MINUTES

POSEY COUNTY
AREA PLAN COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

POSEY COUNTY 4H COMMUNTIY CENTER
111 HARMONY TOWNSHIP ROAD
NEW HARMONY, IN 47631

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Joe Marvel - President, Mr. Greg Newman - Vice President, Mrs. Stefani Miller, Mr. John Gerton, Mr. Mark Seib, Mr. Randy Rankin, Mr. Jordan Hamblin, Mr. Trent Van Haaften - Attorney, Mr. Jerry Cotner, Executive Director, Mrs. Taylor Elmendorf - Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Savannah Axley - Clerical Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Keith Spurgeon, Mr. Dave Pearce

Discuss Proposed Amendments to The Unified Development Ordinance of Posey County

Mr. Trent VanHaaften explained the process of the public hearing regarding potential changes to the UDO amendments.

Mr. Joe Marvel reviewed changes he would like to discuss with the board.

Public Comments:

Shannon Straw- 3512 Wildeman Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN, would like to see something about fuel storage in UDO, wants constant records maintained and training.

Kelley Esche- 1901 Ford Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN, concerned about air and water pollution, back up generators and wants a two-year moratorium.

Irma Donner- 2805 Donner Rd. Wadesville, IN, spoke of high electric bills and high cost of living.

Jason Fox- 11700 Water Tank Rd., Cynthiana, IN, works for Blankenberger Bros., stated not to discourage growth with overly restrictive ordinances.

Joahua Epley- 8221 Darmstadt Rd., Evansville, IN, works for Traylor Bros. spoke on responsible growth to strengthening building trades with using local unions. Doesn't want to see growth hindered.

Buzz Backstrom- 2014 Wimbledon Court, Owensboro, KY, stated he would like to see responsible development.

Aaron Wilson- 337 Tavern St., New Harmony, IN, doesn't feel like the port is the area for Data Centers, suggests 1,000-foot setbacks. Spoke of a project he is working on, his project is best choice.

Stephen Loehr- 401 Western Hills Dr., Mt. Vernon, IN, stated that he supports new businesses and growth in Posey County. Need to encourage responsible growth in Mt. Vernon/ Posey County because it is slowly dying. Can protect residents while allowing responsible growth. We need to think about tax revenue.

Jordan Schmitt- 4701 W Posey County Line Evansville, IN, spoke on protecting our community while having strong future for our community. We need companies to invest in the community to provide thriving community for our kids. Responsible development.

Glen Muehlbauer- 1107 Harrelton Ct., Evansville, IN, with Junior Achievement stated we need corporate investment to help with community programs.

John Bates- 18911 Braeburn Dr., Evansville, IN, works with plumbers and steamfitters, stated he is afraid ordinance will restrict growth. If development meets current ordinance let it develop.

Josh Puertzer- 922 N C.R. 700 W, Richland, IN, with IBEW 16 stated that you can protect residents and encourage development, concerned square footage and building height can run off development, establish reasonable standards without closing the door, no moratorium.

Matt Falkenstein- 624 S. Bennighof Ave., Evansville, IN, stated that he has worked labor jobs for many years. He feels the industry language is too restrictive and will run off future business.

Sandy Willett- 1523 Sassafras Dr., Evansville, IN, spoke about wanting school setbacks, and has many concerns over noise pollution wanting nighttime sound limits.

Dr. Roberta Hoebeke-10651 Greenleaf Dr., Evansville, IN, discussed the possible impact of 2-3 data centers in one area, would like to see size limits on megawatts, real time air quality monitoring, Tier 4 or highest standard for generators, safe distances between data center not only within Posey County but neighboring counties, concerned about school and road safety

Suzanne Dougan- 8500 Downen Rd., Wadesville, IN, wants firm size, water, and electricity cap to help limit land use impacts and protect residents, and setbacks based upon size.

Jeff Ostermayer- 2211 Norfolk St., Houston, TX, stated that the UDO will send message of non-growth.

Barry Cox- 45 Park Ridge, Mt. Vernon, IN, voiced that he has seen a decline in the County. Stated that he supports responsible growth, and data centers should be treated as warehouses. Stated more restrictive ordinances will chase growth away.

Kristyn Tromley- 4301 Joyce Ln., Mt. Vernon, IN, wants fence line air monitoring, would like for the ordinance to start strict and can ease requirements if research backs it up. Stated that Posey County has a D rating for pollution.

Kathy Weinzapfel- 6621 Lower Mt. Vernon Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN, voiced appreciation to the APC board members for reviewing the volumes of documents submitted to them.

Jenna Richardt- 211 NW Riverside Dr., Evansville, IN, stated that the decommissioning provision and setback are restrictive, voiced other concerns as well.

Patrick Hickey- 318 Main St., Evansville, IN- stated setbacks are too restrictive, setbacks will decide where industry chooses. Feels decommissioning requirements are too strict should be able to reuse buildings instead of removal. Stated that property value guarantee can cause business to pick elsewhere.

Mike Roeder- 211 NW Riverside Dr., Evansville, IN, stated that data center development helps multiple industries, setbacks can cause issues and discussed power increase procedure.

Tyler Stock- 11710 Hwy 66, Evansville, IN, reiterated that we need to have responsible growth.

Marcus Dyer- 3880 E. Blackford Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN, discusses decreased school enrollment and that we are continually losing business. Concerned that restricting construction hours in industrial zoning will limit growth. No need for a moratorium.

Justin Griner- 8631 Waterford Dr., Mt. Vernon, IN, voiced concerns about health consequences, air quality challenges. Requested use of battery backup instead of diesel generators.

Steve Strupp- discussed the current industry in Posey County that is currently near schools and residents without any issues known.

Patrick Schroeder- 10807 E. Copperline Rd., Evansville, IN, discussed how testing should be completed, language to reject if fails testing, asked which governing body will revoke if things are failing.

Kolby Lary- 5300 Lang Rd., Poseyville, IN, member of local 16 and would benefit in the short term but worried about long term pollution, IBEW representatives do not listen to their employees and do not live here. Asked not to listen to the outsiders but to the people that live here.

Carolyn Strupp- Boberg Rd., Posey County, IN, in favor of the non-restrictive ordinances. Communities need money and responsible growth.

Damon Carl- 10361 Far View Dr., Evansville, IN, voiced concerns about power generation systems. Would like to see a separate ordinance for onsite power generation.

Jessica Duvall- 11219 Upper Mt. Vernon Rd., Evansville, IN, discussed school setbacks and ask that the board members to consider health concerns with air issues.

Denise Townsend- 601 St. Philip Rd., Evansville, IN, discussed wanting any potential developers to hold an open house and communicate with residents. Agreed with current setbacks.

Mike Schopmeyer- 501 Main St., Evansville, IN, represents AWS (Amazon) and stated that he has been listening to what has been said. Stated that people fear change and AWS will hold an open house. Still a lot of studies that must be done before filing. Plan to have a website for community outreach within the next 30 days. Will not file for a permit until the UDO process is done if it is done expeditiously. Feels that the amendment is overly restrictive.

Speakers handing in documents for board to review in their entirety.

ADJOURNMENT

John Gerton made a motion to recess the meeting at 7:40p.m. until October 1, 2026, at 5:30p.m. The motion was seconded by Stefani Miller. **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Joe Marvel – President

Mr. Jerry Cotner – Executive Director

- All Exhibits are available at the Posey County Area Plan Commission office.