



Agenda
Jefferson County Planning Commission
Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM

**By order of the President of the Jefferson County Planning Commission,
Public Participation is available in-person only.
The meeting will be broadcast live via ZOOM for viewing purposes only.**

In-Person Meeting Location: County Commission Meeting Room located in the main level of the Jefferson County Government Complex (entrance on East side of the building)
393 North Lawrence Street, Charles Town, WV 25414

ZOOM Broadcast Information*: Meeting ID: 842 1802 8976
Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84218028976>

**If watching live broadcast, please ensure your microphone is muted and be mindful that your video is streaming to others.*

There is no public comment for the following items.

- 1. Discussion and Possible Action:** Discussion on Jefferson County Circuit Court Case # CC-19-2025-C-93 (RE: Sidewinder Enterprises, LLC v. Jefferson County Planning Commission) with legal counsel.
- 2. Actionable Correspondence**
- 3. Nonactionable Correspondence**
 - a. Emails re: "Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes" received between 07/01/25 – 07/07/25 from the following citizens:
 - i. Lisa White, Peggy Bowers, Evelyn Gettys, Kay Schultz, Anita Hill, David Maxfield, Sara Thomsen, Frank van Hilst
 - b. Sam Makita
 - c. League of Women Voters of Jefferson County

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:47 PM
To: 'Lisa White'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

Good afternoon,

This email is to confirm receipt of your submission. We will include your correspondence in the packet to the Planning Commission for the next applicable meeting. This packet will be made available on the County's webpage by close of business on the Friday before the next applicable meeting.

Thank you and have a nice day.

Colin Uhry, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Office of Planning and Zoning
304-728-3228

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa White <Hazeldog72@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 8:14 PM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckeyes@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please vote NO on the new Policy for public hearings.

Please remove the 90-minute limit on the public portion of any one agenda item from the policy. This policy may infringe on the due process rights of any person who does not get to speak due to the time limit.

By making this change through policy rather than a bylaw change the Planning Commission appears to be skipping the public hearing and vote by the County Commission that would be required for a bylaw change.

The Planning Commission should represent the people, and needs to hear from the public to best represent them.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,
Lisa White

--

Lisa White
Hazeldog72@gmail.com

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:43 PM
To: 'Peggy Bowers'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

Good afternoon,

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Office of Planning and Zoning
304-728-3228

-----Original Message-----

From: Peggy Bowers <sundogspeg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 5, 2025 12:09 PM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckkeys@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

--

Peggy Bowers
sundogspeg@gmail.com

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:44 PM
To: 'Evelyn Gettys'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

Good afternoon,

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304-728-3228

-----Original Message-----

From: Evelyn Gettys <Eg29803@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 5, 2025 10:35 PM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckeys@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

Dear Planning. Commissioners,

vote NO on the new Policy for public hearings.

Vote No on making changes to historical and environmental evaluations, This is totally unacceptable that you want to limit people's comments and also removing historical requirements from a historical area such as Jefferson County has been the location of many historical events .

The committee has stated that it welcomes public comments but this motion to limit and restrict public comments suggest otherwise, and that the committee is only interested in itself. If you're not interested in listening to the public comments, maybe you're in the wrong committee and should consider just resigning and go home, but if you're gonna be hold a public service position, then be one and not seek to make this position customize to your individual wants.

Please remember we, the public, the residence of this community were here in the room for the public meeting on the water bottling issue. It was a long meeting and that seems to be the issue. At which time or which speaker did the committee know that they would vote the public's please?

I anticipate that one of the reasons why you're presenting this limitation on public comment is that you know that Sidewinder will be back , and you don't wanna be bothered with the public's opinion and reactions.

This is our community; we live here. I don't know what your plans are, but I plan to stay here and continue to live here as long as I can.

I am going to suggest that the meeting can be shorten by more preparation by the committee and not waste the public's time with the long executive meetings that you take . Maybe there should be a time limit on those meeting which keeping the public waiting on you. Maybe bringing in folks singers would help the time pass.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Evelyn Gettys
Sheperdstown WV

--

Evelyn Gettys
Eg29803@yahoo.com

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:40 PM
To: 'Kay Schultz'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kay Schultz <kay.nixschultz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 5, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckeyes@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

Dear Planning Commissioners,

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By making this change through policy rather than a bylaw change the Planning Commission appears to be skipping the public hearing and vote by the County Commission that would be required for a bylaw change.

The Planning Commission should represent the people, and needs to hear from the public to best represent them.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

--
Kay Schultz
kay.nixschultz@gmail.com

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:44 PM
To: 'Anita Hill'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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Colin Uhry, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Office of Planning and Zoning
304-728-3228

-----Original Message-----

From: Anita Hill <dhill20@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 1:32 PM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckkeys@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

--
Anita Hill
dhill20@frontiernet.net

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:48 PM
To: 'David Maxfield'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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-----Original Message-----

From: David Maxfield <Dkmaxfield@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckkeys@jeffersoncountywv.org>
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Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,
David Maxfield

--

David Maxfield
Dkmaxfield@frontiernet.net

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:45 PM
To: 'Sara Thomsen'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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Colin Uhry, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Office of Planning and Zoning
304-728-3228

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Thomsen <kermit1953@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 7:11 PM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckeys@jeffersoncountywv.org>
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Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

--

Sara Thomsen
kermit1953@gmail.com

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:45 PM
To: 'Frank van Hilst'
Subject: RE: Please don't limit public input to 90 minutes

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-----Original Message-----

From: Frank van Hilst <frank@vanhilst.net>
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>; michaelshpepp@me.com; louthan@frontiernet.net; jware@greenhorizonsturf.com; donniefisher@yahoo.com; howell.aaron.j@gmail.com; Cara Keys <ckeyes@jeffersoncountywv.org>
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The Planning Commission should represent the people, and needs to hear from the public to best represent them.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

--
Frank van Hilst
frank@vanhilst.net

Planning Department

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 2:46 PM
To: 'Sam Makita'
Subject: RE: Oversight & Solar Policy in Jefferson County – Questions and Input

Good afternoon,

This email is to confirm receipt of your submission. We will include your correspondence in the packet to the Planning Commission for the next applicable meeting. This packet will be made available on the County's webpage by close of business on the Friday before the next applicable meeting.

Thank you and have a nice day.

Colin Uhry, Planning & Zoning Clerk
Office of Planning and Zoning
304-728-3228

From: Sam Makita <samwiserabbit@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org>
Subject: Re: Oversight & Solar Policy in Jefferson County – Questions and Input

Ah, I see! I'm new to participating and wasn't aware the deadline had passed. I guess I have a comment about that, too:

Currently, the deadline for submitting public comment falls before the agenda is made available, which makes it difficult for residents to provide timely, relevant input unless they are already closely following specific issues. That seems like a barrier to participation for the general public and could lead to frustration, especially now that live comment is limited to in-person attendees and capped at 90 minutes.

What if there was a simple issue preview list, even if marked as tentative or subject to change? I think it would go a long way toward improving transparency and public trust. Other counties (such as Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax County, VA) already offer tools like rolling dockets, advance agendas, or planning trackers that give residents a heads-up about what's coming to the Commission in the next few meetings.

The list could be updated monthly and include:

- Titles or brief descriptions of pending applications
- Tentative dates for first hearings
- Ongoing ordinance/text amendment efforts
- Any scheduled work sessions on major topics (e.g. solar, data centers, zoning updates)

I don't think it would increase workload significantly, since much of this information is already being tracked internally. Making it available to the public could also help reduce the pushback you're getting around compressed comment windows or in-person-only participation, as people would be able to make their informed statements in advance.

Thank you for considering this request. I'm happy to support this effort in any way that's helpful. I'm no tech genius but I'm pretty handy with Google Sheets.

Kind Regards,
Sam Makita
Harpers Ferry

On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 9:22 AM Planning Department <PlanningDepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org> wrote:

Good morning,

This email is to confirm receipt of your submission. Unfortunately the submission was received after the deadline to include it in the planning commission's packet, however, we will print off your submission for our Commissioners to review. Please note, late submissions may not receive full consideration due to the lack of time for proper review by the Commissioners.

Thank you and have a nice day.

Colin Uhry

Planning/Zoning Clerk

Office of Planning and Zoning

304-728-3228



RECEIVED

JUL 07 2025

JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING
ZONING & ENGINEERING

To Jefferson County Planning Commission

From: League of Women Voters of Jefferson County

Subject: Changes to Planning Commission Public Meetings Policy

Date: July 7, 2025

On July 8, the Planning Commission will discuss limiting the total amount of time to hear from the public to 90 minutes at a public hearing. The Planning Commission policies already limit individuals to 3 minutes, which is reasonable. This new policy would cut off public hearing comment at 90 minutes even though community members are still waiting to be heard.

There has been no opportunity for the public to comment on this change nor is there time to hear from the public on July 8.

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County has a longstanding commitment to the public having access to their government officials and having the opportunity to voice their concerns to them. Public Hearing is a key step in that process. The Jefferson County LWV Board is very concerned about restricting the opportunity for ALL members of the public to testify at Public Hearings and request that the Planning Commission hear from the public prior to enacting this mandate.

The Public Hearing is also an important opportunity for government officials to learn of community concerns and to find out information that might be relevant to the decision at hand.

This public should be given the opportunity to comment on this major change in Public Hearing policy.

Lyn Widmeyer Acting President

304-279-3201