



# City of Wabash

## Wabash City Plan Commission

**CITY HALL**  
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### WABASH CITY PLAN COMMISSION

February 5, 2025  
City Hall @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Barrows, Chad Maple, Mary Kramer, Justin Adams, Heather Allen-Hoover, Jason Sluss, Adam Stakeman, Attorney Doug Lehman, Secretary Jeff Knee.

Members Absent: John Burnsworth, Scott Greiner

Vice President Mary Kramer opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. Old Business:

A. Minutes from the January 8, 2025, meeting was approved as presented.

2. New Business:

A. Board members to select a member from the jurisdictional area to be on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Member Chad Maple made a motion to nominate Mary Kramer to sit on the Board of Zoning to represent the Jurisdictional area. With a second motion by Member Bill Barrows, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Connie M Neiningner with CN Consulting, LLC from Monticello, Indiana to speak to the board members presenting information on pro-active planning on solar, and how this could impact the City of Wabash.

Attorney Doug Lehman read a notice from Mayor Long stating that we as the City of Wabash want to be open and listen to both sides. Tonight is to listen to the side of solar advocates. Mayor Long believes that there is a place for alternative electrical generation, and we should do everything within our power to reduce the costs that we are paying for power for our facilities.

Connie spoke to the board stating that "Our energy is changing" with our demand versus our supply and how our need will be exceeding our supply sooner than later. Connie stated how many solar farms are operating in the State of Indiana at this time. She also stated that there are companies out there that want the renewable energy. She said that many corporate mandates require a certain percentage of renewable energy to be used. Those mandates are not going away anytime soon, and as a community if we do not have access to the renewable energy some communities here in Indiana have lost projects. Connie continued to give more details of the positive outcomes of the use of having renewable energy and the benefits it can have for us as a city.

Member Mary Kramer asked Connie about the Zoning Jurisdiction waivers with owners of adjacent properties? Connie stated that if one owner says they want it but the adjacent property

owner does not, that in the ordinance it would need to be spelled out that it would require both parties to agree.

Member Heather Allen- Hoover asked how many to date have been returned to Ag 1 successfully? Connie stated that none to date.

Member Heather Allen-Hoover also asked about tree removal? Has the DNR ever stopped a project to due to bat nesting or such?

Connie stated that the DNR does review prior to approval.

Member Justin Adams asked about the liquid in the solar panels? Connie stated that there is no liquid in them.

Letheda Metzger of 686 N 150 W. Wabash asked about eminent Domain, would it override the zoning ordinance? Connie and Attorney Doug Lehman agreed that because the fields are being developed by private companies, eminent domain is not a factor in obtaining land. Connie continued to answer questions from the audience and board members for a time.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.