

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
January 7, 2026**

Call to Order: Mayor Huddlestun called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, and moment of silence. The meeting was held at the School City of Hobart High School Auditorium, 2211 E. 10th Street and open to the public. The change of venue and call-in number for the zoom connection was available and listed on the agenda and the website and posted on the front door of Hobart City Hall, 414 Main St.

Roll Call: The following members were present in person: Mr. Kopil, Mr. Kara, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Winstead, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Absent: Mr. Brezik. Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Longer and City Attorney McCarthy.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Kara to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2025 and the Memorandum of the Executive Session of December 29, 2025, as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Correspondence: Clerk-Treasurer Longer distributed the End of Year Report of Encumbrances and Transfers to the Council in accordance with Council Resolution 2025-04.

Committee Reports: There were no Committee Reports.

Department Reports: There were no Department Reports.

Approval of the Agenda: Mayor Huddlestun stated the City Attorney has distributed Public Hearing Rules for the Council to consider and this may be added to the agenda. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kara, to approve the agenda with the addition as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 2025-48: An Ordinance of the City of Hobart, Indiana, providing that the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana be Amended by Changing an Established B-1 & R-1 Zone to a PUD Zone Classification: SE of 10th St. & Lake Park Avenue (Sapper's property), 12.44 acres, Dan Tursman, Luke Land II LLC: The Ordinance was read. Mr. Kara stated this was sent back to the Plan Commission by the Council and modified by the developer, removing any townhouses and duplexes, making the entire development single family residential and the Plan Commission has now issued a Favorable Recommendation on this petition with the condition that the Petitioner work with staff to ensure the covenants are amended to match the PUD and during the subdivision process the right-of-way is reduced to 50' and adding 10' to the rear yards along Lake Park Avenue. Motion by Mr. Kara, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve Ordinance 2025-48 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Rules for Public Hearing: **Subject:** Declaration of Economic Revitalization Area for Tax Abatement: Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to adopt the Rules for the Public Hearing as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Purpose of This Hearing: This is a public hearing where you will have an opportunity to **comment** on the proposed designation of an economic revitalization area. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive and hear

remonstrances and objections from interested persons with respect to the Economic Revitalization Area. You are being provided an opportunity to share your comments on this specific subject.

Speaking Guidelines

Time Limits:

- Each speaker is limited to two (2) minutes in order to allow everyone a chance to speak
- This is not a question-and-answer session – this is your opportunity to speak -the council will not be answering your questions during your 2 minutes
- You cannot yield your time to another person
- If you have a comment, you must speak for yourself

Procedure:

1. When you reach the podium, state your name and address
2. After speaking, sign in so we can properly document your name and address in the minutes

Conduct Expectations

Respectful Participation:

- Everyone has the right to be heard when providing public comment
- Do not disrupt others while they are speaking
- Keep your comments focused on the issue at hand—the declaration of an economic revitalization area for tax abatement
- No signs should be held up during the public hearing which obstructs the view of others in the meeting
- No jeering, booing, heckling, personal attacks or talking over speakers

Enforcement:

- If anyone talks over or heckles a speaker, you will be warned to respect the speaker's time
- Comments shall not include vindictive or personal attacks
- You will be removed from the meeting by law enforcement if (i) these types of disruptions continue after appropriate warning, (ii) removal is necessary to maintain order or ensure the safety of another person, or (iii) you violate the rules and policies relating to the conduct of the meeting or otherwise commit a criminal offense. If these types of disruptions continue after repeated warnings, you will be asked to be leave immediately or you will be removed from the meeting by law enforcement

Additional Information

- There will be no further public comment after the public hearing is closed
- There will be no public comment period at the end of the meeting due to time constraints
- The City has received letters from citizens via email, and those letters will be reflected in the record
- The Mayor and the City Attorney on behalf of the Mayor may enforce these public hearing rules in coordination with law enforcement as may be necessary

Public Hearing: Proposed Economic Revitalization Area: SE Corner of 61st Ave and Colorado St.:

The Mayor opened the public hearing and asked for public comment.

Bill Eich, 1777 Gurney St., representing the Eagle Creek Homeowner's Association, the Board and the members. He stated they are opposed to the development at this location and stated an ERA is not warranted as this is not a blighted area, not deteriorated and not obsolete. He requested that if the Council chooses to move forward with this designation and the related Resolutions on tonight's agenda that there be established an independent \$2.25Billion irrevocable trust with a bank as Trustee, funded up front, to provide financial remedies for future negative environmental impacts experienced by neighbors of the development.

Jessica Gadberry, 332 W. Old Ridge Rd., questioned what the full amount of the tax abatement being considered and how much the City will lose in property taxes and stated this should be public information. She also asked if there will be full transparency with choosing how the community impact money will be spent. She stated the Council has been less than transparent about this development and the signing of an NDA proves that the Mayor and Council are on the side of Amazon, not the residents.

Lisa Vallie, 1649 Lake Ave, Whiting, organizing director for Just Transition NW Indiana, a local Environmental Justice non-profit, stated she is here in support of the local residents opposing this

development and urging the Council to table any action on property. She stated she has worked with residents in Michigan City to slow the rush to allow more data centers as they are already impacting the community with 24/7 construction. She noted the developer is willing to say anything to secure tax breaks and approving these will decrease whatever leverage the City has to regulate what and how development occurs. She noted for example, in Michigan City, no Project Labor Agreement was required and union members protested when Amazon brought in non-union labor. She noted this is just an example of promises made but not realized and asked the Council to table their vote.

Guy Rhodes, 1715 Stellar St., stated he moved here in 2023 looking to raise his family and has seen big industry develop properties only to go bankrupt and abandon the property in the future. He stated he works in live entertainment and doesn't need or want AI as it is a threat to his business and to a number of artists that he works with. He questioned why billionaire companies need tax breaks and stated they should be made to pay their fair share. He also stated the New Carlisle Data Center is unattractive and looks like a data center prison. He also mentioned that talking with sound professionals he works with, the noise ordinance change from 50 to 55 decibels was a significant increase, 1.7 times louder. He stated there was no assurances for the neighbors about property values, no assurances about water quality for those on wells, and reminded the Council they work for the residents.

Nancy Oparka, 314 N. Virginia St., stated she moved here in 2003 as this town is known as a friendly, neighborhood city, but is concerned as she has an auditory disease and it involves much more than noise. She stated that money isn't everything and the community that lives here does so without needing a Santa Claus data center.

Angelita Soriano, 1741 Imperial St., stated that from the start of this process the common denominator has been the lack of transparency with answers also pointing to no answers until the Site Plan is discussed. She wondered where the site plan is and how the City and the Plan Commission could remain transparent and objective if the tax abatement agreements are approved before the site plan. She stated she believes this raises serious ethical questions as to whether this development is being done to benefit the community or just Amazon and it is unfair to the Plan Commission to put them in a position where anything they do will be overshadowed by the up-front gift from Amazon. She also requested a comparison chart, showing what the City is receiving from the tax abatement with the cash upfront compared to what the City is losing in abated taxes – showing a true fiscal analysis of whether this is good for the City. She asked the Council to table the decision and hold a true town hall meeting to review the site plan and the fiscal analysis so the community has the opportunity to truly understand the enormity of this project.

Cody Graft, 7009 Colorado St., stated he has watched numerous Council meetings and numerous requests being made to the Council that have been ignored. He asked the Council to get the facts of the development out to the public, put it on a ballot, stop being sneaky and doing things under the table. He stated he knows the Council has integrity so they should follow through and do what is good for the community and table any decisions.

Suzanna Enslin, 919 E. Home Ave., questioned where the Hobart Chamber and Economic Development teams have been involved with such a large development being proposed. She is also concerned about when the funding ends and the money has been used up in upgraded infrastructure and projects to enhance the community, what does the City do then? She noted she has submitted numerous questions that the community needs answered and stated that if Amazon wants to be a good neighbor, they will welcome a town hall meeting and a live Q&A and answer the questions openly. She mentioned individuals who have worked hard to improve our community whose dreams are threatened with loss of property value due to this development and are not being given answers to their questions. She also questioned whether those who live in the area have established a baseline for their wells to ensure that their wells are not impacted.

Ted Smukler, 1221 W. 38th Place, stated that in reviewing the minutes of January 2025 Plan Commission meeting when the developer stated there was no need for an environmental impact study but while there may be no need, the Council should be holding them to a higher standard and requiring this. He also wants to know the fiscal comparison of the upfront "gift" and the tax breaks being considered. He stated he has looked at the website for "Good Jobs First" which is a national organization that studies subsidies

that cities and towns get to bribe companies to come. He stated that in New Carlisle, the subsidies total \$4Billion. He stated the \$47Million being offered is a bribe that is not part of the budget process. He urged the Council to table any decision on these resolutions as he is reminded of the City of Chicago with their corrupt politicians when the Mayor gave away the Skyway and the parking meters for an influx of money.

Joe Conn, 910 Lake St., stated he has never seen anything like this evening when the Hobart Police were “wandering” the residents before coming into this public meeting for weapons and stated the Council has created the need for this. He also stated that Councilman Claussen recently provided information about this site that goes back decades but he believed that anyone who thought an industrial park would be a good use for that site is sick in the head. He requested the Council table this resolution until a financial comparison can be completed to show the impact of the upfront funds as opposed to property tax funds. He noted this will allow for further leverage on behalf of the City. If this is not done, it is another example of how the Council has been over-accommodating to the developers. He noted if you cannot manage the City, resign.

Allison Urbanczyk, 1130 Lakeview Dr., shared some concerns from a resident building a multi-generational home less than 1-mile from the site. She noted she chose the setting because it is surrounded by nature scenes and wildlife. When neighbors have asked for information, they have been mocked and belittled and not given answers. She asked the Council to slow down, do the research the residents deserve, consider alternatives that create jobs and enhance what we already enjoy in our community. She noted the site is incredibly large and rich with opportunity.

Monica Regier, stated she grew up in Hobart and stated that most people don’t understand that this area is in a TIF District which already provides incentives for development and these mega corporations don’t need further incentives. She noted this also sets a precedent for future developers to expect the same incentives and we will already have to pay for the infrastructure upgrades including NIPSCO that the State has allowed and with all the incentives already in place, there is not enough information available yet for the representatives on the Council to vote on this proposal that truly does serve the citizens, not the corporation.

Linda Berendsen, 1221 W. 38th Place, stated she had heard information on NPR that a study was done regarding Parkinson’s Disease and if you live within a mile of a golf course you had over twice the chance of getting Parkinson’s than if you lived 6 miles away. This is due to the stormwater runoff and pesticides used on the golf courses. With data centers being so new, there has not been time to conduct studies of the impact and long-term effects these may present, particularly to people’s health. She stated she does not want the Council to gamble with people’s health.

Thalia Perez, 7192 Merganser St., stated they purchased what they thought was their “forever” home has as a 7-, 5- and 2-year-old at home. She stated her son has severe asthma, is in and out of the hospital and is concerned what this will do to her children’s health. She noted he also has anxiety and the news he hears about data centers and their impact causes him stress. She asked the Council to care about the residents.

Albina Venegas Roman, 2083 Tawny St., asked whether she gets a break on the over \$5,000 in property taxes that she pays. She noted she also pays HOA dues and is concerned that she will still have enough water to keep up with her property and water her plants. She also has watched her NIPSCO bills increase and stated the AI bubble will burst and will be costing the state. She said the Council has been seeing and hearing push back from the constituents but they are not listening to the will of the people. She stated this issue is not going away and the people will not forget in the next election and the consequences of the Council decision will have to be lived with for the rest of the residents’ lives.

Celeste Roche, 1354 Lincoln St., stated her concerns about how this is considered an industrial site across the street from homes and neighborhoods. For a company to get a tax break that the community does not want, does not make sense. Residents pay their taxes to live here. The health impacts caused by water, air and noise pollution will be irreversible. She stated her daughter is a special needs child and while she wanted to add on to her home to allow her daughter some independence, she is second guessing this now due to this development. She added that if the Council grants these incentives, they will be the ones who killed Hobart and hurt the ones who stay here.

LaDonna Sanchez, 1688 Imperial St., approximately 200' from the site. She stated she has autoimmune disease and this project will increase her risk and her reliance on her home for rest and healing will be destroyed. The round-the-clock cooling systems, generator use and constant noise and air pollution can trigger increased health issues and consequences. The noise disrupts sleep, the emissions adds to air pollution, the heat increases fatigue, none of which are minor issues but directly affect whether someone with autoimmune disease can function or stay well. She expressed concerns that her issues won't be addressed until it is too late and she doesn't look sick but it will affect her health. She asked the Council to pause and consider the real human cost of this decision.

Jake Cseke, 1205 Lincoln St., stated in reviewing the information presented, the City is to receive \$175 Million through 2028 from a \$11Billion company is a drop in the bucket and he feels like it is not enough to mitigate the community impact the development will cause. He also stated the \$5Million payment when the first permit is pulled seems like a payment for a permit and seems sketchy. He noted we are in a global climate crisis and these data centers use diesel fuel which is unregulated as to their emissions and the NipSCO/GenCo that depends on coal and natural gas burnings will all cause greater impact. The Lake County Council passed a resolution in 2023 specifically about data centers. He asked the Council to table taking any action until a site plan can be discussed and the impacts studied.

Jennifer McQuade, 6731 Grand Blvd., asked the Council to not grant tax relief to Amazon as it is one of the most profitable companies in the world and does not need tax abatement to survive. She noted that data centers provide very few jobs relative to their size and ecological impact while consuming enormous amounts of water and electricity. Granting a tax abatement will shift the tax burden on to residents and small businesses who already pay their fair share. If they want to build here, they should be willing to invest just like everyone else. She stated that fairness matters and fiscal responsibility matters. She asked that the Council stand up for the community, protect our tax base, and while we support business in Hobart, we do not subsidize corporations that do not need it.

Jennifer Prather, representing her sister that lives in the Green Acres subdivision, reminded the Mayor of the three pillars of a strong community from a statement he issued in 2023: Does it jeopardize public safety?; Does it make financial sense?; Does it impact the quality of life for our residents? She further stated Josh's commitment to help the residents of District 5 and to grow the City responsibly, attracting quality enterprises and to be selective in our choices, finding the right development, in the right locations and for the right reasons. The people elected the Mayor and trusted him to make the right decisions. She asked that the Council and the Mayor not sell out the City.

Sherry Valentine, 1329 California, stated she moved here 6 years ago to a quiet neighborhood. She voted for her representative because she believed that representative would do what was best for her and her neighbors. She stated the Council is not listening to the residents, nor do they care about what the residents have to say.

Lauren Wheat, 253 Heather Lane, asked whether the Council cared about the residents and wondered who signed the NDA to keep the information from the residents. *Much of the rest of her statement was inaudible.*

Gail Gray Sherman, 233 S. Ash St., stated concerns about her grandchildren and the possibility of cancer producing emissions and water pollution.

Logan Reid, 1324 Lincoln St., stated he works as an environmental scientist who has visited numerous Amazon facilities and stated that Amazon is a dirty company who will break every environmental rule because they have the money to "fix" any problems. Pollution from these data center sites will last long-term and jobs at these sites are only for construction using non-union workers. He asked the Council to table any decision on this development.

Bradley Johnson, 1130 E. 53rd Ave., expressed concerns about air pollution over the Hobart Pool and the bike path areas and particles being emitted into the air. He also read a campaign promise made by the current Mayor saying they stand for residents, not corporations and will work for the residents every day. He asked the Council to table any action on this resolution.

Barbara Poutellis, 6140 California St., stated that at least 4 counties in Indiana passed moratoriums on data centers due to either a lack of planning and/or community opposition. She noted that these large corporations target small towns and get them to move quickly to allow them to build without proper

regulations. The secretive nature of the transactions does not foster trust and the silence from the City officials is deliberate. She requested a moratorium on data centers in our city until a suitable location can be found. She also stated that data center ordinances should be regulatory ordinances, based on specific regulations. City officials should not be dealing with Amazon until an air-tight regulatory ordinance is in place.

Helen Engstrom, 5308 E. 61st Ave., she noted the number of people in the room this evening but no one has spoken for the proposed data center yet. She stated she had a conversation with School Supt. Dr. Buffington about putting together a collaborative group with representatives from the Data Center, the community, the elected officials and allow anyone to ask questions and get answers. She asked if the Council was ever going to answer any of the questions that had been posed and hoped they realized that transparency is an answer the people want and deserve.

Cathy Csatare, 429 Crestwood Dr., stated she pays her taxes but opposes the request for Amazon to get a tax break. If data centers were good for communities, other communities would be fighting to have them come into their communities rather than fighting to keep them out. There are many forms of economic development for a community that would provide greater and better opportunities. Amazon is not paying Hobart out of the goodness of their heart; they are paying to be able to build and ultimately kill our community. She asked the Council to please table any action.

Bryan Sons, Hobart Firefighters Local 1641, stated that the Firefighters Union never disregards citizens' comments or complaints but looks at this issue from a public safety perspective and the brothers and sisters in the firefighter's union that he looks after. He thanked the Mayor and the Council for their due diligence in studying this proposal and doing independent research on data centers already in existence. He noted appreciation for the front loading of community enhancement funding taking the city to the next level with the caveat of minimal impact on public safety resources but also from the perspective of layoffs that would be eminent with the arrival of the legislators SEA1. Those layoffs would be devastating for the brothers and sisters of the firefighter's union who put their lives on the line every day for the citizens of Hobart, hindering their safety and the safety of the residents served. He noted that creating a wheel tax would not make up for the losses anticipated with SEA1 but would also put further financial stress on the residents and on public safety. He thanked the Council for being forward thinking.

Sandy O'Brien, 5500 S. Liverpool Rd., stated she has always been an environmentalist and data centers have never been good for the environment because they use so much energy and are really unnecessary for normal use, cell phones, etc. and many of them are for the generative AI which may be a big "poof" that may never happen and wondered what then will happen to the data centers. She stated she has driven by the New Carlisle data centers and was amazed at the site but then read that that community also turned down additional data centers and said that was a telling thing in her mind that they had had enough. She hopes the Council closely considers the impacts and how much land is going to be taken up by these data centers and makes the right choice based on others saying enough.

Jesse Suarez, 791 W. 350N, requested the Council table this matter as the government hasn't provided a safety device for these projects that are going on and we don't know the environmental effects or the financial effects but we are trying to take care of one town. He stated the money is not worth the environmental impacts and the facts that people bring up to the Council are facts, not just made-up information and the Council should look at what is happening in other areas. When they write about data centers they won't write about how good it looks but about how much damage it does. He asked that the Council table this until the federal government can provide some protection from the damages the data centers may cause.

Colette Williams, 138 Wenatcher Place, Hebron, speaking on behalf of her parents who live in the impacted area at 73rd & Colorado. She stated the meetings are held and citizens get to speak but it appears that nothing is getting through to the Mayor and Council. When a development results in air pollution, water pollution, well damage, noise pollution, impact on wildlife and who knows what else, the people should be able to have a say. She stated that this development has a true cost that the citizens of Hobart will have to pay. She asked that this item be tabled and put on a ballot to let the residents truly speak and be heard.

Kreg Homoky, 1831 Hickey, representing Union Local 20, representing over 4,000 members, over 100 of which reside in Hobart, and an officer in the NW Indiana Building Trades, representing 10's of 1,000's of workers as well who all stand to benefit from this project and we rise in support of the project and applaud the Mayor and Council for the outstanding job done on bringing the economic impact to this community packaged with this project.

Michael Gajdik, 700 N. County Line Rd., suggested that the 9 officials should sign a pledge to buy the 1st 9 houses that go up for sale within ½ mile of the site. He asked for transparency and urged residents to force the officials to sign a pledge he suggested.

Elizabeth Gagliardi, 6800 Lincolnway St., thanked the Mayor for posting on facebook about the benefits to be received by the city with this project but she believes it looks like a bribe. She noted that nearly every other community considering data center proposals has had transparency with the residents and have turned down the projects. She stated that we are not here to talk about the environmental issues or health issues that data centers may cause, we are only here to discuss the tax breaks. She asked the Council table any action so more research can be done regarding the risks vs. benefits of this project. She asked that Hobart not be the community that sells out because money is being waved in your face. She asked that it be tabled and allow the residents to vote to see if they want this in the City.

Chuck Curry, 6570 Ameriplex Dr., Local 395, commended the Council for being the pulse, knowing the tax structure and knowing how business works and realizing that this is only a small portion of the community of Hobart and doing what is right.

Christine Pierce, 225 S. Linda St., stated the city has options and nobody is paying attention to these options and that is why it seems like a bribe. When she had issued memos about grants, not one councilman got back to her. She expressed concerns about the vibration of a data center breaking up the bedrock and believes an environmental impact study must be done to make informed decisions.

T.J. Gaertig, identified himself as a union member but mainly for collective bargaining. He stated if officials believe this is good for the City they should rent a motor home and park it outside a data center and stay there for 24 hours to understand some of the impact of these facilities. He requested a 6-month moratorium on any decision for a data center and asked that experts be hired to provide information as to the pros/cons of this development. He noted we are in a climate crisis and this data center will change the carbon footprint of Hobart. He stated the Council is moving too fast without sufficient information. He noted that each councilperson has leverage now to protect the citizens of Hobart and demand transparency and accountability.

Ada Yonez, 823 W. 7th Place, stated she has experience in disaster relief IT systems and stated it doesn't have to be this way. Service can be run on renewable energy sources such as solar, battery and other options. She asked the Council to stop and consider other alternatives without turning this into corporate greed. She urged them to table the vote and to take the community comments into the consideration.

Chris Ewing, 7130 State Place, stated he moved here about 15 years ago and has worked 20 years as a contractor for air pollution monitoring for the EPA and this area has one of the highest rates of air pollution in the world. He expressed concerns that his ground water is rusty enough and is concerned about where the water run-off will go and whether it will affect the streams.

Alice Pawlowski, 2450 Crabapple Ln., reviewed the tax abatement agreements and considerations contained therein. She noted that there is nothing in the agreements that prevents the company from appealing, challenging or otherwise applying for additional incentives.

April Peek, 2610 W. 49th Ave., stated that the agreements do not guarantee any specific level of investment or number of jobs and recommended the company disclose any other incentives or subsidies they have applied for or will receive. She asked for a moratorium on any decisions and believed the Ordinances need to catch up with the technology. She also asked that an environmental impact study be completed and more research be done on data centers.

Angelita Soriano asked that printed information from Good Jobs First be included in the record and handed it to Councilman Waldrop.

Shirley Best, 155 S. Illinois St., questioned the search procedures used to enter into the building this evening and stated this is not what Hobart is about. She stated she has lived here since 1965. She asked the Council to think about what decisions made today will do to the next generations of people who live

here. She noted that money is the root of all evil and the Lake County Council established an ordinance to regulate data centers to ensure that data centers are developed responsibly and in suitable locations and include development standards, submission of a detailed site plan, an emergency access plan, proof of sufficient electric and water supply, a water management plan, a noise mitigation strategy, a commitment to renewable energy, and an environmental impact study.

Robert Leon, 4902 E. 61st Ave., across the street from the proposed site. He stated he shares the concerns expressed here this evening and hoped the Council listens to those concerns. He noted he has resided here over 30 years, raised his family here, but this project is taking Hobart in the wrong direction. He thanked the Council and the residents for taking the time to address this issue.

Beth Blomiley, 254 N. Michigan Ave., expressed concerns about the energy and water crisis that this project will create. Nipsco bills have already increased and this is just the beginning. The water usage and energy usage will be about the size of a small city just for these data centers. She stated that we cannot sustain this and it is too much for us to pay for and too much impact on the environment. She recently read an article that said for every 100 words generated by AI, this uses 1 bottle of water. She asked that the Council table any action on this resolution.

Written correspondence:

A 4-page handout entitled Noise and Low Frequency Noise is attached to this record.

Letters submitted expressing opposition and requesting the tabling of this matter are included in the record (*attached*) from : District 1: Rosalie Pfister, Nancy Winkiewicz, Thalia Perez, Lauren Sheet, Tamela Priest, Dana Triber; District 2: Celeste Roche, Jodi Mellon; District 3: Dawn Waugaman, Kelly Shinabarger, Vernon Shaw, Mark & Alice Pawlowski; District 4: Jennifer Peterson, Justin Sawicki, Teresa Wilson, Timothy Wilson, Jerri Strayter, Rod Caesar, Nita Caesar, Marcelina Brown, Megan Workman, Janice Fay, Angelita Soriano, Gayle Moreno; District 5: Jessica Rodrick, Michelle Merrick, Ashley Hill; and Other/Unknown Districts: Amanda Vargas, Edith Medium, Andrew Wolfe, Lauren Reubelt.

A 3-page Memo dated January 7, 2026 from Greg LeRoy, Executive Director of "Good Jobs First" to the residents of Hobart is attached to this record.

An email dated 1/7/26 titled Remonstrance of Angelita Soriano, Albina Venegas-Roman, Barbara Koteles and Joseph Conn to Resolution 2026-01, 2026-02 and 2026-03 is attached to this record.

Mayor Huddleston called three times for anyone else wishing to speak during the public hearing and there being no further response, the public hearing was closed.

Resolution 2026-01: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana, Declaring and Confirming an Area within the City of Hobart, Indiana as an Economic Revitalization Area: The Resolution was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kara, to approve Resolution 2026-01 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

New Business:

Resolution 2026-02: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana Approving Real Property Tax Abatement with respect to Investments made by Amazon Data Services, Inc.: The Resolution was read. Attorney Thomas Everett, Barnes & Thornburg, stated that he and his colleagues, Randy Rompola and Rich Hall, represent the City in the negotiations of the various data center agreements. He stated that Resolution 2026-01, just approved, took final action designating the project site as an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA). This allows the Council to consider and grant tax abatements within the ERA. He noted that Barnes & Thornburg have been involved in negotiating deals throughout the state from small scale projects to large hyper-scale data centers and they are extremely comfortable with the terms of the agreements negotiated here with Amazon and represents a strong deal

to the benefit of the City. He provided the following overview of information as a summary of developer SB-1s and related agreements:

- Estimated total investment in the project: \$11 billion.
- Estimated jobs: 400+ permanent full-time positions averaging \$37.44/hour, in addition to temporary construction jobs.
- Contributions from Amazon to the City:
 - \$47 million by January 31, 2026
 - Additional contributions of \$45 million, \$43 million, and \$40 million after achievement of project construction milestones.
 - Contributions to be use by the City to improve the quality of life in the City to foster a strong community in which the Project will be located.
- Community Impact Payments from Developers to the City:
 - Up to \$2 million per building per year
 - Additional \$10 million payment after issuance of building permit for first building.
- Incentives from City to Developers:
 - 10-year, 100% real property tax abatement for each building
 - 35-year, 100% exemption for enterprise information technology equipment
- Contractors or subcontractors of any tier working onsite on the Project must comply with Hobart Municipal Code Section 33.200 through 33.207 regarding Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements.
- It is typical for incentives to be negotiated at the outset of a Project prior to site plan and other approvals. The developers will be required to comply with all applicable city ordinances and requirements in connection with those approvals.
- Amazon makes additional commitments including the following: generator testing, commissioning and emergency generator use; infrastructure improvements; fire training; sustainability; roadway improvements; acoustics; vibration; construction and decommissioning.
- No commitment by or expectation of the City to use the Contributions under the Agreements or other City funds to construct water and sewer infrastructure for the project.

He noted that Resolution 2026-02 approves the Real property tax abatement and tax abatement agreement for the portion of the project owned by Amazon Data Services, Inc.; Resolution 2026-03 approves the real property tax abatement and tax abatement agreement for the portion of the project owned by Hobart Owner LLC; and Resolution 2026-04 approves the Enterprise IT Exemption for the Project site, the Enterprise IT Agreement and also approves the Community Enhancement Agreement pursuant to which Amazon will make contributions to the City. He noted that no public hearing is required for any of these resolutions. Councilwoman Winstead asked if Amazon fails to make the contributions does the tax abatement cease?. Attorney Everett stated that if they fail to make the contributions as stated in the Community Enhancement Agreement, the City has the ability to suspend the Real Property Tax Abatements and the Enterprise IT Exemptions and if no payments are received after a year, the City may terminate the agreements. He noted the fact sheet has been distributed to the Council and copies are available for the public/press on the podium.

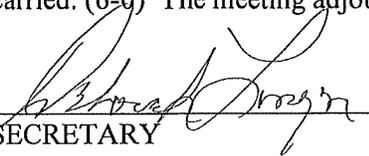
Attorney Jeff Bennett, representing Amazon, thanked the Mayor and Council for holding the public hearing this evening and requesting approval of the remaining items on the agenda related to this project. Resolution 2026-02 was read. Motion by Mr. Kara, seconded by Mr. Claussen, to approve Resolution 2026-02 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution 2026-03: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana, Approving Real Property Tax Abatement with respect to Investments made by Hobart Owner, LLC.: The Resolution was read. Motion by Mr. Kara, seconded by Mr. Claussen, to approve Resolution 2026-03 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution 2026-04: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana, approving a Form of Enterprise Information Technology Exemption Agreement and Community Enhancement Agreement with Amazon Data Services, Inc.: The Resolution was read. Motion by Mr. Kara, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve Resolution 2026-04 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Announcements: Mayor Huddleston asked if anyone had any announcements and there was no response.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kara, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER

Noise and Low Frequency Noise

On the radius map, the black circle represents the border around the property being proposed for the approximately 25 hyperscale data center buildings for Hobart near 61st and Colorado. The red circle is ½ mile out from the property, the orange is 1 mile out, the yellow is 1.5 miles out, the green is 2 miles out and the blue is 2.5 miles out.

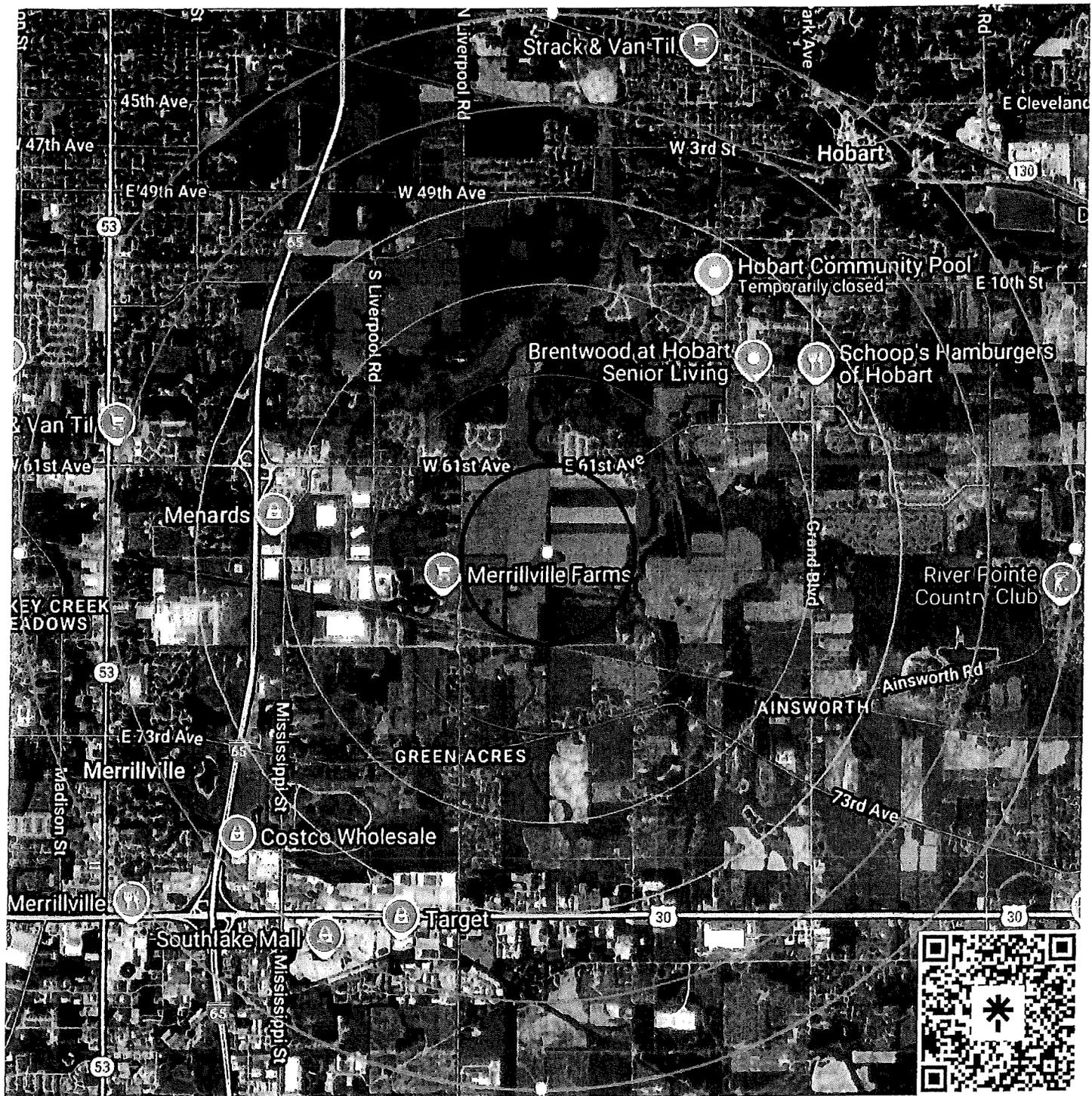
You may or may not live in these areas, but someones' kids do. If your child regularly attends any of the schools below or participates in after school activities at any of the following locations, he/she may be exposed to some level of Low Frequency Noise, about which many neighbors of hyperscale data centers report disturbances across the nation. The most common kind of noise is the kind we hear and it is measured in decibels. **However, Low Frequency Noise is the kind the human body can also actually FEEL and is often associated with that "low hum"** that former NASA analyst, John Lyver, has studied. It is NOT MEASURED IN DECIBELS. Equipment such as cooling fans that run 24/7, substations, transformers, etc., may emit the kind of Low Frequency Noise that our brains have difficulty filtering out and cannot shut off. Also, "So many large data buildings all within close proximity would amplify the sound and that level of sound could travel as far as 2.5 miles." (Shaw, Lyver)

In reference to a hyperscale data center in Fairfax County, VA, "Acoustics expert Braxton Boren, of American University, said the low-frequency sound emitted from this data center wouldn't be absorbed by the air and would travel long distances. He said it would be **stressful and annoying, reduce people's cognitive ability, disrupt their sleep and harm wildlife ecology**. He also said decibel level (dBA) isn't an accurate measure of this type of sound." (Hobbs) In another article, Boren states. "Low frequencies have very, very long wavelengths, so they're not able to be absorbed by air molecules. You could build a wall, and those wavelengths would by a process called diffraction, they would sort of bend and go right over it. You can't even block them in the normal way that you would with a lot of other sounds." (Llorico and Robinson) In other words, low frequency waves just bend and go over whatever barriers like berms and trees and "screens" that some developers may claim should lower the LFN hum. What do we as residents have to do to establish a true "buffer zone," physically keep ourselves miles and miles away from the source? Since we can't move our houses and schools, hyperscale data centers should not be built 500 feet from our homes, schools, hospitals, farmland, water, and wildlife. Site plans have not been presented to the public nor the Hobart Planning Commission.

And before some wise guy tries to point out that our dishwashers and other appliances emit low frequency noise, yes, they do. But would you like to have 1,000 of them running 24/7 in your home and on your property? The negative cumulative effect of clusters of hyperscale campuses' industrial and numerous generators and fans is that "....as LFN becomes more prominent, its effects on humans intensify. Studies have demonstrated the negative effect of **LFN on the circulatory, endocrine, and nervous systems of the human body as well as on learning and social behavior.**" (Liang et al.) Why take any chances with our children's mental and physical health? According to **Indiana Economic Digest** and the **Times of Northwest Indiana** on July 5, 2025, Mayor Josh Huddlestun said he hopes the new noise rules help "put the public at ease." *Eh, not quite.* Apparently, the Hobart Noise Ordinance was changed this past summer from 60 to 65 decibels for safety. *Safety for whom? Shouldn't that number go down and not up to protect the residents and school children?* "The developers have told us that they're not even concerned with that level of noise," the mayor said. (Dalton) **Well, WE are!** Whether it's the kind of noise we hear in decibels or the kind of noise we feel from Low Frequency Sound Waves, we agree with Dr. Lyver when he says, "With excessive noise around our schools, students may experience the health effects that a stressful environment will produce because they will wake up in the noisy environment, be at school in a noisy environment, play at home, and sleep in the noisy environment." (Shaw, Lyver).

Distances from proposed hyperscale data center site in Hobart:

My Little Farm - 0 feet	Lakeview Park - 1.73 miles
Deep River Wetlands - 0 feet	Casa of Hobart - 1.78 miles
Eagle Creek - 200 feet	Sweetest Blessings Childcare - 1.8 miles
Sprout Ditch - .12 miles	Hobart Scour Cabin - 1.86 miles
Amber Creek Park - .13 miles	Tradewind Services - 1.89
Merrillville Farms - .14 miles	Andrean High School - 1.9 miles
Caring Heart Open Arms Childcare - .18 miles	Lighthouse Autism Center Hobart - 1.9 miles
Deep River - .19 miles	Jerry Pavese Park - 1.94 miles
Brookview Park - .37 miles	Trinity Lutheran - 2 miles
Hobart Deep River Kayak Launch - .67 miles	Big Maple Lake - 2 miles
Buell Bur Oak Savanna Trail - .7 miles	Creative Beginnings Preschool - 2 miles
ABC Academy - .82 miles	Happy Days Childcare Cntr (Mrv) - 2 miles
Brentwood at Hobart Senior Living - .89 miles	Magical Little Souls Daycase - 2.03 miles
St. Mary Medical Center - .94 miles	Hobart Little League - 2.04 miles
Glenwood Park - .58 miles	Wee Care Daycare Home (Mrvl) - 2.05 miles
Montessori Academy of the Oaks - 1 mile	White Community Center - 2.1 miles
Comfort Inn Hobart - 1 mile	All About Children (Mrvl) - 2.1 miles
Green Acres Playground - 1 mile	Tiny Teddy's Childcare Home - 2.1 miles
Exceptional Equestrians Ultd - 1.01 miles	Mundell Fields - 2.13 miles
Hobart Community Pool - 1.08 miles	Hobart Youth Soccer Fields - 2.2 miles
Destination Park - 1.13 miles	Duck Creek - 2.2 miles
Hobart Prairie Grove - 1.15 miles	Bright Kids Early Advancement (Mrvl) - 2.2 miles
Hobart Skate Park - 1.16 miles	Little Dreamers Daycare (Mrvl) - 2.27 miles
Glen Park Izaak Walton - 1.17 miles	Shelby's Clubhouse Daycare (Mrvl) - 2.21 miles
Hobart Woodland Trail - 1.19 miles	Veterans Elementary School - 2.26 miles
Indian Ridge Country Club - 1.2 miles	Maria Reiner Senior Center - 2.3 miles
Lake George - 1.2 miles	Little Legacies Academy - 2.3 miles
Bright Start Preschool - 1.24 miles	Festival Park - 2.3 miles
Robinson Lake Park - 1.25 miles	Urban Air Trampoline Adv Park - 2.35 miles
Wood Elementary School - 1.33 miles	Northwest Indiana Childcare (Mrvl) - 2.4 miles
Coleman House Elderly Housing - 1.37 miles	St Bridget's School - 2.3 miles
Kumon Math & Reading Cntr (Mrvl) - 1.44 miles	Gordan and Faith Greiner Nature Preserve - 2.31 miles
Veterans' Memorial Park - 1.44 miles	Little Legacies Academy (Mrvl) - 2.37 miles
Stepping Stones Academy - 1.45 miles	Hobart HS Baseball Fields - 2.39 miles
Little hands and Feet - 1.46 miles	Hobart HS Soccer Fields - 2.47 miles
Rauner Vet Safe Haven - 1.48 miles	Agape Academy - 2.48 miles
Shilo Ranch - 1.49 miles	Hobart High School - 2.5 miles
Robinson Lake - 1.5 miles	Hobart High School Football Fields - 2.5 miles
Joan Martin Elementary School - 1.53 miles	Hobart Aquatic Center - 2.5 miles
Excelsior Equestrian Cntr - 1.65 miles	Brickie Kidz Preschool - 2.5 miles
Hobart Middle School - 1.7 miles	Riverpoint Country Club - 2.5 miles
Hidden Lake Park (Mrvl) - 1.72 miles	George Earle Elementary School - 2.5 miles



To Donate to campaign & legal fund, use QR code on the map or <https://linktr.ee/nodatacentershobartindiana>

Please email the Hobart School Board and the Hobart City Council below with your concerns.

Please attend the upcoming meetings

*City of Hobart Plan Commission Tuesday January 6, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

*City of Hobart Common Council Wednesday January 7, 2026 6:00 p.m. (No Data Center Rally at 5 p.m.)

*City of Hobart Common Council Wednesday January 21, 2026 6:00 p.m. (No Data Center Rally at 5 p.m.)

*For future meetings, please check schedules at <https://www.cityofhobart.org/304/Meeting-Schedule>

School Board and Administrators

Frank Porras, Secretary (fporras@hobartk.12.in.us)

Peggy Buffington, Superintendent (peggyb@hobart.k12.in.us)

Pat Schoon, Executive Board & Superintendent Coordinator (pschoon@hobart.k12.in.us)

Rikki Guthrie, President (rguthrie@hobart.k12.in.us)

Sandra J Hillan, VP (shillan@hobart.k12.in.us)

Donald H. Rogers, Member (drogers@hobart.k12.in.us)

Stuart B. Schultz, Member (sbschultz@hobart.k12.in.us)

Bradely Keehn, Member (bkeehn@hobart.k12.in.us)

David Kostbade, Member (dkostbade@hobart.k12.in.us)

Hobart City Council Members

Mark Kopil, First District (mkopil@cityofhobart.org)

Mark Kara, Second District (mkara@cityofhobart.org)

Michael Rodriguez, Third District (mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org)

Lisa Winstead, Fourth District (lwinstead@cityofhobart.org)

John Brezik, Fifth District (john.brezik@gmail.com)

Dan Waldrop, At - Large (dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org)

Matthew Claussen, At - Large (mclaussen@cityofhobart.org)

Josh Huddleston, Mayor (mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org)

Felix Perry, City Planner & Building Commissioner (building@cityofhobart.org)

Connor Miller, Planning Dept (zoningadmin@cityofhobart.org)

Alex Metz, City Engineer (ametz@cityofhobart.org)

Sources

Dalton, Alex. "Hobart Council Approves New Data Center Zoning Rules." *Indiana Economic Digest*, Times of Northwest Indiana , 5 July 2025.

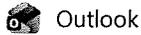
Hobbs, Story by Bonnie. "Data Center Tax Revenue versus Quality of Life." *Fairfax Mobile*, 31 Jan. 2024.

Liang, Peng, et al. "Effect of Low-Frequency Noise Exposure on Cognitive Function: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis - BMC Public Health." *SpringerLink*, BioMed Central, 9 Jan. 2024.

Llorico, Abby, and Bryce Robinson. "What's All the Data Center Noise about?" *Wusa9.Com*, 7 Apr. 2023.

Stacy Shaw & Dr. John Lyver. "Scientific Study Says Data Center Noise Would Hinder Operations at Bristow, Gainesville Schools." *Bristow Beat*, Bristow Beat, 4 Feb. 2023.

<https://tinyurl.com/HobartRadiusMapSources>



Opposition to tax abatement for Amazon

From Rosalie Pfister <rpfister321@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 1:14 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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My name is Rosalie Pfister and I have lived in Hobart since about 1990 (my home having been annexed by Hobart a few years after I bought it). I live in District 1.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ years without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community-focused decision-making process.

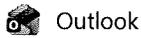
I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust, but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being made with transparency and for the benefit of the community rather than the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen-led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Rosalie Pfister
6720 Ainsworth Road



Please don't take my home

From JP <jpcomfortsolutions@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 2:27 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Jennifer Peterson, I've lived in Hobart for 8 years. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Hello,

My name is Jeanette Peterson, I've lived in Hobart for 8 years. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

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I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Hello,

My name is Justin Sawicki and I've lived in Hobart for longer than the mayor has been alive. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

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I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,



1516 W. 4th St.

Hello,

My name is __Teresa Wilson_____ and I've lived in Hobart for __3.9_____ years. I live in District _4_____.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

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I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Hello,

My name is __Timothy Wilson_____ and I've lived in Hobart for __3.9_____ years. I live in District _4_____.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,



Data Center

From Amanda Berndt <amandab4345@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 6:15 AM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Amanda Vargas and I have lived in Hobart for 38 years. My whole life. My parents, grandparents and great grandparents lived here too. I live and have a total of 3 properties that are within 3 miles of the proposed data center. I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at today's public hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development. To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ years without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent community focus decision-making process. I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies and noise impact assessments. Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon. I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached. I will not be able to make the meetings this week but will be paying attention.

Thank you
Amanda Vargas go Brickies!



(No subject)

From Jess Rodrick <jlrod219@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 10:39 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Jessica Rodrick and I've lived in Hobart for 30 years. I live in District 5.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

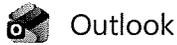
I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/ incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Kind regards,

Jessica Rodrick



(No subject)

From Jerri Stratter <jerristratter5@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 9:24 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is _Jerri Strayter_____ and I've lived in Hobart for __60__ years. I live in District _4_.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/ incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

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I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,
JERRI STRATTER



TAX ABATEMENT JAN 7

From Dawn Waugaman <snlsmommy@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 9:18 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is _Dawn Waugaman_____ and I've lived in Hobart for ___53___ years. I live in District ___3___.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

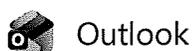
I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/ incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

DAWN WAUGAMAN



Data center

From Celeste Roche' <celestemroche13@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 8:53 PM

To Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Iinstead@cityofhobart.org <linstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello, my name is Celeste roché I'm in District two. I lived here for 30 years And I am 54 years old.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$4.7 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

-

I started my family here. I have a 26-year-old. And 25 year-old daughters. My 26-year-old is on the autism spectrum and will live with me probably for the rest of my life.

I have a double lot which I was thinking about building onto my home to make a separate home from my daughter, but to have independence. We both have asthma, horribly bad. And it's bad enough that we live in the area with all the steel mills not very far away. It is proven facts that the steelmills have caused people in this area with thyroid issues. And God knows what else is being given to the citizens that live in this area from the steel Mills.

It's just me and my daughters. I work very hard. I don't have a great paying job, but I have a good job. I'm in the healthcare field and I take care of people and that's what I love taking care of the community.

I barely make it. My Nipsco bill has doubled in the last two years almost tripled some months and I keep my heat at 62.

And I try not to run my air conditioning as much unless I really need to.

Because I can't afford more than three to \$400 a month Nipsco bills, which I'm struggling to pay now.

Where I live, we already have power short surges all the time. I couldn't imagine getting worse. Or being told on a really hot day when I want to use my air-conditioning, I can't.

I chose multiple times to stay in this area because I love the scenery. I love the little lakes. I love the natural parks around here.

My daughters Grew up here! We always couldn't wait to see the The gray bird At Lake George when we would pass over the bridge For many years. Love seeing the different kinds of birds, the swans and love it when we get to see the eagle.

You do realize the data center is going to suck up all the water all around. He will destroy the wildlife.

It's going to destroy deep River Park all the wildlife that lives around here you may see it as vacant land they see it as their home you will destroy this area If you allow this data center to come in. The money you get from this how does it help any of the residence truly. Are you going to pay our Nipsco bill? Are you gonna pay our taxes?

Are you going to make sure our water is clean? Are you going to make sure that we breathe as good?

You allow this data center. You're going to have Blood on your hands.

You all will be famous. You will be written in history books as the people that destroyed Hobart, Indiana and surrounding area areas for money in your pocket I'm sure you guys got paid off privately.

If I go to move because of the status center in my house, value has gone down I will come after all of you. You are making me uproot my family to have a better living condition and you're going to make me lose the only investment I have for a future Is my home!

Please don't become greedy over money because you know if you take this, you will be hated forever! You were going to destroy a community. No more Thursdays in the park everything's going to be destroyed.

This has made me physically sick about this stupid data center. Where am I going to go with my daughter? I want you to answer me that and are you going to pay the difference? Are you gonna pay my moving?

You've ruined my plans to build onto my house, trying to give my daughter an independent life that she can learn how to do herself.

You guys don't even know what Amazon's up to and you're gonna give them a tax break one of the biggest companies that have so much money and they need a break. You guys are jerks.

How dare you guys play with our lives!!

You're going to make Hobart a ghost town nobody's gonna ever wanna be here because it's going to be a piece of shit to live here! You sold us out.

You have time to save yourself

Stop this data center stop being so goddamn greedy!!!!

Sincerely, Celeste M Roche

Along with both of my daughters, fayth roche' and Rylee Roché



Tax abatement

From Edith Medina <edithmedina05@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 8:45 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Edith Medina

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,



Data centers

From Kelly Shinabarger <shinnyk746@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 7:28 PM

To Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Kelly Shinabarger. I am a life long resident of Hobart and live in District 3.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10 years plus without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you.



Outlook

Tax abatements, town hall meeting, and full transparency

From Vernon Shaw <vshaw_2017@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 3:24 PM

To Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Vernon Shaw and I am a resident of Hobart. I live in District 3.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10 years plus without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)



Amazon data center

From Nancy Winkiewicz <winkie5981@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 7:54 PM

To Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Nancy Winkiewicz and I've lived in Hobart for 7 years. I live in District One. I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you sincerely,

Nancy L. Winkiewicz



Outlook

Concerns

From Lia Lia <liaperez19@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 7:41 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Thalia Perez and I've lived in Hobart for 8 years. I live in District 1.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives from the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated environmental studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but also raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider

tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart su
citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can
an opportunity to understand what is actually being pro
and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of
without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone



Outlook

Hobart Data Center Actions and Votes, Wednesday, 1/7/2026

From awolfe57@gmail.com <awolfe57@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 6:53 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

Cc abonta@portage-in.com <abonta@portage-in.com>

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My name is Andrew Wolfe. I was born in Hammond in 1957, raised in Dyer and have been a neighbor to Hobart (in Portage) for the past 6 years. I have friends in Hobart and generations of family all over NWI.

I am writing to the Hobart City Council, the Mayor of Hobart and I am including the Portage Mayor. This email is to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development. Financially, this is a Hobart issue. From an environmental, utility, water and community perspective, it impacts all of us.

A 10-year real property tax abatement — This would reduce or eliminate property taxes on the value of the data center improvements (buildings/structures) for the first decade after construction.

A 35-year Enterprise IT (equipment) tax exemption — This is a local exemption on *enterprise information technology* equipment — the servers, networking gear, and other technology that powers a data center — for up to **35 years**.

These abatements seem unnecessary. As of **early January 2026**, the “**net worth**” of **Amazon, Inc.** — as measured by **market capitalization** is approximately: **\$2.4 TRILLION**

Why does a company that has a net worth of trillions need a tax abatement? If Hobart has something that Amazon values, why are you giving away City revenue resources (property and equipment taxes)?

To approve a 100% property tax abatement for 10+ years without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers, rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process that supports the community, not the \$2T business.

I find it concerning that trusted public servants like the City Council and the Mayor would consider accepting money/incentives prior to the public having an opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, protections for consumer utility

costs, water usage and noise impact assessments. What is the estimated worth of the tax abatement? Is there also a 10 year abatement of residential property taxes?

Proceeding this way and receiving a \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only destroy public trust, but this raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency for the benefit of the community, or for the benefit of the \$2.4T developer/Amazon. The construction jobs that will need to be filled will be temporary and likely filled by out of area and out of state workers. The data center work force will need to be highly skilled and the center will likely require a relatively small workforce. There is no upside to abatements. At least, not as far as the public is concerned because there is little to no transparency. If it is worth \$47million, why not more? It is a Hobart commodity and you appear to be giving it away. Why can't a municipality act like their community has something of value. The perception has morphed into , we need to kiss big businesses butt to get them here, even when the people don't want that business here because there are known problems with data centers.

What environmental impacts, resource drains and community disruption evidence is available from West Virginia and other locations where data centers were rolled out? How is that information incorporated into the design of this data center here in Hobart?

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart and Amazon support a wide-scaled, citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to get all of their questions answered to better understand what is actually being proposed, understand the overall impact to the city (Pros and Cons) and participate in the decision making.

This decision should not fall on 13 people to rule on whether this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart when so many people need more details. We all need to respectfully live together in the same area. Any decision of this magnitude requires respectful transparency and open dialogue.

Thank you,

Andrew Wolfe
Portage IN, 46368



Virus-free www.avg.com



No Data Center

From Michelle Merrick <mjm25gils@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 6:37 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Michelle Merrick and I've lived in Hobart for 3.5 years. I live in District 5.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,
Michelle Merrick



Tax Abatement

From Rod Caesar <rcaesar@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 6:11 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Rod Caesar and I've lived in Hobart for 63 years. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being

done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,



Data Center Tax Abatement

From Rod Caesar <thecaesars@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 6:06 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Nita Caesar and I've lived in Hobart for 65 years. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being

done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,



Data center

From Marcy <vychan6@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 5:35 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Marcelina Brown and I've lived in Hobart for 36 years. I live in District 4.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process. It will also cost the citizens of Hobart more in taxes eventually. Considering the state has cut municipal funding how will the city be able to afford the basic services to such a project without Amazon paying taxes? This entire ordeal has absolutely nothing to offer we the citizens.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,
Marcelina Brown



Data Center & upcoming council meeting

From Megan Workman <meg.workman@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 5:32 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Megan Workman and I've lived in Hobart for my entire life with the exception of when I lived in Kentucky for college & a few years after that. I moved home as I loved the small town charm with proximity to Chicago. Hobart has always been a great place to live. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development. I am also deeply concerned another tax abatement is listed in the agenda for Hobart Owner LLC. This is lacking transparency & is deeply troubling. Who is Hobart Owner LLC & where is their property that Hobart is willing to offer them abatement? I'd like to know details of their abatement as well as Amazon's. Is this related to Amazon?

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process. WHY is there no site plan available?

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments. The last meeting at the Maria Reiner Center I attended where time was limited, each person was allowed to speak once, and was told questions would be answered at the end AND THEN NO QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED BEFORE A VOTE was infuriating. If you truly wanted to hear from constituents & make them feel heard you'd take the time to address their concerns publicly.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon. Has Amazon even purchased this land yet? I have heard Amazon's business model has changed over time and more

recently they haven't even been purchasing land. They have been leasing it. This makes it easier for them to walk away. I worry this will be the case in Hobart. I know they have a history of subcontracting out to various contractors that do not abide by the commitments that Amazon makes. I know the city is in a very difficult position with SEA1 and I don't want us to lose essential staff and personnel. I would prefer an income tax personally I just worry about the irreparable harm that will be caused to our city to our residents and to our environment. This whole thing seems very rushed due to the lack of transparency. I would like to urge the city council and the mayor to table this vote and have an open discussion with residents. I would like to see the time taken to do the studies necessary to see the effects, short term and long-term for our for our wildlife for the residents that worry about their wells and animals. It just seems rushed for something when there are still so many resident concerns. The meetings seem performative. Please slow this down & listen to your residents. I voted for you as mayor and I voted for Lisa Winstead to represent me and our district to the best of their ability. I'm deeply disappointed. It's sad that I have to explain all of this to my daughter as it could have long-term impact on her and our future living in Hobart or elsewhere. It looks too good to be true and most of the time when that's the case that's because it IS too good to be true.

Thank you

Megan Workman

Sent from my iPhone



AMAZON'S HYPER-SCALE DATA CENTER SPRAWLS

From Alice PAwlowski <gourdjustgifts@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 4:17 PM

To Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <linstead@cityofhobart.org>; john.brezik@cityofhobart.org <john.brezik@cityofhobart.org>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello, we Mark & Alice Pawlowski, have lived happily in Hobart for the last 45yrs. & preside in the 3rd district. We're writing the Mayor & councilmen today to express concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being passed at this Wednesday's Public Hearing in regards to Amazon's Hyper-scale Data Center.

We understand you plan to approve 100% tax abatement, 10+yrs., without any official or publicly reviewed site plans. Or land purchased. This gives an appearance that the city of Hobart is bowing down to the developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community decision-making process.

We can't believe the possibility exists where our Mayor & Councilmen would consider accepting any money/incentives prior to public hearing. With zero opportunity to review crucial information. We need site plans, environmental tests, current traffic studies, noise & ultrawave assessments. Proceeding without community knowledge & accepting \$47million contribution from Amazon will kill any further trust we have with our city officials. It raises serious questions of ethics & transparency. Are you working for Amazon or Hobart residents?

We ask the Mayor & Council to please consider tabling this vote & comply with us to host a citizen lead Town Hall meeting. This gives the community an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed. Let's determine as a city what is best for our city without Amazon strings attached.

I/Alice have been working tirelessly on a Community Questionnaire concerning Data centers. I feel could have benefited both Council & Hobart Citizens. I planned to present to council Wednesday at town hall. I wanted to give Council ample time to work on answers. My hope is to cut thru some transparency, give answers to questions constantly asked. Now with quick change of venue, are we back to no transparency? Are we at square one again? The lawsuit should not tie your hands, why, you all claim 30,000 residents reside in Hobart, only 4 filed suit.

Please do right by Hobart Residents,
Mark & Alice Pawlowski



Data center tax abatement

From laurenwheet <laurenwheet@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 3:27 PM

To Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Lauren Wheet and I've lived in Hobart for 5 years. I live in District one.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Lauren Wheet

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



Data Center

From tkpriet <tamelapriet@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 3:22 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Tamela Priest, and I have lived in Hobart for 18 years. I reside in District 1.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider **tabling** this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen-led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Tamela

Questions/Concerns:

1. We need to obtain a non-biased, comprehensive study on the long-term effects that a hyperscale data center has on the environment, wildlife, and the population that live in the vicinity of these types of centers. Not just some interviews and tours.
2. It is not the sound we can hear, but the low frequencies and vibrations that can have an impact on people's sleep patterns, cognitive abilities, and potential organ impact.
3. Water is life, we already have enough pollution to deal with. Are there absolute failsafe protocols in place that will guarantee that no harmful chemicals will leak into the soil or the wells of nearby residents?
4. There is quite a bit of wildlife that will be displaced even more so than what is already happening. Call me a tree hugger, but wildlife has a right to live too.
5. Increased Nipsco rates, which have already happened, will only increase more. The neighborhood that I live in lost power several times last summer for no apparent reason as the weather was beautiful, no storms, no transmitters being hit by accident, nothing, the power just went out. The infrastructure is not made for this type of facility. Yes, I am aware there is a deal with Nipsco already.
6. I have spoken to several neighbors; we did not even know about this center until we started to see the "No Data Center" signs. We were told at a city council meeting that we were told last summer.... WHEN and HOW? I work from home, no one knocked on my door, I received no letters, no texts, no emails, no communication at all that this was even in the works. The only people that knocked on my door regarding this matter were the people that are against the data center. I wholeheartedly agree with them.
7. Something of this magnitude should be placed on a ballot and let the voters have a voice and a choice of what happens in their town. This decision should not be left up to a handful of people when it affects everyone. People are upset (rightly so) and the trust in the council is severely damaged. NDA's should be dead giveaway that the billionaire company is not operating in a totally ethical manner, this should have been completely transparent from the start.
8. The future of Data Centers is not set in stone, there is a boom right now, but who knows what will happen in the future when new and improved technology is introduced. Do we really want a huge monstrosity sitting empty surrounded by homes that, by that time, may also be empty? So, if there absolutely needs to be a data center as it seems the council is not listening to the people that elected them in, why start with a hyper data center and start small instead. . See how that works and if there are no adverse effects, then add on.
9. This is an interesting read on the possible financial future of data centers: <https://futurism.com/future-society/ai-data-centers-finances>
10. The money does seem like it could do alot of good for the community, but there

needs to be a community left for that improvement to take place. To me and many others, health, safety, happiness, and a good quality of life is priceless.



Table the Tax Abatements for DC projects

From Jodi Mellon <golittlejo@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 10:47 AM

To Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>

Cc John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>

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My name is Jodi Mellon and I live at 627 Wayne Street in District 2 in Hobart. I have been a lifelong resident of Hobart for 54 years and am a third generation Brickie.

I am very concerned about the tax abatements for Amazon and the potential data center development.

It is financially and morally wrong to approve a 100% tax abatement without an official and publicly reviewed site plan. It gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is kissing the behinds of the developers.

It is angering that Mayor Josh and the City Council and would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information! We need to see site plans, recent independent environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

The \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done for the benefit of the community as is being claimed.

You all need to consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so we, the community, can have an opportunity to better understand what is being proposed for the future improvements of Hobart without any strings attached from corporate greedy conglomerates.

Thank you,
Jodi L. Mellon



Data center

From Ashley Hill <ashleyhill0525@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 10:06 AM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@cityofhobart.org>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Ashley Hill and I've lived in Hobart for 2 years. I live in District 5.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)



Fw: No Site Plan

From Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>
Date Wed 1/7/2026 9:59 AM
To Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>



Heather A. McCarthy

Hobart City Attorney
City of Hobart Law Department
☎ 219-942-4844
🌐 cityofhobart.org
📍 705 East 4th Street - Hobart, IN

hobart has it

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From: Dana Triber <danatriber@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:45 PM
To: Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>
Subject: No Site Plan

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Hello,

My name is Dana and I've lived in Hobart all my life. I live in District 1.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you.



Hobart DC

From Fay, Janice <Janice.Fay@Chubb.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 11:27 AM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Janice Fay and I've lived in Hobart for 30 years. I live in Eagle Creek, across the street from the proposed site.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Please don't ruin Hobart, you can build so many other things and still make money, the citizens who voted for all of you deserve your support and ask Amazon to move on to a more industrial area and leave the residential neighbors alone.

This email (including any attachments) is intended for the designated recipient(s) only, and may be confidential, non-public, proprietary, and/or protected by the attorney-client or other privilege. Unauthorized reading, distribution, copying or other use of this communication is prohibited and may be unlawful. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) should not be deemed a waiver of any privilege or protection. If you are not the intended recipient or if you believe that you

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(No subject)

From Lauren Reubelt <lnradusin88@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 11:51 AM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Please do NOT approve resolutions 2026-02, 2026-03, and 2026-04. These tax abatements are not needed for a multi-billion dollar corporation as corporations are more than capable of paying their fair share. The city of Hobart is putting profits over people. There is more than enough information to know how terrible Data centers are for communities. Hobart is a beautiful city, and I love working here and am proud that I grew up here, but having a data center will drive away the population leaving it in shambles.

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Reubelt



Please table this meeting until there's a site plan

From Angelita Soriano <af.soriano1741@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 1:32 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Good afternoon,

This is Angelita Soriano. I've lived in Eagle Creek (district 4) for just over 3 years. I built my dream home thinking this would be the home I would raise my daughters in and where they would go to school from Kindergarten all the way to high school. While building my home, I spent countless hours thinking about every detail I needed in this home because I really believed this would be my long term home and possibly forever home. And I'm honestly just devastated that this data center development threatens my family's opportunity to stay here in Hobart. There are 5 homes up for sale in Eagle Creek and are unable to sell because of this development. I truly ask that you table this decision until we know more. I don't believe the City Council or Plan Commission would be able to stay objective or transparent if this \$47M is received prior to any publicly reviewed site plan. If this is not tabled tonight, in the eyes of the public you would have lost complete trust in all of us and your ethics will always be called to question not only for this project but for any project moving forward for the rest of your terms. Please don't sell out our city. Please listen.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not

only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.

Thank you,

Angelita Soriano



No Data Center

From Gayle Moreno <gmm0109@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 1/8/2026 7:17 AM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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Hello,

My name is Gayle Moreno and I've lived in Hobart for 50 years. I live in District 4.

I am writing to the City Council and Mayor today to express my concerns with the tax abatement resolutions being presented at this Wednesday's Public Hearing regarding Amazon and the potential data center development.

To approve a 100% tax abatement for 10+ without an official and publicly reviewed site plan gives the appearance that the City of Hobart is capitulating to developers rather than engaging in a transparent, community focus decision-making process.

I find it deeply concerning that the City Council and the Mayor would even consider accepting any money/incentives prior to the public having any opportunity to review critical information like site plans, environmental impact studies, updated traffic studies, and noise impact assessments.

Proceeding this way and receiving the \$47 million contribution upfront from Amazon would not only lose public trust but raises serious ethical questions about whether decisions are being done with transparency and for the benefit of the community or instead for the developer/Amazon.

I urge the City Council and the Mayor to please consider tabling this vote and request that the City of Hobart support a citizen led town hall meeting so that the community can have an opportunity to understand what is actually being proposed and determine if this is actually beneficial to the City of Hobart without any strings attached.



January 7, 2026

TO: The residents of Hobart, Indiana

FR: Greg LeRoy, executive director, Good Jobs First

RE: Proposed Amazon Data Services Inc. (ADSI) data center

We note that the City has draft tax abatement agreements with Hobart Owner LLC and Amazon Data Services, Inc. One would grant a 10-year, 100% real property tax abatement on an ADSI data center project. Another would grant a 100%, 35-year tax abatement on qualified equipment.

Here are some considerations:

This project would already be very state tax-advantaged.

Under Indiana Code § 6-2.5-15, the State exempts from sales and use tax the purchase of “qualified” data center equipment. For a project of this projected size, that exemption would last 50 years.¹

Therefore, the state sales tax rate of 7% would not apply to billions of dollars in projected capital expenditures for this project.

The company also seeks an “Enterprise Information Technology Exemption Agreement” on qualified equipment of 100% for 35 years.

This would be a costly proposed abatement, given that by far the costliest parts of a data center are the servers, AI-capable microchips, cooling and ventilation systems,

power and fiber-optic cabling, stand-by power generators, data storage, batteries, switches, firewalls, and operations centers.

The company would apparently be free to appeal its property tax assessment or seek other tax breaks.

Provision 5 of the Devco Campus draft agreement begins:

5. Other Tax Relief. Except as expressly provided otherwise herein, nothing in this Agreement will prohibit the Company from (i) reviewing, appealing, or otherwise challenging, at any time, the assessed value of the Project Site or of any tangible property which is constructed or installed at or to support the Project, or (ii) seeking or claiming any other statutory exemption, deduction, credit, or any other tax relief (including, but not limited to, any refund of taxes previously paid and statutory interest) for which the Company may be or may become eligible or entitled. Subject to Section 6, if any of the foregoing events has the effect of reducing or

The draft agreement does not apparently guarantee any specific level of investment or number of jobs.

Section 2 D of the Devco Camus draft agreement includes:

The assumptions and estimates provided in this Agreement and in the Statement of Benefits are good faith estimates provided by the Company. The Parties recognize that (i) the costs associated with the Project may increase or decrease significantly and do not equate to real property taxable value, and (ii) the City has no right to compel the Company to commence or complete construction of the Project, make investments, or create jobs.

Similar language appears in section 2 C of the proposed Enterprise Information Technology Exemption Agreement (for equipment).

We recommend that the company disclose other economic development subsidies it anticipates receiving for the project.

For example, because data centers are so extremely capital-intensive, they can in some states generate large corporate income tax credits (dollar for dollar reductions in tax liabilities) tied to capital expenditures. We do not know if the company plans to seek, for example, a subsidy under the Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit program² or other tax incentives.

Indiana fails to disclose its sales and use tax revenue losses to data centers.

As Good Jobs First reported last year, Indiana is one of 12 states with a data center sales and use tax exemption which fails to disclose *even one aggregate number* for how much revenue it loses — much less any project-specific records about costs.³ This is a remarkable failure to disclose, especially given the recent spate of hyperscale projects announced in the Hoosier State.

1

<file:///C:/Users/goodj/Downloads/Data%20Center%20Sales%20Tax%20Exemption%20Facts..pdf> This Indiana Economic Development Corporation fact sheet states that the sales and use tax exemption also applies to power purchases.

2

[file:///C:/Users/goodj/Downloads/Hoosier%20Business%20Investment%20\(HBI\)%20Tax%20Credit%20Facts..pdf](file:///C:/Users/goodj/Downloads/Hoosier%20Business%20Investment%20(HBI)%20Tax%20Credit%20Facts..pdf)

³ <https://goodjobsfirst.org/cloudy-with-a-loss-of-spending-control-how-data-centers-are-endangering-state-budgets/>



Enter Into Public Comment for the ERA

From Angelita Soriano <af.soriano1741@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/7/2026 7:37 PM

To Mayors Office <mayorsoffice@cityofhobart.org>; Mayor Huddlestun <mayorjosh@cityofhobart.org>; Clerk-Treasurer <clerk-treasurer@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kopil <mkopil@cityofhobart.org>; Mark Kara <mkara@cityofhobart.org>; Michael Rodriguez <mrodriguez@cityofhobart.org>; Lisa Winstead <lwinstead@cityofhobart.org>; John Brezik <john.brezik@gmail.com>; Dan Waldrop <dwaldrop@cityofhobart.org>; Matt Claussen <mclaussen@cityofhobart.org>; Planning <planning@cityofhobart.org>; Marisa Turner <mturner@cityofhobart.org>; Heather McCarthy <hmccarthy@cityofhobart.org>

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REMONSTRANCE OF ANGELITA SORIANO, ALBINA VENEGAS-ROMAN, BARBARA KOTELES AND JOSEPH CONN TO RESOLUTION 2026-01, 2026-02, AND 2026-03

The record contains insufficient support for the Council's decision that the area in question qualifies as an Economic Revitalization Area ("ERA").

Indiana law, I.C. 6-1.1-12.1-1 defines an ERA as follows:

(1) "Economic revitalization area" means an area which is within the corporate limits of a city, town, or county which has become undesirable for, or impossible of, normal development and occupancy because of a lack of development, cessation of growth, deterioration of improvements or character of occupancy, age, obsolescence, substandard buildings, or other factors which have impaired values or prevent a normal development of property or use of property. The term "economic revitalization area" also includes:

(A) any area where a facility or a group of facilities that are technologically, economically, or energy obsolete are located and where the obsolescence may lead to a decline in employment and tax revenues;

(B) a residentially distressed area, except as otherwise provided in this chapter; and

(C) an area of land classified as agricultural land for property tax purposes that, as a condition of being designated an economic revitalization area, will be predominately used for agricultural purposes for a period specified by the designating body.

Ind. Code Ann. § 6-1.1-12.1-1 (West)

Although Amazon filed a Statement of Benefits, that document provided little if any useful information. Instead, the Statement of Benefits provided only vague estimates and generalities unsupported by any real data. Furthermore, neither Amazon nor the City of Hobart Common Council adequately addressed the elements of the ERA definition set forth in the statute.

The findings of the City of Hobart Common Council concerning the Enterprise Information Technology Agreement and the Community Enhancement Agreement are conclusory, unsupported by specific facts or data, and therefore insufficient to establish that the Council's entry into those agreements is in the public interest.