

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLAINSBORO ADDING SECTION 85-34 ESTABLISHING DESIGN CRITERIA FOR SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

WHEREAS, solar and wind energy installations have become increasingly important and prevalent power sources;

WHEREAS, the Revised Master Plan for the Township of Plainsboro states that “The Township may consider the introduction and use of solar energy systems through the land development and zoning permit process”;

WHEREAS, Chapter 85, Article VI of Township Code (“Subdivision and Site Plan Review – Improvements and Design Standards”) addresses the requirements and principles that applicants for subdivision must adhere to;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee recognize that solar and wind energy are beneficial to the Township, its businesses, and its residents, and also recognize that there must be uniform design criteria for such installations to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Plainsboro, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section One. New section 85-34 is added to the Code of the Township of Plainsboro as follows:

§ 85-34. Design Criteria for Solar and Wind Energy Installations.

Solar and wind energy installations, including rooftop, ground-mounted (including pole mounted), and parking lot canopy mounted installations shall be designed in a manner that is compatible and complementary to the building and site improvements of the property involved and the surrounding area. Rooftop installations shall be designed so as not to be visible from ground level, whether through placement on the roof (setback from parapet) and/or installation method (flush-mounted roof panels). Where such installation would otherwise be visible from ground level, effective screening shall be introduced that is architecturally integral and compatible with the design of the host building. Ground or pole mounted installations shall be situated on the site in a manner that allows effective landscape or other screening treatments to be installed so as to limit views of the installation from off-site. Parking lot canopy and other ground mounted installations shall utilize high quality components, materials, finishes (e.g., powder coat painted box beams and/or tubular steel with matching edge treatments) that results in an installation that is integrally designed to be compatible and complementary to the building and site improvements on the property and the surrounding area

Section Two. Repealer, Severability and Effective Date.

- A. Repealer. Any and all Ordinances inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.
- B. Severability. In the event that any clause, section, paragraph or sentence of this Ordinance is deemed to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, then the Township Committee hereby declares its intent that the balance of the Ordinance not affected by said invalidity shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that it allows the Township to meet the goals of the Ordinance.
- C. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon proper passage in accordance with the law.

Introduced at a Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Plainsboro on **February 10, 2021** and published on **February 13, 2021**. Adopted at a Meeting held on **March 10, 2021** and published on **March 13, 2021**.