

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT
ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 803 OF THE THIBODAUX
ZONING ORDINANCE SO AS TO CREATE SUB-
SECTION M-COMMERCIAL/LARGE SCALE SOLAR
SYSTEMS**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that Article VIII, Section 803 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended and re-enacted so as to add Sub-Section (M) to read as follows:

Article VIII – Use Standards

Section 803. Use Standards

M. Commercial/Large Scale Solar Systems – Ground mount solar energy systems that are designed for providing energy to off-site uses or export to the wholesale market require a Special Exception and shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Lot Zoning Ordinance. The following information shall also be submitted as part of the application for Special Exception.

(1) A site plan with existing conditions showing the following:

Ownership information for the proposed development, existing property lines and property lines extending one hundred (100) feet from the exterior boundaries including the names of adjacent property owners and the current use of those properties.

- a. Existing public and private roads, showing widths of the road and any associated easements
- b. Location and size of any abandoned wells, sewerage treatment systems
- c. Existing buildings and impervious surfaces
- d. A contour map showing topography at two (2) foot intervals. A contour map of surrounding properties may also be required.
- e. Existing vegetation (list type and percentage of coverage: i.e., cropland / plowed fields, grassland, wooded areas, etc.)
- f. Any delineated wetland boundaries
- g. A copy of the current FEMA FIRM maps that shows the subject property including the one-hundred year floor elevation and any regulated flood protection elevation, if available.
- h. Surface water drainage patterns
- i. The location of any subsurface drainage tiles to the extent known

(2) A conceptual site plan of proposed conditions showing the following which will not be significantly altered prior to submitting for a building permit:

- a. Location and spacing of the solar panels
- b. Location to access roads
- c. Location of underground or overhead electric lines connecting the Concentrated Solar Energy Soldering (CSES) to a building, substation or other electric load
- d. New electric equipment other than at the existing building or substation that is to be the connection point for the CSES
- e. A statement as to the tax parcels impacted by the development and the projected responsibility for payment of ad valorem real property taxes during the life of the project
- f. The minimum individual tract required shall be four (4) acres

(3) Fencing and Weed/Grass Control

- a. The applicant shall submit an acceptable weed/fence control plan for property inside and outside the fenced area for the entire property impacted by Solar Energy Systems (SES) construction. The Operating Company during the operation of CSES shall adhere to this vegetation plan.
- b. Perimeter fencing shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet. The fence shall contain appropriate warning signage that is posted such that it is clearly visible on the property.

(4) Setbacks and Yards

- a. Solar panels shall be setback a minimum of fifty (50) feet from all property lines of property that is not a part of the special exception permit application. Solar panels shall be kept at least one hundred (100) feet from principal residential dwellings that are not part of the Special Exception permit.
- b. Yards or lot coverage limits shall not apply to the solar panel installations of a CSES, however, the City may establish reasonable setbacks and drainage accommodations as may be necessary to prevent erosion and negative impacts to neighboring properties, as part of any Special Permit issued.

(5) Fire Protection

- a. A fire protection plan for the construction and the operation of the CSES, and emergency access to the site.

(6) Compliance with Building Code

- a. All solar energy systems shall comply with all City of Thibodaux building and maintenance codes as well as all Federal and State requirements. A final site plan will be submitted to the City of Thibodaux upon application for the project's building permit. In the event the solar panel height, layout, lot coverage or other information provided in the application for special use permit varies substantially from that approved as provided herein, pursuant to this, an amendment shall be required to the Special Use Permit.

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this _____ day of _____ 2021.

Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

Chad J. Mire, President