

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Augusta Charter Township Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting

Township Hall
Wednesday, April 20, 2016
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chie at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

In Attendance: Bennett, Chie, Lauderman Jr., Newsome, Selter, Spence, Thornton, Planner Kreps was in attendance. There were (5) audience members in attendance. There were (3) representatives from Nextera Energy Resources in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bennett, support by Newsome to approve agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. ATPC Regular Meeting July 15, 2015: Motion by Bennett, support by Newsome to approve minutes – Motion carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

Motion by Newsome, support by Thornton for Chie to remain as Chair, Bennett as Vice Chair, Selter to remain as Recording Secretary. Motion carried with (6) in favor and (1) opposed.

6. Public Hearings - None

7. Business Items

- a. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – RZ16-01. Nextera Energy Resources – Adding Large Solar Energy Systems as a Special Land Use in the Light Industrial and General Industrial Districts, and specific use regulations for Large Solar Energy Systems.

Planner Kreps gave summary of process for potential installation of large solar energy system.

1. Text amendment process
2. Rezoning of parcels
3. Special Land Use request
4. Site plan review

Nextera Project Manager Gabe Henahan gave overview of project proposed for area bordered on north by Willow Rd., south by Arkona Rd., east by Hitchingham Rd., and west by the railroad. Nextera has options to purchase approx. 650 acres of which 350-400 acres would be solar installation. Installation would be operational potentially Dec. 2018, due to long permitting process and construction time. Installation would be largest in the state at 50 megawatts.

8. Public Comment

Questions – Responses and Comments

- a. Efficiency? – about 22% and increasing as technology advances
- b. Who buys power? – talking with several large providers, no power purchase agreements in place (PPA)
- c. Comment about what a great company this is and good project for MI
- d. Comment about appreciated professionalism of Nextera
- e. Comment about pilot programs to use sheep to control vegetation

Request for public hearing: Motion by Bennett, support by Thornton to set Public Hearing to occur during regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting Wednesday June 15, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Carlisle Wortman to work with Nextera to consolidate wording of text amendment and publish notice of public hearing.

9. Communications

None received

10. Adjournment

Motion by Thornton, support by Newsome for adjournment - Motion carried unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Selter.