

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026 10:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. 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 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Jenny Kellison, 1502 Cardinal Dr., Fairfax, asked the Board to press pause, not because they fear progress but because they value the community enough to get this right. The proposed moratorium would be enough to ask the hard questions and to make sure this truly aligns with what the people want. The people here today are the ones that will live with the consequences of these decisions, long after the developers have left. The effects cannot be undone, but nothing is lost except uncertainty by enacting a moratorium. She asked the Board to vote yes on this resolution like 7 other counties in the state.

Thomas Peek, 2929 Center Point Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, pointed out that data centers and power centers go hand in hand. He doesn't feel Alliant is ready for expansion. His office is next door to an Alliant substation and over the years it has been a battle to get Alliant to take care of their property. Homeless have lived there, the landscaping is unkept, and littering occurs – especially the illegal kind. He has had various trash left on his property from the homeless and they walk by while patients are receiving care. When he complained, Alliant told him their job is to protect the infrastructure inside, not worry about the outside. They removed some trees and mowed, the homeless are still there, and they have not mowed since. They told him it is not for him to go onto their property to remove homeless debris but to call their service line. How can Alliant do an energy center when they don't even have the leadership to protect this substation?

Jason Kline, 5726 Seminole Valley Trl. NE, Cedar Rapids, isn't against progress but these data centers are extremely difficult for communities to navigate through because they take on a great amount of externalities – such as electricity costs and environmental degradation. They will try to get the county to cover that with tax breaks. This is an opportunity to work alongside fellow counties and states to prevent the abuse that these companies are engaging in.

Abe Kellison, 1502 Cardinal Dr., Fairfax, has spoken with residents all over the county and the overwhelming message is the same – they don't want data centers. He supports union workers but doesn't support rushing into a big tech industry before understanding consequences. His question is at what cost? The cost to environment, water, farmland, people who call this community home. He asks the Board to consider what their constituents want – not city leaders, big tech, or corporate billionaires but the ordinary citizens that elected them.

Jane Scheer, 3388 73rd St., Fairfax, is also a Linn County landowner. Her family supports the temporary moratorium. The public deserves to participate in and understand these projects that affect their quality of life and change the landscape forever. This is a legacy decision; do they fully understand the aggregate impacts? She asks the Board to vote to take a pause.

Heather English, 3708 Cynthia Ln., Fairfax, her family drinks from a well and what scares her is the water usage of a data center. Once an aquifer drops, they can't just refill it. She doesn't want to gamble with water so she asks the Board to vote yes.

Cindy Anderson, Fairfax resident, is concerned about how people are affected by the building, construction, damage to environments, water concerns, air concerns. If a hard look isn't taken at those things and demand answers from the people pushing this, then the Board is not doing a service to the people. Once things are built and technology has now moved somewhere else, what happens with all these million square feet buildings that may now be empty? The land can't be taken back. The damage to aquifer can't be undone. The earth, water, and air are limited resources. She is not against progress or jobs, but she lives with data center traffic daily and knows what its doing to her community. The questions they've asked have gone unanswered. She asks the Board to vote yes.

Mike Sadler, 4192 Pikeview Dr., Center Point, sees no need for this moratorium. The Supervisors just wrote and passed their own ordinance earlier this year, of which he was told is the strictest ordinance in the country. This shows that Linn County is closed for business to data centers and the additional revenue they would bring in. Sadler questioned the county budget and pointed out the property tax that would be missed out on that would generate a lot of revenue. The economic impact from hotel stays, campgrounds, restaurants, gas stations, etc. would limit the bottom line of all of these businesses that would prosper. This would negatively affect the income of thousands of construction workers. The world cannot go back to life before the internet. The internet doesn't exist in outer space floating around, but in a building. Everyone stores data in one way shape or form. Sadler feels like this is retaliation for something else that has happened. He asks the Board to vote no.

Garrett Smith, 2151 Sugar Creek Dr. NW, Cedar Rapids, is speaking on behalf of 900 members of the IBEW 405. He has worked on data centers for months and has seen the life-changing effects of the money people are able to make from working at these data centers. The IBEW members brought in 34 million in benefits and wages just last month – Smith bets a lot of that money was spent in Linn County.

Everyone talks about the jobs disappearing after construction, but each building employs 30 electricians just for maintenance, which ends up being 390 electrical jobs alone if construction ended today. Regarding the concerns around water usage, Smith encourages people to look into how much water local corn processing plants use or even a golf course on a daily basis. He opposes this moratorium.

Jim Conlan, data center developer and property owner on Highway 30, feels Linn County has a well drafted data center ordinance. He acknowledges the detailed analysis and research done by staff that resulted in a very detailed, very tough but workable ordinance. He has heard a lot of misinformation. What will be put on his property is a closed loop data center which is like a radiator that you fill with water – between 1 and 3 million gallons to fill it the first time. Conlan states a 200 cow dairy farm uses more water from an unpermitted shallow well. When they file to rezone all of this information will be part of the process. The community will hear answers during 3 readings, including how much water and power will be used. Conlan pointed out that while there are 7 other county moratoriums in Iowa, none of the others have a data center ordinance. He feels this is illegal, unconstitutional, and inviting problems.

Pat Goodwin, 1434 Highwood Dr. NW, Cedar Rapids, has grandchildren in Atkins. She supports the moratorium because it will allow the time to have studies done that will prove or disprove the quality of the air, water, and land in that area. She thinks it would be good to take the time to have all of the information, not just proposals gathered from other places which have not shown data centers and power plants in a very capable light.

Kelly Goodwin-Ackerman, 408 Circleview Dr., Atkins, emailed the Board a website that looks at all of the financial information on all this and explains why the property levy does not come back as advertised. There is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. She urges the Board to talk to communities that have had these centers for years and see how they're doing now. A pause is not a catastrophic move no matter what the billion-dollar companies say. They'll still buy and sell power and data centers will still be built. The residents will benefit from thoughtful consideration of everything. This is the essence of being a true public servant.

Eliza Ackerman, Atkins, doesn't feel the data centers or power plants should be built due to the health concerns.

Dan Wozniak, 1518 Heartland St., Fairfax, supports the moratorium but asks for one revision. He then discussed federal proposals that take away the timetable for a data center moratorium and makes the companies come back only once they have solved the economic impact, pollution, water usage, etc. Wozniak suggested that if there is a moratorium on data centers, then the power plant that's being proposed to provide that power probably shouldn't be built.

Richard Hanson, 1229 Memorial Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, has been in 2 unions during his career and is still active in one so he understands their perspective and the cause in this right-to-work state. However, this is a world of scarcity and people are the stewards over how the resources are used. A lot of changes happened in Iowa's government that created the perfect storm for companies to quickly jump in and take advantage of the economic benefits. Money speaks very loudly these days. The people have spoken today as has money. He asks the Board to vote yes on the moratorium.

Tracy Meza, 7801 Wieneke Cir., Cedar Rapids, shared that in the first part of this year, more than 300 data centers have popped up across 30 different states. A national survey found that only 14 out of 100 Americans would be comfortable living next to one. She doesn't feel as if the moratorium is overreacting but rather catching up. She asks the Board to remember what was said when the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance – justice for all, not just millionaires and billionaires. It's justice for the people in this room.

Mark Divitt, 3386 73rd St., Fairfax, feels that in a year or two it will be very obvious as to why there was such a rush for AI data centers. Not regular data centers for email and cloud storage that are CPU based but AI data centers that are GPU based. GPU uses way more power and creates way more heat. The reason companies are in such a rush is that in about a year most AI will be on your phone or personal computer and they're panicking realizing this is coming. This is already antiquated technology. Divitt feels it's wonderful that all these contractors are getting new pickup trucks, etc. but what are they not building? Schools, housing, hospitals? Contractors are needed to be doing other things. He asks the Board to vote yes on the moratorium.

Bob Brown, 500 Walford Rd. SW, Cedar Rapids, is representing Modern Piping. The work on the current data centers has translated into high paying trade jobs and continued local investment. The concerns brought forth are very important and he acknowledges that no one wants the growth to outpace the water table and utilities. Brown's concern is that a blanket pause on top of the recent ordinance sends a signal to the broader market that the county is closing its door at the exact moment that other counties are actively competing for the same investment. Growth with responsible planning has benefited Linn County already. He asks the Board to enforce the ordinance that is already in place rather than a categorical moratorium.

JoAnn Beer, Fairfax Mayor, the city has an attorney representing them as an intervenor with the IUC against the proposed power plant. Fairfax residents are currently experiencing extreme traffic and other

negative impacts due to the Cedar Rapids data center construction. Fairfax is in the process of developing a data center ordinance that will be more restrictive than the county's. The moratorium proposal is greatly appreciated.

Nathan Wolter, 501 Scobey Rd. NW, Mt. Vernon, fully supports the moratorium. Residents want transparency and to be informed. The opportunity to build this is not for a limited time. When urgency is created, it rarely benefits the decision maker and there is one chance to get it right. The Board is responsible for being informed when making decisions about things that will affect resources for this county. Wolter asks the Board to look past short term gain and look at long term impacts. Anything less is a disservice.

Bruce Volz, Benton County Supervisor, came today to ask that his Board be included with any future project discussions that also directly affect Benton County residents. Even if they can't participate, this would allow them to react with information received in a timely manner. They need to do what they can to protect their citizens.

Cheri Monahan, 3165 Edgewood Pkwy. SW, Cedar Rapids, is representing ITC Midwest which builds and operates high voltage electric transmission infrastructure. She asks they vote no on the moratorium. She highlighted what these projects could mean for Linn County including economic activity, workers choosing to stay and establish careers in the community, and projects like this address affordability. As demand grows, fixed transmission costs are spread across more customers reducing rates. Her company's rates are projected to decline 20% by 2030 with potential for greater reduction if more projects like this move forward. The ordinance sent an important message that the county welcomes investment while establishing clear expectations and safeguards. Data centers are highly competitive and a moratorium would risk losing them entirely.

Jon Lee, 2510 Sisley Grove Rd. SW, Cedar Rapids, asks the Board to vote yes on the moratorium. This is not a ban but a pause so answers can be received. He pointed out that closed loop systems may need more power and questioned how often the fluid is purged and what happens to it. Lee is concerned about costs trickling down to the residents. What if more data centers move into the area and they all pull from the same wells, river, and grid. No water study answers that. New federal tax breaks created a data center gold rush. He discussed Google leaving Linn County and approaching Palo as a way to get around the ordinance. The concern about the high paying jobs is fair – but a pause doesn't cancel them. The work doesn't disappear but rather waits.

Cassia Anton, 144 Autumn Woods Dr. NW, Cedar Rapids, sees the memorandum as a first step but not the last step. Residents have no confidence that there will be no further costs. Trust cannot be put in these companies at the risk of resident's safety and health. Many people are here today because they're in favor of progress. Anton asks the Board to not allow these out of state multi-trillion dollar mega corporations to play the county for fools by dangling shiny projects under the guise of progress. They violate local laws, poison the water supply, and bring a higher cost of living.

Barbra Solberg, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance (CRMEA), brought forth concerns that a broad moratorium could create unintended consequences. An anti-growth, anti-development message is not one that should be sent as the region has shown that they can coexist. Projects currently under consideration have undergone extensive review. Solberg encourages continued dialogue with local employers, utility providers, economic development organizations and community stakeholders to ensure any future policy decisions are informed by accurate information, sound planning, and a shared commitment to responsible growth. CRMEA requests the Board pause further action and instead convene a roundtable discussion.

Guy West, 3319 74th St. Dr., Fairfax, states he's been using email since 1994 and didn't realize data centers were the only way it happened. Regarding the argument about construction jobs, he challenged that without data centers is there nothing else to build? He suggested that taxing these facilities needs to be looked at carefully. Not nearly enough money is staying with the community long term. West feels this isn't about stopping or embracing progress, but rather is the county in a race to win contracts or to be smart and produce the kind of community everyone wants to live in.

Sonja Hadenfeldt, 7471 Benton Linn Rd., Fairfax, discussed concerns about the price of power and referenced another state where residents were billed for data center power lines. A pause would make sure that doesn't happen here. It would also help figure out how to deal with infrastructure such as traffic, water usage, and the loss of rural land. She asked why wait until an application is received before answering all of these concerns.

Heather Shane, 1606 14th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, referenced previous speakers' points and is in favor of some of the benefits. Shane finds some of the comparisons ironic like comparing how much water cows drink – you can't drink cash. She asks the Board to vote for the moratorium.

Lea Hecht, 805 19th St. SE, Cedar Rapids, feels the laundry list of negative impacts that data centers have shown to have on their communities is too long to ignore and she is in favor of the moratorium.

John Zakrasek, 531 Lawndale Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, discussed the various data centers and nuclear plant in the area. He feels a pause will have little to no impact on the economy but rather give an opportunity to provide more protection. The power usage of these centers would be massive so he asked the Board to add electrical provisions to the ordinance like there are for water. He discussed pending legislation surrounding electricity. Zakrasek suggested implementing tariffs that cover the infrastructure and ongoing operation costs of these centers.

Deb Yates, 2362 Young Rd., Palo, is a farmer and her life starts with the soil, water, and air. The impacts do not stop at jurisdictional lines. The data centers in Cedar Rapids that are needing power are now being pushed out to the unincorporated areas. She is a tenant on a farm that Jim Conlan purchased this spring and then sent a termination notice. This farm sits around an Alliant substation near Palo. She is hopeful local governments can come together to protect all residents' basic needs of water and fresh air.

Felicia Hilton, MidAmerican Carpenters Regional Council Political Director, is representing local 308. The union is opposed to the moratorium, as it has created so many good jobs. Hilton pointed out that no one foresaw the internet doing what its doing now. Banks and movie theatres aren't being built as fast because everything is moving to the cloud. This is about the future. She asks that the Board doesn't kill jobs with this moratorium and discussed the unemployment rate. Businesses already aren't coming to the state because they feel it's hostile and this moratorium says to them that they kill jobs.

Rhiannon Hall, 7108 Pleasant Ridge Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, agrees with many of the previous speakers. She is retired and brought her young grandsons because they'll be the ones dealing with the aftermath of this. She cannot believe the tax handouts to these corporations. Hall is concerned that the Board meetings are scheduled while residents are working and can't come. She feels the reaction from those that are against the moratorium is over the top.

Cynthia Corne, 802 Silver Ln., Iowa City, owns a farm in Linn County and supports the moratorium. She discussed her career in high tech and what brought her back to Iowa after leaving. This gives an opportunity to look at financial and health risks. She discussed the fires in Colorado and questioned what if these companies used up all of the water? When the companies break the rules, Corne questioned how long it will take and who will enforce those rules. She also asked the Board to collaborate with Johnson County as they are neighbors.

Cindy Boland, 9903 W Cemetery Rd., Fairfax, agrees with many of the things said in favor of the moratorium today. At the June 24th informational meeting she was struck by the huge disparity between the billion-dollar companies and the systems in place to regulate them. She alleges that QTS and Google have spent nearly \$100 million above market value for the farmland to build data centers yet Public Health doesn't have \$28,000 to monitor the air, have staff able to regularly be in the field monitoring air quality, or have a system in place to enforce violations. Boland hopes the time can be used to put together budgets and plans, to understand what it would take to successfully regulate and protect citizens and resources.

Tami LeClaire, 10301 Feather Ridge Rd., Toddville, in addition to the critical concerns already addressed, she asked about future concerns. What if they do happen and become reality? Who will have priority over the power, especially on sweltering days like today. Citizens or centers? Low river and aquafer fragility has happened – who gets priority there? There will be stress on first responders, school districts, healthcare, all due to the tax breaks that are inevitable. Who gets priority to those services? Citizens or the centers? She questioned if 18 months is enough for the moratorium. Even the gaming commission passed years-long moratoriums and studied multiple times before giving Cedar Rapids a gaming license. A 10-year moratorium seems more prudent to her.

Cheryl Skala, 42nd St., Cedar Rapids, referenced the movie, "A Bug's Life" and pointed out she feels the residents are the bugs. She is tired of supporting big business, noting that money isn't everything in this world. Skala was in a union and they did nothing but take her money. She is scared for her grandkids. Her electric and water bills have never gone down, and things will never be cheaper. The Board will be held accountable down the road regarding these decisions.

Dorris Porazil, 4201 Linn Benton Rd., Fairfax, is on the proposed property line and has lived there 68 years. She is on one of the highest points in Linn County and asked the Board to not let them build up to her fence. Porazil questioned how to continue feeding the people as farmland is needed, not data centers. She wants the quality of life that they have to continue.

Cedar Rapids resident, asked the board to vote yes on the moratorium. They have asthma and the power plant can pollute the air and they won't be able to go outside.

Shannon Costigan, 11901 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, is directly across the road from where the power plant will be built. She is 7th generation to be living in Cedar Rapids with more to come. She questioned where the answers are that Jim Conlan reference in his public comment. This is about real people and the decisions will directly affect future generations. She asks the Board to think about everyone that spoke today and to take them into consideration.

Jay Hopkins, Linn County resident, discussed the current and proposed data centers in the area and shared that he feels they are nearly out of control. Hopkins alleged that Jim Conlan doesn't live in Iowa, but lives in Pennsylvania. Conlan buys Iowa farmland for energy related infrastructure which is then followed by eminent domain. ITC has said this land is needed for data centers but didn't say that they repeatedly used eminent domain to take from residents. The Board is responsible for putting some order on this gold rush – the moratorium is a pause on the activity, not a ban. Good jobs will continue in Linn County. He urges the Board to vote yes.

Tamara Krug, 3815 1st Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, moved here to do family farming and doesn't know that she'll be able to do it now. She has health problems and works on farms within miles of the data center. Krug is losing part of her rental land to a battery storage facility and next to it is the proposed energy center. She moved here for the beautiful rural, rolling hills of Iowa, not this. She asked the Board to vote yes on the moratorium and no on any further construction until it's fully researched and they limit pollution. Krug went on to say that Duane Arnold can handle most of these energy needs if they're not regulated. She suggested the Board un-regulate nuclear power plants as that's clean energy.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the minutes of June 24, 2026 as printed.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to approve accounts payable PEO checks dated 06/29/26 #71021720 in the amount of \$301.67, voids dated 06/29/26 totaling \$301.67.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to approve accounts payable PEO checks dated 06/30/26 #71021721 to 71021724 in the amount of \$1,355.42; and ACH in the amount of \$329.44; for a total of \$1,684.86, and voids dated 06/30/26 totaling \$1,684.86.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a Consulting and Advisory Services Agreement between Linn County and Grant Consulting, LLC, in the amount of \$17,500 for governmental affairs, lobbying, advisory, and related consulting services for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a Consulting and Advisory Services Agreement between Linn County and Advocacy Cooperative, in the amount of \$40,000 for governmental affairs, lobbying, advisory, and related consulting services for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a Memorandum of Agreement among Linn County, Black Hawk County, Dubuque County, Johnson County, and Scott County, in the amount of \$25,000 to continue as a member of the Urban County Coalition for a one-year period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to develop, communicate, and advocate jointly for issues of common interest.

Approve Class B Retail Alcohol License for Bass Farms LLC, 840 Bass Lane, Mount Vernon, noting all conditions have been met.

Approve Special Class B Native Retail Wine License for Culver's Garden Center & Greenhouse, 1682 Dubuque Road, Marion, noting all conditions have been met.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt discussed a contract for STEP Intervention Services between Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Iowa Judicial Branch acting through the Juvenile Court Services and the Chief Juvenile Court Officer for an amount of \$602,848 effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The County Attorneys have seen and reviewed the contract.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the contract for STEP Intervention Services between Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Iowa Judicial Branch acting through the Juvenile Court Services and the Chief Juvenile Court Officer for an amount of \$602,848 effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Dev. Dir., discussed a Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on the Acceptance of New Applications to Rezone Property to the EU-3 Large-Scale Data Center District. Nichols explained various aspects of moratoriums and when they are appropriate. He then offered comparisons to the similar utility solar scale moratorium previously enacted.

Supervisor Scheetz asked Nichols to explain that moratoriums are not meant to stop certain types of development. Nichols confirmed they are a legal land use tool and noted if they are being used as a ban then they can and have been overturned in the past. Their purpose is to help local governments conduct studies and update regulations in light of new information. The county needs to be very explicit about what they plan to do with the allotted time. Nichols then explained the procedural steps from the utility solar scale ordinance and the difference between doing a moratorium by resolution versus ordinance.

Supervisor Meisheid explained this moratorium is not for or against data centers. Linn County is open for business, but not at any cost. She can no longer look her constituents in the eye and say she can make these decisions fully informed. A lot has changed – when Google first approached the Board she was supportive and they wrote a strong ordinance. However there has now been an influx of data centers with

rumors of many more to come and there is growth being invited by the proposed infrastructure. Meisheid wants to know what the community can sustain. Water doesn't have jurisdictional boundaries and the natural gas ordinance showed her that the county needs to have considerations for other jurisdictions. She is asking for the state and DNR to support Linn County. Planned growth beyond data centers needs to be discussed.

Nichols then explained potential amendments including language regarding data centers collocated with a nuclear energy generating facility or a utility solar facility that brings extra benefits being supported by the Board. The only way for nuclear development to happen right now is either through federal grants and loans or with data center power purchase agreements. If the Board wants to be supportive of nuclear power, then the resolution should potentially support data centers that are specifically for nuclear development. He recommended what specific language needed to be amended and removed.

Supervisor Meisheid then spoke on serving on the governor's nuclear task force noting that nuclear doesn't restart without data centers. The county has to weigh the benefits of Duane Arnold (DAEC) reopening and having that energy on the grid. In order for the infrastructure costs to not fall on residents, Google is paying for DAEC to reopen. Cedar Rapids did a water study on the impacts of the restart along with proposed data centers and preliminary data shows the water will be okay. Data centers collocated with nuclear plants would not be affected by this moratorium.

All supervisors were in favor of the proposed amendment.

Supervisor Scheetz acknowledged the concerns raised are legitimate and deserve to be taken seriously. However, he cannot support the moratorium as it is currently written. The Board unanimously passed the most comprehensive ordinance in the state just months ago after 8 months of development and input. His concern is that the county would be suspending an ordinance before it was ever tested, declaring it insufficient before letting it work a single time. Other counties with moratoriums had no rules related to data center zoning and needed time to write them. Another concern surrounds the Board's authority only reaching unincorporated areas of the county. Scheetz fears this moratorium will send development projects towards jurisdictions with fewer protections and the weakest regulations – which is the opposite of protecting the region and people. If the zoning ordinance will be suspended, he feels it should still be in the same transparent process every other change in the zoning code goes through so the public gets a voice in a decision this consequential. This needs to go back to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to postpone agenda item, A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on the Acceptance of New Applications to Rezone Property to the EU-3 Large-Scale Data Center District, refer it back to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and hold a public hearing.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board about why this agenda item was only posted with 24-hours notice.

VOTE: Running-Marquardt & Meisheid – Nay Scheetz – Aye

Motion failed.

Supervisor Meisheid addressed concerns regarding Board meetings being held at 10 a.m. and why more offsite meetings aren't held.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt feels things are moving too fast with several billion-dollar prospectors who only see profit for themselves and she wants the county to pause to gather more information. She discussed the numerous current data centers as well as the pollution and cost of infrastructure incurred by the taxpayers. Not only is Alliant ignoring residents' concerns, but ITC is even ignoring concerns brought forth by her. Running-Marquardt wants to learn lessons from the Cedar Rapids data centers and see the ramifications and consequences that are happening because of them. She feels the county can do a better job on the ordinance and adding in information to protect the people. A pause would allow time for potential state legislation to pass surrounding what costs taxpayers would shoulder. A state and regional approach needs to be taken with water, and the state needs to take the lead. She shared a discussion between her and a billion-dollar data center prospector where their response to concerns over pollution and impacts to the neighborhoods was that they can buy out entire neighborhoods and it would just be a shared sacrifice for everyone like the servicemen who recently lost their lives in Iran. It makes her sick to her stomach that they are putting their money and greed above all else. Running-Marquardt then discussed a data center that reached out to the county, found out there are guardrails in place, then turned around and went to the City of Walford to ask them to annex the 500 acres they want to build their center on. A pause also allows for a review of the county's comprehensive plan. She acknowledged concerns from organized labor but assured this does not hurt all of those current and future job opportunities. She will take job growth decline into consideration if it were to happen. She supports the moratorium because she puts the quality of life ahead of greed.

Supervisor Scheetz inquired as to how the 18-month period was decided on, and what steps will be taken. Meisheid answered because an adequate water data study was previously estimated at 17 months. She feels regional water data is needed to make adequate decisions and a wholistic approach of how much water there is that can be pitched for economic projects. Meisheid named four pillars she thinks the county should follow including collecting water data, update the comprehensive plan, update

the current ordinance, and legislation and regional coordination surrounding data center costs. She also wants the county to look into decommissioning.

Scheetz feels a 9-month moratorium would be more appropriate. Studies can be done, legislation will be done.

Motion by Scheetz to change the date of expiration on the ordinance draft to 9 months.

Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to amend the resolution language to restate support for data centers that are unlocking or making nuclear development possible, take out language that would still allow data centers that are for nuclear to apply to rezone to the EU-3 large scale data center district, and sets up the Board to allow nuclear power structure accessory data centers to go through the ordinance amendment process

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to adopt Resolution 2026-7-91, as amended.

VOTE: Running-Marquardt & Meisheid – Aye Scheetz – Nay

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM
ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW APPLICATIONS TO REZONE PROPERTY
TO THE EU-3 LARGE-SCALE DATA CENTER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors ("Board") has adopted zoning regulations governing Large-Scale Data Centers within Linn County, including the EU-3 Large-Scale Data Center District; and WHEREAS, since adoption of those regulations, additional information has become available regarding the potential cumulative impacts of Large-Scale Data Center development on public infrastructure, water resources, electrical infrastructure, emergency response capabilities, transportation systems, and long-range land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that Large-Scale Data Centers constitute regional-scale infrastructure projects whose long-term impacts on electrical generation and transmission, water resources, transportation systems, emergency services, economic development, and land use frequently extend beyond the boundaries of a single jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that meaningful evaluation of these issues requires coordination among affected municipalities, utility providers, regional planning organizations, state agencies, emergency management agencies, and other public and private stakeholders before additional Large-Scale Data Center applications are accepted for review; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that because the EU-3 Large-Scale Data Center District was adopted before substantial additional technical information and regional planning discussions became available, it is appropriate to evaluate whether the County's recently adopted regulations adequately address emerging issues associated with Large-Scale Data Center development and whether amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance or related planning documents are warranted before accepting additional applications for Large-Scale Data Center development; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that preserving the status quo while this planning effort is completed will promote orderly growth, protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and ensure that future development occurs under regulations that fully reflect the County's planning objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the important role that advanced energy infrastructure, including existing and future nuclear energy generating facilities, may play in supporting economic development and the attraction of energy-intensive industries. The Board further finds that nothing in this Resolution is intended to preclude the Board from considering future amendments to the Linn County Unified Development Ordinance that may authorize data centers as accessory and/or supportive uses to nuclear energy generating facilities following appropriate planning, technical review, public participation, and legislative action; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends that this moratorium be temporary in nature, limited in duration, and used solely to allow sufficient time to evaluate existing regulations, obtain additional technical information, engage with stakeholders, prepare technical studies, develop or update planning documents as appropriate, and determine whether amendments to the Linn County Unified Development Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, or other County policies are appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapters 331 and 335 authorize counties to adopt and administer zoning regulations, protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and amend zoning regulations when appropriate;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors that a moratorium is hereby established on the acceptance for filing and processing of new applications to rezone property to the EU-3 Large-Scale Data Center District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. Central Time on January 1, 2028, and thereafter may be extended by further action of the Board if the Board determines that additional time is necessary to complete technical studies; collect and evaluate relevant data; coordinate with municipalities, neighboring jurisdictions, utility providers, regional planning organizations, emergency management agencies, state and federal agencies, and other affected stakeholders; evaluate opportunities for regional planning and intergovernmental collaboration; consider updates to the Linn

County Comprehensive Plan and related planning documents; obtain public input; and develop any amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance the Board determines to be appropriate, including evaluating potential amendments to the EU-2 zoning district regarding data center uses accessory to nuclear energy generating facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board reserves the right to terminate the moratorium prior to its expiration upon adoption of amendments to the Linn County Unified Development Ordinance concerning Large-Scale Data Centers, or upon determination by the Board that such amendments are no longer necessary.

Karen Heiderscheit, Asst. Finance Dir., discussed a fiscal year 2027 budget amendment request and set a public hearing on the proposed amended budget for Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 10 a.m. She is requesting to increase the dollar amount for the capital projects that are carryover from FY26 by \$5 million, as well as an additional \$40,000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle for Planning and Development.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to set Public Hearing on the FY27 proposed amended budget for Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Public Comment: Tamara Krug, 3815 1st Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, feels that Supervisor Scheetz was well prepared for his written statement and did not listen to the public. She hopes there is no one in his ear. She asks that he works with the other agencies that are here today.

Brandy Meisheid, Supervisor, thanks everyone for coming today and wishes America a happy 250th birthday on Saturday.

Brad Schroeder, 406 Prairie Hill Ct., Atkins, feels the city of Atkins needs to be on board with Linn County on the proposed power plant since they are in the direct area that will be affected. A traffic study needs to be addressed as it's a dangerous spot on Highway 30 with the line of sight. He asks the Board to work with Atkins.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir., addressed comments made by Supervisor Meisheid earlier in the meeting that the City of Cedar Rapids water study showed that the water was fine. She clarified that's not what their water study said and their scope was completely different.

Kirsten Running-Marquardt, Supervisor, appreciates the public being engaged and wants them to know the Board is listening and trying to be engaged as best as possible.

Adjournment at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Ana Brunscheen, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors