

# Worth County Zoning Commission Draft for Public Comment of Proposed Ordinance Related to Commercial Wind Development.

## Introduction

On April 12, 2021 the Worth County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution (21.04.05) implementing a Moratorium on commercial wind development in the county until research and recommendations could be developed on whether the county needed regulations governing such activities. The Zoning Commission, responsible for recommending land-use guidance to the Board of Supervisors, then began such work.

After eight weeks of work, considering the concerns expressed by county residents through multiple petitions to the Supervisors, conducting hearings with key stakeholder agencies, research of existing wind-related ordinances in Iowa counties, and weekly Zoning Commission meetings, a [Draft for Public Comment](#) has been developed. This draft culminates well over 100 hours of work by the commission members and represents what has been learned from county citizens, Invenergy, Farm Bureau, County Engineer, County Conservation, County Board of Health, Individual County Supervisors, and a neighboring County Zoning Administrator that had a recent ordinance of this subject. It is also reflective of the 34 different Ordinances related to commercial wind development that the Zoning Commission reviewed from across all regions of Iowa. It represents what we feel is a fair and balanced approach to management of land-use as it relates to commercial wind development. We also believe that it is consistent with the County-Wide Development Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors. It is drafted as a stand-alone ordinance applicable county wide, but independent of Zoning. It makes no changes to the current Zoning Ordinance or scope of that Ordinance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

In addition to the proposed draft ordinance itself, we have produced a document that provides answers to what we believe may be questions that many people have, that Document can be found [here \(Link to FAQ\)](#).

## Request for Comments

Before finalization of our draft, we are seeking review and input from the public at-large, as well as review and comment from those that participated in our initial hearings. Our belief is that we've addressed and balanced the concerns that everyone shares, but recognize that we may have missed something, or not fully considered some aspect. We ask therefore, that you read our draft and provide any comments or concerns that you have (positive or negative) and provide constructive feedback specific to what the draft currently presents. Please reference the specific section and page number for reference, and provide the rationale behind your comment so the Commission has that context when we consider it. If you believe something is missed entirely, please elaborate what you think should be added, along with your rationale. Likewise, if you think something should be removed completely, please elaborate why.

Comments in writing (with section and page reference) are preferred, but we will also hold a public hearing specifically for verbal comment. **Written comments can be emailed to [Zoning@worthcounty.org](mailto:Zoning@worthcounty.org) Comments should be sent not later than 3:00PM Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

## Public Hearing

A public hearing for comment on this draft will be held at **7:00 PM, Wednesday June 16, 2021 at the Kensett Community Center, located at 300 Willow Street, Kensett, IA.** A Zoom meeting will be established for listening only and will record the session.

## Next Steps

After the Public Hearing, The Zoning Commission will consider input received from the public hearing and written input that was submitted. The commission will meet and determine what changes may be necessary to our draft before submittal to the Board of Supervisors with our report and recommendation. Once submitted to the Supervisors it shall be their role to determine what, if anything, is done with our recommendations and proposed Ordinance.