

ORDINANCE NO. 23-0-4

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 14.11, 14.12 and 14.13 TO WIND ENERGY  
CONVERSION SYSTEMS AND SOLAR ENERGY FIELDS  
Special Use Permit #23-001 Text Amendment**

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Zoning Code contains regulations related to the establishment and operation of solar and wind energy conversion systems within the unincorporated portions of Putnam County; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2023, the State of Illinois established statewide standards for commercial solar and wind facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, counties in the state are required to bring their existing ordinances into compliance with said statewide standards by May 27, 2023; and,

**WHEREAS**, a text amendment has been developed which would update the regulations governing solar and wind energy systems within the unincorporated portions of Putnam County to bring them into compliance with said statewide standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Zoning Administrator has submitted an application containing the proposed text amendment to the Putnam County Zoning Board of Appeals and the Putnam County Planning Commission;

**WHEREAS**, following due and proper notice by publication in the News Tribune and Putnam County Record, which are publications generally circulated in the County, not less than fifteen (15) nor more than thirty (30) days prior thereto, the Putnam County Zoning Officer conducted public hearings on May 17 and May 18, 2023 regarding the proposed Text Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Zoning Board of Appeals held a Public hearing on May 17, 2023 for ZBA #23-001 Text Amendment requested by the Putnam County Zoning Administration to amend the ordinance regarding Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and Commercial Solar Energy Fields to include requirements for setbacks, design and installation, operation, decommissioning plan, platting requirements, good neighbor provisions and fees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously to recommend approval of ZBA #23-001 Application for Text Amendment and approved an amendment to the Good Neighbor Plan page 14-10 stating: The good neighbor provisions may be modified in individual cases for good cause shown after review of the project and applicable requirements by the Putnam County Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Planning Commission met on May 18, 2023 to hear the proposed text amendment and additional provision to the good neighbor plan and voted unanimously to approve the text amendment and good neighbor amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals of Putnam County have reviewed the text amendment and good neighbor provision presented at public hearing and have forwarded a recommendation to the Putnam County Board that the amended proposed text be adopted, as set forth in EXHIBIT "A" (attached and made a part hereto); and

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the County to amend the Putnam County Zoning Ordinance in accordance with the amended proposed text and to comply with State law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF PUTNAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS**, as follows:


**SECTION I:** The recommendations of the Putnam County Zoning Administrator, hearing officer, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission are hereby adopted; and

**SECTION II:** Sections 14.11, 14.12 and 14.13 of the Putnam County Zoning Code, is hereby amended as shown in EXHIBIT "A" and referenced as Text Amendment #23-001; and

**SECTION III:** The Good Neighbor Plan is amended as stated heretofore and such language is included in EXHIBIT "A"; and

**THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UPON ITS ADOPTION BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF PUTNAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**

4 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MAY 2023, A.D. by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstain.

  
Charles Lenkaitis, Chairman  
Putnam County Board

**ATTEST:**

  
Tina Dolder, Putnam County Clerk