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Council tables consideration of wind energy ban

(KMZA)--The Seneca City Council has tabled consideration of the adoption of an ordinance that would ban commercial/utility grade wind energy systems within the zoning jurisdiction of the city of Seneca.

The Council voted at their August 3 meeting to table consideration of the ordinance until their August 17 meeting to allow City Attorney Martin Mishler to review information presented by rural Seneca resident Laurie Schmelzle.

The city Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommended that the ordinance be adopted following a public hearing on July 21.

Schmelze told the Council she believes the ordinance would limit property rights and could have a substantial economic impact on those living within the city's zoning jurisdiction, which extends three miles outside the city limits.

Currently, wind energy systems are permitted as a conditional use in areas with a transitional Ag zoning classification.

The proposed change is based on input from a FlashVote survey the city conducted earlier this year that saw over 75 percent of some 60 anonymous respondents indicate they oppose wind farm development.

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