTRACT / SUPERIOR CONTRACTORS:

JOHN PRESENTED THE CONTRACT WITH SUPERIOR CONTRACTORS FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURT ROOM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,500.00, MOTION TO APPROVED WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

SOLAR PLANT SPEAKERS:

SUSAN WEAVER:

AFTER ATTENDING MANY MEETINGS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I WOULD LIKE TO STATE SOME FACTS:

1. THERE ARE 4 DIFFERENT SOLAR COMPANIES LOOKING FOR GROUND TO BUILD INDUSTRIAL SOLAR COMPANIES IN THE COUNTY.
2. S POWER HAS 6 OFFICES BUT ONLY 3 OF THEM HAVE PHONE NUMBERS, I CALLED ALL 3 OF THEM AND LEFT NUMEROUS MESSAGES AND NO ONE HAS CALLED HER BACK.
3. RYAN GALERIA WHOM SPOKE TWO WEEKS AGO HAS A NON-WORKING PHONE NUMBER ON HIS BUSINESS CARD. AFTER LEAVING A MESSAGE ON

HIS CELL NUMBER HE DID RETURN MY CALL AND I ASKED FOR DOCUMENTATION, TO SUPPORT HIS STATEMENT THAT THERE ARE NO TOXINS IN HIS SOLAR PANELS, HE COULD NOT SEND ANYTHING STATING THIS, INSTEAD HE SENT 80 PAGES OF INFORMATION FROM CONFERENCES FROM S POWER, LOBBYIST, AND DIAGRAM SOLAR STUDIES.

4. THE LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS DO NOT HAVE A GOOD WAY TO FIGHT FIRES FROM THESE PANELS, BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED WATER SUPPLIES
5. THE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN FACT BASED INFORMATION FROM NUMEROUS EXPERTS AND SOURCES TO REVIEW FOR MAKING CHANGES TO THE LOCAL SOLAR ORDINANCE.
6. MR. NIGH AND MR. ROSS ARE NEVER GOING TO SECOND A MOTION FOR A MORATORIUM.
7. THE JINKO SOLAR FACTORY IN CHINA WHICH PRODUCES PANELS FOR S POWER HAD PRODUCTION SHUT DOWN FOR THREE DAYS BECAUSE OF A 3 DAY PROTEST BY LOCAL RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLLUTIONS, FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF FISH IN A LOCAL RIVER.
8. CHINA HAS NO LANDFILLS TO DISPOSE OF BROKEN TOXIC PANELS SO THEY ARE DUMPING THEM IN THE OCEAN, PER A PENNSYLVANIA SENATOR WHO STATES THIS ON AN ONLINE VIDEO.
9. PULASKI COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS ARE SUING LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PERMITTING INDUSTRIAL SOLAR PLANTS INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES.
10. THESE SOLAR COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO ACQUIRE FERTILE FARM GROUND NOT ONLY IN INDIANA BUT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE MIDWEST.
11. SHELBY COUNTY IS PRODUCTIVE LAND, IT PRODUCES GREEN BEANS FOR PROCESSING, FOOD GRADE SOY BEANS FOR TOFU TO SEND OVER SEAS, CUCUMBERS FOR PROCESSING, TOMATOES FOR RED GOLD, FOOD GRADE WAXY CORN, REGULAR CORN FOR FEED AND ETHANOL, SWEET CORN, WHITE CORN FOR HOMINY AND TORTILLA CHIPS, POPCORN, SOY BEANS, WHEAT, RYE, HAY, PUMPKINS, SUN FLOWERS AND FLOWER FARMS, DAIRY, PASTURES, BEEF CATTLE, PORK AND SMALL FARMERS FOR MEAT GOATS, MILK GOATS, POULTRY, EGGS, HONEY, AND SO MUCH MORE.
12. THERE IS VERY LITTLE BARREN LAND IN SHELBY COUNTY, GALERIA SAID THEY LOOKED FOR THIS TYPE FIRST, BENGAL IS NOT BARREN IN ANYWAY.
13. ONCE FARM GROUND IS TAKEN OUT OF PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPED, I DON'T RECALL IT EVER BEING PUT BACK INTO FARM LAND AGAIN, EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT THIS ARE EMPTY SHOPPING CENTERS, CLOSED FACTORIES, STRIP MALLS, LANDFILLS, HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND GRAVEL PITS. YET S-POWER AND SIMILAR SOLAR COMPANIES HAVE PROMISED TO RETURN IT TO FERTILE FARM GROUND AFTER 35 YEARS. THIS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.
14. A COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER, WHO IS A FARMER, EXPRESSED HE DIDN'T WANT INDUSTRIAL SOLAR PLANT NOR A SUBDIVISION AROUND WHERE HE LIVES AND FARMS. NOR DO ANY OF THESE CONCERNED CITIZENS.

15. THERE ARE ALMOST 3,000 SIGNATURES ON A PETITION STATING THEY DO NOT WANT ANOTHER SOLAR FARM IN THE COUNTY.
16. PER THE REMC PRESIDENT, NO POWER GENERATED BY THESE SOLAR PLANTS WITHIN THE COUNTY WILL STAY THE COUNTY.
17. YOU HAVE A CURRENT 4 PAGE SOLAR ORDINANCE.
18. THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND BOARDS, SUCH AS THIS ONE. YOU DO HAVE INPUT AND SOME CONTROL OVER WHAT A LANDOWNER CAN AND CAN NOT DO ON THEIR LAND.
19. THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE CITY OF SHELBYVILLE HAS BEEN TAINTED ONCE BEFORE, THE LOWER AQUAFERS WELL HEADS NOW SUPPLY WATER TO THIS CITY OF SHELBYVILLE SIT DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO THE BENGAL AREA.
20. NO FACTS OR FIGURES OR DOCUMENTATION HAVE EVER BEEN PROVIDED BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS TO THE MANY CONCERNED CITIZENS TO REFUTE ANYTHING THE GROUP HAS PRESENTED TO THESE COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES.

IN CLOSING, I AM URGING, NOT ONLY THIS BOARD, BUT ALL COUNTY AND CITY BOARDS TO STRONGLY CONSIDER THE ABOVE FACTUAL INFORMATION THAT I HAVE LEARNED TO HELP STRENGTHEN THIS CURRENT SOLAR ORDINANCE, KEEP THE WATER OF SHELBYVILLE SAFE AND DETOUR ANYMORE INDUSTRIAL SOLAR PLANTS BEING ALLOWED INTO OUR RURAL TOWN AND COMMUNITY.

REBECCA TENNELL:

I LIVE IN THE BENGAL AREA OF THE SOUTHWESTERN AREA OF SHELBY COUNTY. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN MORRISTOWN, SO I HAVE WATCHED THE INDUSTRIAL SOLAR PLAYOUT IN MY HOMETOWN. I AM ALSO THE WIFE TO A FIREFIGHTER AND FARMER. SO NOT ONLY DO I HAVE CONCERNS OF WHAT THIS WILL DO TO ANOTHER COMMUNITY IN SHELBY COUNTY, I HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF MY HUSBAND IF AND WHEN THERE WOULD TO BE A FIRE AT THE S POWER SOLAR PLANT, NOT TO MENTION THE HEALTH OF MY FAMILY ONCE THESE PANELS CONTAMINATE OUR WATER SUPPLY. PROPERTY RIGHTS CONTINUE TO BE THE ONLY COUNTER ARGUMENT FOR ALLOWING LANDOWNERS TO LEASE THEIR LAND TO S-POWER. I OWN PROPERTY, WHEN WE WANTED TO BUILD A HOME ON OUR PROPERTY, WE HAD TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD TO REZONE THAT LAND FROM FARM TO RESIDENTIAL. THANKFULLY NO ONE OPPOSED THE REZONING OF THAT LAND AND WE WERE ALLOWED TO BUILD A HOME. BUT HOW MANY DOES IT TAKE FOR A PETITION FOR LAND USE TO BE DENIED. ONE, TEN, THREE THOUSAND. I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS MORE WILLING TO PROTECT THEIR SPECIAL INTEREST RATHER THEN THE INTEREST OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS. I'M PRETTY SURE YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TALK ABOUT NEXT, AS IT WAS A RECENT EVENT, BUT I BELIEVE IT IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SOME ONES PROPERTY RIGHTS BEING DENIED BY ONLY JUST A FEW PEOPLE OPPOSING THE PROJECT. NOW LET ME JUST ADD IN HERE REAL QUICK, THAT WE HAVE MORE PEOPLE OPPOSED TO SHELBY COUNTY TURNING INTO ONE BIG SOLAR INDUSTRIAL PLANT THEN THE ONES THAT ARE FOR IT OR TO SAY THE LEAST, WILL GAIN FINANCIALLY. A LOCAL CHURCH

RECENTLY GAINED APPROVAL FROM THE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION TO OPEN A HOME, THEY HAD PURCHASED AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR WOMEN FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE. SOMETHING THAT OUR COMMUNITY DESPERATELY NEEDS DUE TO THE RISE OF DRUG USE AMONGST YOUR CONSTITUENTS. THE COMMISSIONERS CHOSE TO VOTE IT DOWN. ONLY ONE PERSON VERBALLY OPPOSED THIS PROJECT AND WHY, BECAUSE IT IS NOT BECOMING OF OUR CITY, DESPITE THE FACT IT COULD ACTUALLY BENEFIT YOUR CONSTITUENTS, SO A PROJECT THAT WAS IN MOTION TO HELP THE CITIZENS OF SHELBY COUNTY GOT SHUT DOWN IN A BLINK OF AN EYE, BUT A PROJECT AS LARGE AS S-POWER A SOLAR INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND ALL OF THE NEGATIVE INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU WEEK AFTER WEEK, AFTER WEEK, CONTINUES ON. DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO YOU NEGATIVE AND HAZARDOUS IMPACT THAT INDUSTRIAL SOLAR PLANTS BRINGS TO THE COMMUNITY, NOT ONLY IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED BUT THE ENTIRE COUNTY. THE PEOPLE OF SHELBY COUNTY DESERVE AN EXPLANATION, THAT IS NOT JUST PROPERTY RIGHTS. I'M NOT SURE WHERE ONES MORALS STAND WHEN A PROJECT IS SO DESPERATELY NEEDED IN OUR COUNTY AND ONE THAT WILL HELP OUR CITIZENS IS SHUT DOWN SO QUICKLY, BUT A SOLAR TOXIC DISASTER CONTINUES ON. YOU HAVE HEARD FROM MANY SHELBY COUNTY RESIDENCE IN OPPOSITION OF INDUSTRIAL SOLAR LIKE I MENTIONED BEFORE AND LIKE MS. WEAVER MENTIONED 3,000 PLUS PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION, SPOKEN HERE IN FRONT OF YOU, BOUGHT YARD SIGNS, CAR DECALS, T-SHIRTS BUT YET YOU CONTINUE TO TURN A BLIND EYE. THE ONE PERSON THAT OPPOSED THE WOMEN'S HOME ENCOURAGED A NO VOTE AND HE RECEIVED IT, SO WHO DO WE NEED TO GET IN HERE TO SPEAK TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND HEARTS TO PLACE A SIMPLE 6 MONTHS MORATORIUM FOR THE LIVELY HOOD, WELLNESS AND SAFETY OF YOUR CITIZENS OF SHELBY COUNTY.

MEGAN RUSH:

HOMEOWNER IN SHELBY COUNTY AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME MORE INFORMATION WITH YOU. TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO ELABORATE ON ONE OF THE REASONS SOLAR HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR STATE SO QUICKLY. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT ON HOW THE GRID WORKS. MCISO IS THE GRID, MCISO IS THE MID-CONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR. THEY CONTROL THE GRID FROM LOUISIANA ALL THE WAY UP TO CANADA, WHICH INCLUDED 15 US STATES. MCISO DETERMINES WHICH FACILITIES WILL PROVIDE ELECTRICITY TO THE GRID EVERYDAY. ANYONE CAN GO TO WWW.MCISO.ORG AND SEE THE REAL TIME DATA AND THE ENERGY THAT IS BEING GENERATED. THERE ARE CHARTS THAT YOU CAN SEE. ON THERE YOU CAN SEE WHERE 50% OF THE ENERGY BEING PRODUCED IS COAL POWER, SOLAR MAKE UP AROUND .4% OF THE POWER. COAL MAKES UP MOST OF THE ENERGY OUT OF ALL OF THE OTHER SOURCES. WE ALL KNOW THERE IS A PUSH TO GET RID OF COAL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SO THAT IS WHY THEY ARE PUSHING WIND AND SOLAR SO HARD. INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT AND DUKE ENERGY ARE TWO OF THE MAJOR GENERATING COMPANIES IN INDIANA. BOTH COMPANIES HAVE COAL POWERED FACILITIES THAT ARE BEING PHASED OUT. CURRENTLY IPL HAS 4 COAL UNITS ALL 4 FACILITIES ARE LOCATED IN PETERSBURG INDIANA 2 OF THOSE UNITS WILL BE DECOMMISSIONED WITH IN 3 YEARS. THEY ARE DOING THIS BECAUSE IT WOULD COST TO MUCH MONEY TO FIX THE EMISSIONS ISSUES. THOSE 2 UNITS TOGETHER GENERATE 805 MEGA WATTS OF POWER. IPL HAS TO MAKE UP THAT LOSS IN POWER SOMEWHERE, SO THEY ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING TO BUILD INDUSTRIAL SOLAR PLANTS IN PIKE, GIBSON AND KNOX COUNTY, TO START TO MAKE UP THAT DIFFERENCE. THEY ARE HOPING TO BUILD ENOUGH SOLAR THERE TO MAKE 500 MEGA WATTS OF

POWER FROM WHAT I HAVE FOUND SO FAR, THEY ARE GOING TO BE USING 4,000 ACRES OF LAND TO BUILD THOSE SOLAR PLANTS. SO THAT STILL LEAVES 305 MEGA WATTS SHORT OF WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE OFF OF THE COAL PLANTS. AND FROM WHAT I HAVE FOUND THEY ARE PROBABLE GOING TO BE USING WIND POWER TO MAKE UP THE REST OF THAT POWER. DUKE ENERGY HAS MORE COAL FACILITIES IN INDIANA THEN IPL. DUKE ENERGY PLANS TO DECOMMISSION THE TWO THAT GENERATE 995 MEGA WATTS IN VERMILLION COUNTY. THIS IS PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE IN AROUND 2028. DUKE ALSO PLANS TO DECOMMISSION THE GIBSON STATION UNITS IN 2026, 2034 & 2038. THOSE UNITS ALL TOGETHER CREATE 3,132 MEGA WATTS OF POWER. IT IS GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF SOLAR TO MAKE THAT UP. THAT IS A LOT OF LAND. DUKE SAYS THEY PLAN TO USE WIND, SOLAR AND NATURAL GAS TO REPLACE THOSE UNITS. I KNOW I HAVE SHARED A LOT OF NUMBERS, BUT WE CURRENTLY RELY ON COAL TO GENERATE 50% OF THE POWER WE USE TODAY. MUCH OF THAT POWER WILL NO LONGER COME FROM COAL IN AS FEW AS 3 YEARS. BECAUSE COAL IS RAPIDLY GOING AWAY SOLAR IS TRYING TO FILL THE GAP THAT WILL BE CREATED. THEY PREY ON COUNTIES WITH LITTLE TO NO REGULATIONS, SUCH AS SHELBY COUNTY AND TRY TO LOCK UP AS MUCH LAND AS THEY CAN SO THEY CAN SELL SOLAR POWER TO THE LARGE POWER COMPANIES OR DIRECTLY TO MCISO. THIS IS ALL HAPPENING VERY FAST. AND AS I MENTIONED LAST WEEK SOLAR POWER IS ONLY 23% EFFICIENT IN GENERATING ELECTRICITY. AS MANY MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED THESE SOLAR PANELS BRING MANY HAZARDS TO THE ENVIRONMENT. I ALSO WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT A FEW WEEKS AGO, MR GALERIA SAID THAT S-POWER HAS NEVER DECOMMISSIONED A SOLAR PLANT THAT THEY OWN. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL HAPPENS DURING THE FULL LIFE OF THESE PANELS OR AFTER THESE PANELS ARE GONE. CAN'T WE JUST WAIT UNTIL THE SOLAR BOOM SLOWS DOWN AND SOLAR POWER GENERATION BECOMES MORE EFFICIENT AND SAFER. PLEASE LISTEN TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE THAT ELECTED YOU AND ENACT A MORATORIUM ON THE SOLAR ORDINANCE TODAY.

PARKER ADVISED HE JUST READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT WHERE THEY WERE SAYING 35 YEARS FOR DECOMMISSIONING THE PANELS BUT THIS PROFESSOR SAID ITS PROBABLY NOT WORTH CONSIDERING BECAUSE THESE COULD BE HERE UP TO 300 YEARS WITH REPLACEMENT PARTS AND EVERYTHING.

SHERIFF:

N/A

HIGHWAY:

N/A

CLAIMS:

PAYROLL – MOTION TO APPROVE PAYROLL WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

TRANSFER/ADDITIONALS:

N/A

MISCELLANEOUS:

N/A

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD. A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY ROSS SECONDED BY PARKER, APPROVED 3-0

AYE:

NAYE:

ATTEST:

AMY L. GLACKMAN

SHELBY COUNTY AUDITOR