

Wrenshall City Council

August 25, 2016, at 6:30 PM-Public Hearing

The hearing opened with a review of procedure and introductions.

SOLAR GARDEN: The City has been approached by US/Solar who has applied for an Interim Use Permit to build a 1MW solar garden on approximately 9 acres of land on the south side of Alcohol Road. The project is in cooperation with Minnesota Power. Residents/area businesses can choose to “subscribe” to the electricity generated and may receive bill credits on their electric bills.

A short presentation was given by Reed Richerson of US/Solar and Paul Halstrom of Minnesota Power. Public comments/questions were taken. A letter in support of the project was read.

Based on the motion of the Planning Commission at their meeting on July 28, 2016, to approve the application, the City Council hereby sets forth the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 16-01
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF US/SOLAR’S
APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM USE PERMIT:

WHEREAS, US/Solar has applied for a 30-year Interim Use Permit to install a 1MW solar garden on a site of approximately 9 acres (Parcel #27-140-1380), currently zoned R-2, located within the city limits;

WHEREAS; the Wrenshall City Council has considered the facts, reviewed the application and received public comments at a public hearing on Thursday, August 25, 2016;

WHEREAS; the Wrenshall City Council believes that granting an Interim Use Permit to US/Solar would be compatible with development permitted on lands in the vicinity of the proposed development; and

WHEREAS; the interim use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other properties in the vicinity or substantially diminish or impair property values in the area and will provide a source of clean, renewable energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a 30-year Interim Use Permit shall be granted to US/Solar upon the following conditions:

1. Payment of IUP Permit fee: \$400 (5-year permit) x 6 consecutive renewals: \$2,400.00;
2. Application, approval and payment of the required building permit and state fees: \$2.1 Million x .005 = \$10,500.00 –(city building permit)
\$2.1 Million x .0005 = \$1,050.00 –(state fee);

3. A one-time donation of \$5,000 to the Wrenshall Fire Department; and
4. Scheduled operation/maintenance, installation of landscape screening, and allowances for decommissioning the project as outlined in the original application.

Weiderman-YES; Kimmes-YES; Ziebarth-YES; Martindale-YES; Butala-YES

CHICKENS: The City has been requested by action of the Planning Commission on July 28, 2016, to consider an amendment to city ordinances to allow for the raising of chickens. A draft ordinance was read for consideration.

Public questions and comments for and against were received. A letter against changing the ordinance was read. The Council will take into consideration all information exchanged and the matter will be put on the agenda for the regular council meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:10 PM.