



118 Central Avenue North, New Prague, MN 56071
phone: 952-758-4401 fax: 952-758-1149

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CC: JOSHUA M. TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: KEN ONDICH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
EVAN C. GARIEPY, PLANNER
SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #368 FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE
UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE PERTAINING TO WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026

At their August 26th meeting, the Planning Commission inquired whether the Unified Development Code addresses windmills, also known as wind energy conversion systems (WECS). The Code does not currently address WECS, which means it is prohibited through omission. Staff has not had any inquiries from residents about installing one. However, Staff and the Planning Commission believe it is best to address them prior to any inquiries rather than after.

The proposed amendment adds definitions for WECS, including small and large ones. It also lists WECS as a conditional use within all zoning districts. This would apply to WECS of all sizes, and would allow the Planning Commission and City Council discretion in allowing, denying, or imposing conditions upon potential WECS within the City.

On September 16th, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and unanimously voted (4-0) to forward the proposed amendments to City Council for their consideration and approval.

A full copy of the staff report presented at the Planning Commission meeting on September 16th is attached as information.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council conduct a first reading and approve the introduction of Ordinance #368 for amendments pertaining to the UDC regarding WECS.