

THE SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET ON MONDAY AUGUST 31, 2020, AT 8:00 A.M. PRESENT WERE COMMISSIONERS NIGH, ROSS, PARKER, COUNTY ATTORNEY AND COUNTY AUDITOR

MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 24, 2020 WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 2-0-1 (NIGH)

LINDA SANDERS/COUNTY FLAG:

LINDA IS ASKING FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO HAVE A COUNTY FLAG. WITH THE COUNTY GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE THEIR BIG YEAR IT WOULD BE NICE TO MAYBE PRESENT A NEW COUNTY FLAG DURING THE CELEBRATION. SANDERS ADVISED SHE HAS ASKED THE RACHEAL ACKLEY WITH TOURISM AND ALEX KRACH WITH THE GROVER MUSEUM TO HELP WITH THE CONTEST. SANDERS ALSO ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS IF THEY WOULD HELP WITH FUNDING THE PRIZE MONEY. MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ROSS, SECONDED BY PARKER, APPROVED 3-0

UTILITY REQUEST:

NINESTAR CONNECT IS REQUESTING TO BORE AT 10064 N 300 E, ANDERSON ADVISED IT WAS OK. MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ROSS, SECONDED BY PARKER, APPROVED 3-0

SHERIFF:

N/A

HIGHWAY:

ANDERSON ADVISED THEY ARE FINISHING UP PAVING DOWN SOUTH THIS WEEK.

CLAIMS:

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

TRANSFER/ADDITIONALS:

REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN FUND 1000-32100-0068 (TELEPHONE EXPENSE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,000.00. MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY PARKER, SECONDED BY ROSS, APPROVED 3-0

KYLE BARLOW/ SOLAR PLANT:

AT THIS TIME MR. BARLOW PASSED OUT A PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSIONERS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT INDUSTRIAL SOLAR FARMS. MR. BARLOW ADVISED THE CITIZENS HERE TODAY ARE NOT AGAINST SOLAR FARMS, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED CITIZENS WITH CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION THAT LARGE SOLAR FARMS CAN CAUSE. MR. BARLOW POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNTY'S CURRENT POLICY FOR SOLAR FARMS IS VERY WEAK. THEY CURRENTLY HAVE 2,300 SIGNATURES REQUESTING TO STOP INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES FROM COMING TO SHELBY COUNTY. THESE PANELS

HAVE VERY DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN THEM. MR. BARLOW EXPLAINED HOW NORTH CAROLINA IS STRUGGLING WITH THIS RIGHT NOW, THEY HAVE HAD THIS ISSUE GOING ON IN THEIR STATE AND IS NOW DEALING WITH THE CHEMICALS LEAKING. MR. BARLOW IS ASKING FOR A MORATORIUM BE ADOPTED RIGHT AWAY.

DAVID BROWN – OPPOSES SOLAR FARMS. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE 1,500 ACRES TO INDUSTRIAL SOLAR FARMS. THEY NEED OUR CROPS FOR THE STORES. LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED WITH COVID-19 THEY COULDN'T KEEP THE STORES STOCKED. MR. BROWN ALSO POINTED OUT WHAT WILL THEY DO WHEN A HAILSTORM COMES THRU HOW LONG WITH IT TAKE TO GET THE COMPANIES OUT TO CLEAN THE MESS UP AND STOP THE CHEMICALS FROM SOAKING INTO THE GROUNDS AND CONTAMINATING THEM?

BRYAN FISCHER – SPOKE ABOUT THEIR FAMILY FARM AND HOW THEY WERE GOING TO PUT SOLAR PANELS IN TO RUN THEIR COMPANY. THINGS FELL THRU AND NOT UNTIL AFTER; DID HE FIND OUT ABOUT THE CHEMICALS IN THE PANELS AND HOW IT GOES INTO THE GROUND AND CONTAMINATES THE GROUND.

REX KUHN – REX SPOKE AGAINST INDUSTRIAL SOLAR FARMS, REX ADVISED HE NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD BE WHERE WE ARE NOW AND HAS ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO PLEASE SLOW THINGS DOWN AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THINGS, PLEASE PUT A MORATORIUM IN PLACE.

PLAN DIRECTOR/ SOLAR ENERGY MORATORIUM RESOLUTION:

DESIREE PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A RESOLUTION TO PUT A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ANY SOLAR ENERGY COMPANIES ASKING TO APPLY FOR PERMITS FOR SIX MONTHS. THIS WOULD GIVE THE PLAN COMMISSION TIME REVIEW AND MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THEIR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/ORDINANCES REGARDING INDUSTRIAL SOLAR FARMS. AT THIS TIME PARKER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON SOLAR FARMS, AT THIS TIME PARKER ASKED THE OTHER TWO COMMISSIONERS TO PLEASE LOOK AT THIS. NIGH ASKED FOR A SECOND NO SECOND, NIGH ASKED AGAIN FOR A SECOND AND NO SECOND, AT THIS TIME THE MOTION FAILS DUE TO THE LACK OF A SECOND.

NIGH WAS ASKED WHY HE WASN'T FOR THE MORATORIUM AND NIGH ADVISED THEY HAS PUT ONE IN PLACE BEFORE FOR 6 MONTHS AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN, SO HE FEELS THERE IS NO REASON.

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