

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 6:00 P.M.

The Board met in session at the Palo Community Center, 2800 Hollenbeck Road, Palo. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt, Vice Chairperson Scheetz and Supervisor Meisheid. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: Joe Aossey, 2245 Birchwood Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, asked what the purpose of these data centers is because it's obvious from the data that is available that they will consume a lot of their resources. Who are the customers of the data centers? The average consumer is not going to buy from there. Are the commitments for all these resources worth the cost.

Dorothy Landt, 2262 Ross Rd, Palo, asked why Linn County has become a dumping ground for soon to be obsolete technology that spoils their landscape and robs them of their resources. First it was solar panels that they knew would be inadequate and now it's land, water and electricity consuming data centers which will be replaced by data centers orbiting the earth that do not require water to cool them or energy because it will come directly from the sun. Citizens are concerned about their aquifers, especially with ongoing droughts as well as electricity availability and cost. Who will be footing the bill for the additional electricity required. She admires the efforts of the Board of Supervisors to propose a data center ordinance; she would prefer to see all future data centers banned from Linn County. At least 19 states have moratoriums or bans for data centers in various cities and she would like Linn County to follow suit.

Don Oliver, 34 Lincoln Dr., Palo, asked how the data center would increase the necessary electricity by 100% as it's going to require them to generate more electricity. He broke down the various charges on his electricity bill and how a data center would impact his bill. Oliver would like to see the data centers share the burden or have the data centers pay a different rate. The data centers will suck up a lot more electricity and could be in a category all on their own.

Sue Biederman, 1509 Matterhorn Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, stated that she has been attending these meetings and they have been an eye opener. She is concerned about how fast this process is moving with not much research. The data centers like for Google have a lot of money and what are the people who live here going to get out of data centers by going along with it. She is also concerned about the resources like the water that it will take. Due to the political situation they are in right now, she is not very trusting and doesn't want to be misled by anything. If the data center doesn't perform well and goes out of business, Biederman doesn't want anyone to be stuck having to bail them out or pay for their mistakes.

Kathy Hance, 1410 Cedar River Dr., Palo, stated that she has lived in Palo for 13 years and has served on the Planning & Zoning Board for 5 years. She is gravely concerned about the impact the data centers will have on her town, county and her personal life. She watched as their land was gobbled up by solar energy that wouldn't benefit their community. She appreciates that the Board is looking at the ordinance now and encourages them to put the strictest guidelines in place for water usage, noise mitigation and wear and tear on their roads. Palo is a sportsman's paradise, and their residents love to be outdoors. Noise pollution would greatly impact those activities. For those of them who are parenting special needs children, as she is, they are very noise sensitive. The recommended trees and berms take time. She would like to change the 1,000-yard barrier to something like 15,000 yards. Hance feels like it is a great opportunity for their community to be able to weigh in on some of the aspects and concerns.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to open a Public Hearing on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to Data Center usage and associated requirements. Proof of publication was presented.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., gave a presentation on large scale data centers. He presented and explained in great detail the following:

- Definition of a Data Center.
- New Exclusive Use District for Large-Scale Data Centers: EU-3.
- Allowed Uses in EU-3.
- Submittal Requirements.
- Setbacks – 200 feet to property lines; 1,000 feet (measured from the closest outer wall of the closest building on the data center property).
- Other Requirements: Street access, site access, parking, buffers, confidentiality and open records compliance, avoidance and mitigation of damages to public infrastructure (Road Use Agreement).
- Noise Standards.
- Noise Limits (technical reference).
- Water Supply and Sustainability Review: Water Study, Water Use Agreement.
- Economic Development Agreement.
- Emergency Response Plan.
- Comprehensive Plan Alignment.
- Alternatives & Recommendation.

Public Comment: Sue Biederman, 1509 Matterhorn Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, stated that her concern is regarding a moratorium that was mentioned against data centers. She watched a webinar last night on a moratorium. She feels that more information needs to be presented as 5 months is not enough time. It seems like they are looking for way to make sure this goes forward but why are 16 other states having moratoriums against it. Biederman thinks they need to find out why and what their reasons are for the moratoriums. There might be some negative impacts that the Board needs to be aware of that they haven't considered yet.

Barbra Solberg, 2075 Vista Cir. NW, Cedar Rapids, she serves as the Vice President of Public Policy with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. The Economic Alliance works to promote the regional business community and continued growth and development in their area. They strongly support the current and future data center developments in their area. The investment has already created thousands of jobs during the construction and will bring hundreds of permanent jobs during operation. These are quality jobs that will provide an opportunity for an emerging workforce to have careers and raise families here in Linn County. Their projects are large scale capital investments in their area, often in hundreds of millions of dollars in signified investment friendly environment that will promote the continued growth of their region. They also recognize the need to access resources like water usage when it comes to large scale projects, and they applaud Linn County and the City of Cedar Rapids for conducting these studies. This better informs residents and businesses in a transparent and responsible way. These project benefits go beyond employing workers. These workers eat at local restaurants, stay in local hotels, and shop at local businesses. That is what they call data center dividends. These developments significantly bolster the local tax base and provide millions of dollars in taxes that go toward improving their local schools and community services. Data center projects provide significant and direct capital investment in taxes to their area, and they also provide opportunities for additional development and growth in their community as seen through the agreement with NextEra Energy and Google to reopen the Duane Arnold Energy Center. As the ordinance process continues, they hope the county will produce an ordinance that takes into consideration the significant economic impact these projects bring and encourages further development in their community. The benefits of bringing investments to the area are immense and will position their community for growth and success.

Paul Sabotta, 3812 Blue Mound Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, stated that he is a Mechanical Engineer and a retired Duane Arnold System Engineer. He wants to talk about Pleasant Creek Reservoir. When Duane Arnold was built in the 1970's, there was an evaluation done that they didn't want to run the Cedar River dry. They created Pleasant Creek reservoir so they could dump water from the reservoir back into the water table. Pleasant Creek may be a mile from the river but if Duane Arnold was using 6,000 gallons per minute in a drought, they would dump 6,000 gallons per minute from the dam at Pleasant Creek reservoir and the water would eventually get back into the water table. In Cedar Rapids, they have the wells at Ellis Park that basically take water out of the Cedar River and supply their drinking water. All of these little loads they are putting on the Cedar River and he hopes these evaluations are looking at that. Duane Arnold was required to monitor river flow and dump into the reservoir in a drought summer. In the first 20 years of operation there was a 30-day period where they did dump the reservoir. He's hoping with all the things going on that someone is doing that and who is responsible for maintaining the Pleasant Creek reservoir. Sabotta doesn't know if that reservoir is a state park. Pumps were built to refill the reservoir at times of high river flow, so they had real storage volume. They are set up very nicely with the Pleasant Creek reservoir for infrastructure if they are taking water out of the Cedar River. Someone has to be watching river flow and maintaining the equipment and opening the valves at the bottom of the dam when needed and he doesn't know what that is.

Jeff Sarchett, 4578 Hunter St., Palo, stated that one of his big concerns is how it will affect their local people. When they start building, they are looking at 3-5k people coming into Palo and it will get scary. They have a Casey's that can't even supply local people with gas. They have 2 bars that give them a little food. Their roads are pretty decent but if they start hauling all these trucks in, it won't be good anymore. He works out at QTS now and said to drive out there at 6 a.m. and see how far they will get. They are going to wait an hour. Sarchett loves what the Board is doing and thinks this is great for jobs, but it will get scary in this town if they don't do something to prepare for it before it starts. They have to get gas in Palo and make people aware of how many people are coming from out of state and talk about it. They have a small but great fire department but how will they supply it. How will they have ambulances out there for 3-5k people, if not more. People need to be aware and know how they are going to react. He asked the Board to put themselves in their shoes and see how it goes.

Don Oliver, 34 Lincoln Dr., Palo, earlier he asked some questions about what the electric cost would be and how it would impact him as a homeowner. He thanked them for touching on it and suggested setting some guidelines. He thought at this meeting they would talk about where the exact site would be. He assumes it will be the Supervisors who will be sitting on that decision and not members of the county or the citizens of Palo. Oliver has been to Phoenix a few times and they have a lot of data centers there and assumes they are the new buildings that look like Amazon fulfillment centers and are set up like dominoes. They are out in the desert where people don't really go. The people in Palo are wondering what it's going to look like with those big Amazon fulfillment buildings just north of town. A lot of people move to Palo because they like the looks of soybean and corn fields and now, they have solar panels. He thinks solar fulfills a need and he is a proponent of that generation of electricity. They need to know more details about general guidelines when it comes to water. Will the water be pumped out of the

ground to cool the chips in the building or will it come from the river or how deep will the wells be and how will it

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impact the people who have wells in the surrounding area. How will that impact the City of Palo who just put in wells not too long ago. Will those wells be very deep. Oliver would like to know more specifics, but he guesses they are not at that point right now but would like to know more about that before they sign off on anything for a new data center.

Dorothy Landt, 2262 Ross Rd, Palo, stated that her question was around the noise limits, one for residential and one for non-residential. She is wondering why that is true because they are unincorporated Linn County so why do they care about residential vs non-residential. She asked if a farm is non-residential. So, she is on a farm, and they put a data center next to her, she has to live with the louder noise or has dairy cattle (which she doesn't) or egg laying chickens, both of those kinds of animals are highly sensitive to noise, much more so than humans are. It would affect the production of milk and eggs. She has a feeling this is already going to happen and probably already in the works. She didn't even know there was going to be another data center in the county and as close as Palo. It sounds like it's already happening just like the solar panels stuff happened. Landt doesn't understand why they have 2 noise levels because it's probably going to be all non-residential. What if someone wants to build a residential community somewhat close to the data center. Now there's going to be the need to have data center be at a lower level, so what does that mean. They can't put residential there or the data center must meet a new level.

Wendy Dunn, 3355 Lewis Bottoms Rd., Palo, stated they are under 2 miles and when she looks out her bedroom window, she sees the power plant and all the solar panels to the east of her. Looking out at her front porch, there's a field and tons of solar panels there and she can live with that. NextEra planted 23 pine trees on their property to shield this (7-foot-tall trees). What she can't live with was when putting the solar panels in the big trucks would skip past the highway and would come down their gravel road at about 60 mph and she could look out their front yard and couldn't see anything. It was quicker for them to go on a gravel road then go on a highway and NextEra couldn't understand it. She spent the summer at the doctor with her allergies because they couldn't open their windows and their garage was full of dust. They have chickens, goats and horses. Her biggest concern is that they will have light and noise. They've always joked that their night light is the power plant. They can hear a hum in the summer and winter from the solar panels and the power plant. She can walk down the gravel road and it's under 2 miles to walk to the power plant and the data center. When they first got wind of it, they saw the trucks in the field doing their digging but there was no lettering on the trucks, it was hush hush quiet. They couldn't figure out what they were doing out there and then weeks later it came out that there was work to have a data center there. If they are going to drive trucks down their road, they need to pay for their roads.

Brian Dunn, 3355 Lewis Bottoms Rd., Palo, explained that he is looking at light pollution. He didn't see or hear anything in the presentation about what is going to be done with the lights that will come off of the data centers. There must be lots of lights from the buildings. That is important especially in a rural area. The things they don't want to have in a rural area like this is that area being turned into an industrial site where lots more stuff is going on and similar to what's going on with industrial stuff in town. How much spread will be out there. Solar panels are fine; it's transitioning the property from owners of the property to those who no longer have people wanting to farm it and it's an income source for them. Regarding water supply, years ago the nuke plant put in a new emergency cooling well. When they fired it up, it drained the wells in several nearby homes. He thinks that it needs to be investigated if there's a possibility that wells are going to be used as a cooling source for a data center. If they do that, other properties will need wells redrilled. Alliant had to redrill the wells. They talked about energy and no impact on rates of consumers. He begs to differ, he worked for Alliant for 40 years and even though not coming through Alliant, CIPCO still will be purchasing power. Their power goes into the wholesale market. Whatever impact those rates are having will go into their power bills eventually for rural residents. He asked if there has been any research into the impact of these noises on agricultural livestock. He thinks that's an important thing. He referenced an earthquake in Illinois and how his horses could feel things. Whatever happens at that site will directly impact them.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir., and Deb Williams, retired geologist with IDNR, explained in great detail water issues including private wells going dry, water studies and real time data.

Michael Schmidt, 1005 9th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, stated that regarding this ordinance if they read it, staff considers it generational infrastructure. He believes that is a mistake. Ideally, they would want to have this classified specifically as a specific user or consumer class. Schmidt sees what could possibly be a couple of loopholes in the ordinance. There are two parts in there where the residents can change the amount of noise just by okaying that and the Board of Supervisors or the city could reduce the setbacks as well. If they are looking to have strict regulations, they wouldn't have a loophole like that or some way to circumvent like that. With regards to the labor, it was brought up during the Zoning Commission meeting in October when he attended. A lot of those jobs are from out of state, and they have specific squads that move around the country to construct these things. He knows this because he has a number of vehicles in his neighborhood from Oklahoma. On top of all that, the state is giving massive tax exemption to this. Google has a 70-year tax exemption and only have to maintain 31 jobs paying a minimum of \$26.20 which comes to \$54,500 a year when the median income in Cedar Rapids is \$68k. They are paying under the median wage where they are getting all this exemption money. One thing to

know is that total energy consumption for Iowa, the state, is 18% for data centers. That is almost 1/5th of their energy for this state going to data centers currently and they are going to be adding more. Energy

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consumption for these things can use up as much energy as 75,000 to 100,000 houses. The current population of Cedar Rapids is 140k. Schmidt asked that they consider this when hopefully they will add an energy use section to the amendment because he isn't sure the county can stand to have another energy usage of Cedar Rapids added to the current capacity for this. They have had a water agreement and road agreement, and he would like to see an energy use agreement. It could possibly be in conjunction with the utilities commission where they are reclassified specifically as a separate class with increased rates and a demand response so the residents get priority if there is a large load on the grid or something unforeseeable like a Derecho. With regard to light pollution, when one of these goes up it's essentially like another sun on the horizon. Out in the county it is beautiful with wonderful stars and everything. Do they really want to put something that is the equivalent of downtown Cedar Rapids out there. Lastly, with regard to this new section with EU-3 he would like to see a revision update with the UDC specific to just these things and that they would actually be worthwhile for enforcement. They already had an instance with illegal drilling with the data centers in Cedar Rapids. Is \$20k adequate for illegal activity when they are making hundreds of billions. If a traffic ticket is \$250 and they are making millions, that price is just the cost of doing business.

John Zakrasek, 531 Lawndale Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, expressed his appreciation to the Board and Nichols and staff for their work on this. Everything he has heard indicates the Supervisors are doing all they can to control this so that they protect their citizens as much as possible. Depending on the companies doing these data centers they take very different approaches. For example, water use, some companies will go out and try and fix wetlands and so on in different parts of the country and then claim they have zero water use. Other companies will work with the local community and find ways to recharge the aquifers and make sure that they are using the most limited amount of water possible right there in the community. And if for some reason supplying water to the data centers requires upgrades to the water utility, that company will cover that, so the residents don't have to pay for those upgrades to the infrastructure. Those taxes that they could be paying are often waived but some of these companies say no they will pay all those taxes. What a big benefit that would be for their communities. It's a missive benefit. He would love to see the Community Benefit Agreement that would have information on it about using local labor and wages, so they get the benefit to the fullest extent possible. He expressed his appreciation for areas like planning for power and water use. They provide massive amounts of data that they can all see. The Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) is going to power the Google data center. What will happen when they have to refuel the DAEC and its down for a month to 6 weeks. Where will that power come from. They are already starting to see information that indicates a natural gas plant that's going to be built. Is it being built because of the data center and shouldn't the data center bear that cost or will it come back to them? They have been having what are called flash droughts. What if they get into a situation where the river is too low and the DAEC has to shut down and now there is insufficient water going to the data center and they have to go to air based cooling. He appreciates the planning that is being done with the ordinance and thinks it's phenomenal.

Leland Freie, 2052 Linn Blvd. SE, Cedar Rapids, stated that he watched a video about chemical pollution to plants. His big concern is the issue of water. He remembers talking to a hydrologist a short time ago and he said every aquifer in the State of Iowa should be measured. The problem is they don't have the personnel or the money. He remembers a utility director telling him a few years ago that as long as the Cedar River runs, they are ok. The question is, are they depleting the water table faster than its running. What happens in longer periods of draught. What kinds of data will be used and who will make that decision and what is the level of risk. When can they say that they can't go any lower. Does the company have to cut back on their electricity production. He thinks studying the water table and future requirements since they know they can have multi-year droughts.

Wally Taylor, 2200 S 31st St., Marion, stated that when he heard comments from the Supervisors about how great this ordinance is and how they are protecting the public, he hopes he can persuade them to take another look at it. Transparency is great but if there are no teeth in the ordinance what good is it. For example, they require a water report from a company that wants to build a data center. They get the water report that says they are going to withdraw x million gallons a year from the aquifer then what. What will they do about it? They can't depend on the DNR, and their water withdrawal permits. They hand out permits like candy and they have no idea how much water is in the aquifer or what the impact is going to be. They just grant the permit. In fact, their State Representative Cindy Golding is sponsoring a bill Taylor wrote that would require the DNR to actually determine whether or not a permit should be granted. They could do that in this ordinance and say that it appears that too much water is being withdrawn by the data center and they don't have to give them a zoning permit. The utility commission does not regulate how much electricity they can use and that needs to be in the ordinance, and it isn't there. How much land will be used and what kind of land, he doesn't see that in the ordinance. They talk about the solar projects taking up too much farmland. How much land are these big data centers going to take. At least with solar, there's a requirement that land be returned to agriculture once that project is done. Once that data center is built, he can't imagine it will ever be ag land again. Nichols stated at his presentation that the ordinance should have standards criteria that a decision maker can use and he agrees but doesn't see it in there. Taylor hopes that they will send the ordinance back for further review and work. The Board indicated that there are some points they should go back and take a look at. He encourages them to take another look at how effective the ordinance will be beyond just being transparent.

Angie Brekke, 4579 Hunter St., Palo, stated that she wanted to touch on the part about the Road Use Agreement. They saw it day in and day out with trucks driving any roads they wanted in Palo and the only thing they could do as a city was call the county. County is wonderful but it is not stopping anyone. They spoke to county roads but a lot of roads around Palo are county and city. She thinks that Road Use Agreement may need to be looked at for not only county roads, but shared roads are also taken into consideration. That is a huge part of a small city budget. The other thing she wants to touch on is Google wanting to be a community partner and wanting to understand their needs. She thinks a lot of people who spoke tonight are Cedar Rapids residents. In Palo, they know what their water and sewer bill looks like. It is about double what those in Cedar Rapids pay every other month and it's a huge deal in Palo. It is a huge opportunity for a small community that will never get that opportunity for someone to be looking at their community with a wastewater treatment facility out there. As they look at different things and talk about bills, this is an opportunity they will never get again. This is a great opportunity for their town. Right now, Palo pumps their sewer into Cedar Rapids and it's expensive and every time they up their bills they have no choice but to up the resident's bills and it's terrible. It is driving people out of their town and that's not what they want. She looks at this as an opportunity for local jobs and an opportunity for their town they won't ever get again.

Natalie, 316 19th Street NW, Cedar Rapids, stated that she just learned about today's meeting yesterday. Some numbers caught her attention, including 1,000 ft. from a residence. What does 1,000 ft. look like. It's just over 2 football fields and that doesn't feel like that it's a lot. A mile has 5,280 feet and if she was in a position where they were going to build a data center, she would want that a ways away from where she lives. Essentially, 1,000 ft. is a 35-minute walk, which is a very low number. She did a quick google search on DBA and DBC. 65 DBC's have enough energy to cause structural vibrations in windows and walls. 65 DBA can cause chronic exposure that increases stress levels and releases cortisol, the body's fight or flight hormone. 65 DBC's are harder to block with walls and earplugs and make it harder to sleep and can cause psychological stress such as headache, nausea and irritability.

Deb Yates, 2362 Young Rd., Palo, stated that they've seen in many other communities with solar and wind where if the codes are met, developers insist they've met this and should be able to develop, and if they are rejected, they have filed lawsuits. Where in their process can they say not only the water is adequate, power is adequate, but everything is maxed out for Linn County. There is a real possibility that with a lot of data centers, other businesses will look at them and say they are maxed out. She has 100 head of cattle at her house and her well is only 80 feet deep and is a real concern. She would like to see some type of policy where there is pretty immediate action by Linn County or some process at least that them as individuals can have someone to contact and get some help.

James Sanders, Linn County resident, stated that there has been a lot of talk about water and water is very important but there is something that hasn't been touched on. The people that live around there know where they are putting this thing. What about the flood zone and the flood maps that's right next to the river in the flood zone. That is another thing they need to look at. The tax increment financing (TIF) money, hopefully they don't go down that road because when he built his house, he didn't get any TIF money and had to pay all his taxes. They should have to also pay their taxes if they are going to be a good community citizen like they claim they want to be. As far as the power plant goes, when that plant was built, it was a 90/10 split between Iowa Electric and Cipco Power. Cipco Power has never released their 10% of that power plant. That power is not if, it's when the power plant has to shut down because it can only run so long before they have to refuel it. Where is all this other money coming from to pay to buy this other energy, buy off the grid, when plant is down for 8 months or however long it is down. Heaven forbid they have another accident like they did in 1979 when it was down for 18 months and had to replace half the piping. People don't realize stuff that happens when the plant goes down. The traffic increases and yes, they get more business in town. As of right now, Casey's can't even stay open half the time because they have no gas. They have to be looking at these things. They might not have control over who issues water permits but they can put requirements, the teeth of the requirements, in the ordinance that says they need to have this, no if's and's or but's. That lake was built as an emergency backup water source to put water into river so the plant could shut down if they needed to. The lake cannot be refilled like it was before. The NRC told the power plant because it would take too long for the water to get to the lake to shut down the plant and they needed to dig deep wells to have water on demand to shut the power plant down. If Google needs more water, he doesn't think the nuke plant is going to let them drain it. How big will the radius be for the well sampling. He lives 4 miles east of town and he has a deep well. The aquifers are way bigger than that. They need to make sure they are incorporating all of these things as far as conditions. It shouldn't be good just for the economy, it should be good for everyone.

Nichols addressed previous questions during the public hearing including noise limits residential vs non-residential; water and electricity usage; noise and light pollution; and traffic concerns.

The audience thanked Supervisor Scheetz for the text message he sent (paid for by Scheetz personally).

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she sincerely appreciates the staff at Linn County including all the work it took putting this meeting together. She thanked the public for attending and sharing all the

thoughtful information. They can call or email if they have any thoughts after tonight's meeting. This ordinance is a transparent and sincere effort by the county to put forth to the maximum of their authority procedures, ordinance language and to protect the people. They will have several more opportunities for
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public comment and engagement. The Board is there to serve them, and she appreciates the dialogue tonight.

Nichols added that 2nd consideration of the ordinance is scheduled for February 9th and 3rd and final is scheduled for 2/11. Those dates can be moved accordingly, and changes can be made between 1st and 2nd consideration and 2nd and 3rd consideration, but not at the third consideration. There is also an option to add a 4th consideration.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to close public hearing.

Supervisor Scheetz thanked the staff and colleagues for all their work. This is one of the most comprehensive ordinances that a local government has put together, not just in their region but in the state and possibly the country when it comes to data centers. It does an excellent job of protecting its residents. This allows for responsible data center projects to be improved. It's not lost on him that people are in attendance from the building and trades. It will create thousands of construction jobs in the communities and could last 3-5 years or longer. These projects create jobs and a paycheck that is taken home to their families. He is very proud to vote in favor of this proposed ordinance tonight.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that they had the ability to express concerns throughout the meeting. This ordinance is for unincorporated Linn County and all companies work differently. They have to write this ordinance based on any data center that may or may not come to Linn County. Road Use and Water Agreements give them the foundation to make project specific guidelines and also ensuring the ordinance protects residents and is broad enough to capture everyone. She wants to ensure they are supporting small towns as well.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that moving forward they are maximizing their authority in jurisdictions to the best of their ability and understanding what being a good partner is. She feels if a data center is coming here that it is more than fair and reasonable to have conversations about a community development fund and being good partners for that.

Nichols added that he will bring forward the changes that were discussed during tonight's meeting at the 2nd consideration on February 9th.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve upon First Consideration an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to Data Center usage and associated requirements.

Public Comment: James Sanders, Linn County resident, stated that none of the current Supervisors were on the Board when the solar stuff got pushed through. He knows what Robert's rules of order are and they had the opportunity to table this and go back and get the information needed and put it in the first draft. There was a lot of good input tonight and he thinks it sometimes falls on deaf ears. They say they work for them but in his opinion, tonight he doesn't think they are working for them. This smells a lot like solar stuff and as fast as they pushed it through, they will push this through in a month. 24-hour notice is Friday so are they working on a weekend. They could have tabled this since they don't even have an application yet. Instead, they are stuffing this through. They heard the same song and dance at the solar meetings. It got brushed under the carpet. They can't sit up there and say they represent them and then stuff something through in a month.

Hazel Grimm-Rhomberg, 2187 Sisley Grove Rd., Palo, stated that her family has 4 generations in Linn County. She owns an over 100-year-old farm, Palo means a lot to them. They didn't listen to them about solar and they didn't care. They don't like the data centers, and she is scared for her well. Palo was built in 1854 and her grandfather started Palo Savings Bank with \$50. Her great grandfather was in the Civil War. They have century farms and they don't listen or care about them. Why can't they talk to them like they are humans. This could have been tabled.

Adjournment at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Brown, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson

Board of Supervisors