

Ringgold County Board of Supervisors Notes
June 29, 2026
Public Hearing
Proposed Ordinance-Moratorium on Data Centers

The Ringgold County Board of Supervisors met Monday, June 29, 2026 for the purpose of holding a public hearing on a proposed ordinance for a moratorium on data centers. The public hearing was called to order at 6:00 P.M with the following members present Colby Holmes, Randy Taylor and Steve Knapp.

A motion was made by Knapp, second by Taylor to open the public hearing.
AYES: Unanimous NAYS: None

Holmes provided an overview of the process for developing a proposed moratorium on data centers. He explained that no entity has approached Ringgold County regarding the construction of a data center. The purpose of the public hearing was to gather information, receive public input, and better understand community concerns before moving forward.

Holmes further emphasized that the Board has not taken a position either in favor of or opposed to data centers. Rather, the purpose of the proposed moratorium is to provide the Board with adequate time to research the issue, review the experiences of other counties, hear from residents, and make a well-informed decision should a proposal ever be submitted. The Board is taking a proactive approach so that, if a request to construct a data center is received in the future, the county is prepared with an informed process and appropriate regulations.

Several attendees commended the Board for taking a proactive approach to the issue. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential impacts of large data centers, including electrical demand, water consumption, and road maintenance. It was noted that some counties have been forced to address these issues after projects had already begun because no regulations or restrictions were in place.

The Board stated its intent is to use the proposed 12-month moratorium to thoroughly research the issue and make an informed decision regarding any future regulations.

A member of the public asked whether there were any potential loopholes that could allow a project to proceed despite a moratorium. The Board responded that it is not aware of any but acknowledged that, given the current legal environment, such possibilities cannot be entirely ruled out.

Another question was raised regarding whether the public would have an opportunity to vote before a moratorium is adopted. The Board explained that while there is no formal public vote required, the ordinance adoption process includes public hearings that provide opportunities for residents to offer comments before any action is taken.

The Board acknowledged concerns regarding water usage and agreed that it is an important consideration in evaluating future data center development. It was clarified that the proposed moratorium would apply only to unincorporated areas of Ringgold County and would not affect incorporated municipalities.

The Board was asked what other revenue-generating opportunities are being considered for the county. The Board stated that it continues to explore options but has not identified any specific alternatives at this time. Members acknowledged the complexity of the issue, noting that while data centers could generate additional county revenue, they also present significant concerns that must be carefully evaluated. The Board emphasized that it does not take the decision lightly and remains committed to making a decision that best serves the long-term interests of Ringgold County.

The Board assured those in attendance that it will continue researching the issue and work toward developing an ordinance that is in the best interest of Ringgold County.

A question was asked regarding the provision in the proposed moratorium allowing the Board to terminate the moratorium before its expiration. It was explained that this provision would only be exercised if the Board completed its research and was prepared to adopt a permanent ordinance before the 12-month period ended.

The Board was asked to provide periodic updates on its research so the public can remain informed throughout the process. The Board agreed that information will be shared publicly as the research progresses.

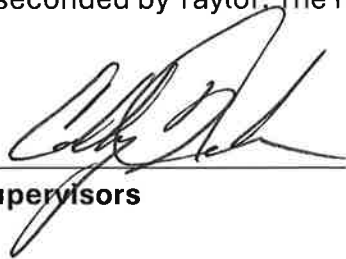
Throughout the hearing, the majority of those who spoke expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts of data centers and voiced support for the Board taking additional time to research the issue before making any long-term decisions.

The Board announced that the second public hearing on the proposed moratorium is scheduled for Monday, July 6 at 11am in the Board of Supervisors office, at which time the Board may consider waiving the third reading and proceeding with adoption of the proposed moratorium. If additional consideration is needed, final action would occur at the July 13 meeting.

There being no further comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Knapp and seconded by Taylor. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

Board of Supervisors



Ringgold County Auditor