

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

President Todd Thacker called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Calling of the roll

Aaron Loudermilk – absent; Nancy Allsup – present; Vicki Weger – present; Marie Theisz – present; Travis Norris – present; David Thompson – absent; and Todd Thacker – present.

Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard had several updates. They have heard from the insurance company about the courthouse generator and it will be 100% covered for replacement. The County will have possession of the new maintenance facility by July 1. They are in process of ordering the morgue equipment and the lift for the Sheriff's Department. It is still on budget. Regarding the old jail demolition, the pre-fab tower building is on order. Contents of the old jail are to be emptied out by July 1 so walk-throughs for bidding process can start on July 5. Demolition is scheduled to start in October or early November. He distributed and had emailed an ARPA update to the Council members showing the amounts that had been approved along with a total commitment. Total ARPA funds granted was \$20,080,516. Currently remaining funds less what has been approved is \$679,484. However, Baker Tilly has advised that some of those funds can be recategorized because of some changes in the ARPA guidelines and we should be able to regain \$258,516 which would leave a total of \$938,000 available.

President Thacker then gave an update on the THRIVE housing project. Under the Vigo County Housing data from inception to date, there have been 39 housing unit awards. One is a rehab and 38 are single-family detached. Public investment through ARPA has been \$525,392. Private investment has been \$7,739,539. Of the 39 housing unit awards, 18 are being done by small builders, 1 is being rehabbed, and 20 are being done by professional builders. The overall 5-year goal is to come up with 3,250 new affordable market rate units. THRIVE is creating an RFP Pattern book which will include designs to be used. They want to hold a housing symposium. They have a site they want to use called "Hoosier Homes" and an app called "Club 720."

Council Attorney Michael Wright then presented a resolution from Judge Mullican. This resolution is identical to one previously adopted by the Council in 2022 in support of the County's attempt to procure a seventh Superior Court from the Indiana legislature. Mr. Wright then read the resolution into record:

"WHEREAS the Vigo County Courts have the third highest caseload

in the state of Indiana and

WHEREAS, Vigo County currently operates with six Superior Courts one being a hybrid Circuit Court, and also employ a Juvenile Magistrate and a Title IV-D Commissioner and

WHEREAS, to address the growing number of cases the Vigo County Courts have established six problem solving courts and have combined and shared resources and services of programs within the Vigo County Court system; and

WHEREAS, the Vigo County Courts have utilized that assistance of a Senior Judge to hear the mushrooming number of CHINS cases filed in Juvenile Court, but said Senior Judge's availability ended on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS the Juvenile Court's caseload has hovered between 2.5 and 3.0 times the recommended caseload under the state's weighted caseload system for the last several years; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court Judges believe that adding an additional court would better serve the needs of the citizens of Vigo County.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the Vigo County Council agrees that there is need to add an additional court to better serve the needs of the citizens of Vigo County, supports a request of the Vigo Superior Courts to add an additional court, and would reasonably consider the request of the Vigo Superior Courts to the Vigo County Council for the county portion of funding such additional court.

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 8th day of May, 2024.”

There was discussion about whether this needed/should be voted on and passed at this Sunshine Meeting or wait until next week. Vicki Weger said she felt that under the circumstances, she thought it should be moved along as quickly as possible and then made a motion to move forward at the Sunshine Meeting. Marie Theisz seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 5-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Wright then said he had emailed all Council members giving all the new court date of May 28 in the federal court case which will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Federal Court House here in Terre Haute. All Council members should make plans to be in attendance.

Reports from committees

There were none.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

- i. **Resolution 2024-07 – Application for Declaration of an Economic Revitalization Area and for Tax Abatement for Personal Property – ZINKPOWER – Terre Haute, LLC (adoption of ERA only)**

Attorney Eddie Felling was present to talk about Resolutions 2024-07 and 2024-08 for 10-year real and personal property tax abatements for ZINKPOWER. They are in the process of acquiring 20 acres in the northern part of the county next to Great Dane and plan to build a facility for zinc galvanizing. This is a process that is applied to steel that keeps it from rusting. The total real property improvements will be \$25.7 million along with \$21.5 million for personal property. Approximately 100 on-site construction jobs are anticipated for an 18-month project. They hope to break ground this summer for 2025 completion. After completed, they anticipate 90 full time jobs which would be about \$5.4 million in annual salaries plus \$600,000 in other benefits for those individuals. This month's meeting was about declaring the location as an "Economic Revitalization Area" and next month's meeting would decide what, if any, tax abatement would be awarded. Mr. Felling did request that if the Council wanted any changes or had concerns, he would like to see them addressed before next week's meeting so that the documents could be adjusted and advertised correctly in order for the company to meet the timeline for breaking ground for construction. Travis Norris asked how many of the jobs would be filled locally. It is the desire of the company to fill as many jobs as possible from the community. Vicki Weger asked about skill level for the jobs. The vast majority are basic level jobs. There was a lengthy discussion. It was noted that the process had no environmental concerns.

ii. Resolution 2024-08 – Application for Declaration of an Economic Revitalization Area and for Tax Abatement for Real Property – ZINKPOWER – Terre Haute, LLC (adoption of ERA only)

See prior paragraph.

iii. Resolution of Reallocation of Existing Appropriation 2024-06 – Local Public Health Services

Joni Wise, Health Department Administrator, distributed a packet to the Council members showing the various departments and the services each provides along with objectives and strategies for each. Mandy Puller, Environmental Health Supervisor, talked about a program they had been looking at called Inspect 2 Go. The program would allow them to do all their food, septic, tattoo, pool inspections, and complaints on an iPad. This will be all electronic and paper free. Scott Swan, IT Director, noted that they already had all the iPads. The Inspect 2 Go program will be hosting on the Cloud. No equipment will need to be purchased. The service would be \$35,000 for this year and thereafter they will put \$25,000 into their 2025 budget for the service. Ms. Wise gave a brief synopsis of the Health Fund Indiana monies that had been received and the areas it could be expended.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Additional Appropriation 2024-45: Drug Free Community

Brandon Halleck, Treasurer for Drug Free Vigo County, explained that these are fees collected under state statute by the Courts in drug cases. A portion is sent to the County. 75% stays here and 25% goes back to the CJI. Of the 75% that stays here, Drug Free Community allocates out to treatment, prevention, and law enforcement grants. He

explained that he waits for the collections to happen and then he asks for the appropriations afterwards. The amount requested tonight is \$61,154.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2024-46: Parks & Recreation – Contractual Services

Adam Grossman, Vigo County Parks Superintendent, explained that these are Health First Indiana funds that have been designated for use by the Parks Department. The money has been allocated but it needs to be appropriated so it can be used.

iii. Additional Appropriation 2024-47B: Local Public Health Services – Peer Recovery Coach and School Health Liaison

Joni Wise, Health Department Administrator, said that they would be withdrawing this request for tonight but it will be resubmitted next month. The wrong fund numbers were submitted but will be corrected and advertised for the June meeting.

iv. Additional Appropriation 2024-48: Health Non-Reverting – Purchase AED & Pads for pediatric use and AED Storage Cabinet

Chelsea Wilson, Director of Nursing in the Health Department Clinic, explained this appropriation would enable them to have an AED readily available to them in the Clinic and also allow them to take it when they go to off-site clinics.

Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk advised that she had checked the balances on the non-reverting funds and they had plenty of money for this and for the next request which is partially from the same fund.

v. Additional Appropriation 2024-49: Health, Health Non-Reverting, Health CARES Act CV2, 93.354 2021 Annual Survey Fund – Purchase XRF and Shipping

Amanda Puller, Environmental Health Supervisor, said the XRF is a machine that is used to analyze paint for lead. When a child has a blood lead level of 5 or above, the Health Department is required to go to the home and inspect it for lead hazards. The machine identifies paint that has lead in it. They generally have 3-5 cases per month.

vi. Additional Appropriation 2024-50: EDIT – Special Events

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard said this concerns the air show. Last year, the Council approved \$25,000 to support the Air Show. The Commissioners committed \$50,000. They are now asking for the additional \$25,000 to meet the commitment. There was a short discussion.

vii. Additional Appropriation 2024-51: Commissioners – Legal Expenses, Medical Equipment, Capital Improvements

County Attorney Terry Modesitt explained that this is for legal expenses for an Indianapolis law firm that had been hired concerning Casino negotiations, specifically, concerning amendments to an LDA agreement and an escrow agreement that had to be negotiated between the Casino, the County, and First Financial Bank. There was a short

discussion. Mr. Modesitt said he was hopeful that they are close to finalizing everything, possibly 30-45 days out. Commissioner Clinkenbeard said that they would be withdrawing the request for capital improvements. Regarding medical equipment, this is a request for 6 AED's (4 for the Courthouse and 2 for the Annex). The existing units in the Courthouse are 12 years old and in the Annex are 18 years old. This would be a 3-year contract with a \$9,000 annual payment. They are requesting the first payment appropriation tonight and the following annual amounts would be requested during budget. After three years, the County would then own the equipment. There was a short discussion.

viii. Additional Appropriation 2024-41: ARPA Grant Fund – Terre Haute Boys and Girls Club

Bobby Moore, CEO of the Terre Haute Boys and Girls Club, gave an overview of what was planned to expand the Boys and Girls Club and improve/expand the services offered. He reviewed the programs offered which not only included sports but a focus on healthy lifestyles along with educational programs. One feature program is called "Power Hour" and takes place Monday-Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and focuses on homework. Snacks are provided for the kids when they arrive from school along with a hot dinner every day at 5:00 p.m. If a child has to leave before dinner, they are sent home with a "to go" box. Summer day camp provides a hot breakfast and hot lunch every day. Their after-school program in 2023 served 18,365 snacks, over 18,363 dinners and in the summer they served 11,028 breakfasts and lunches. The planned expansion will help provide emotional safety and a safe environment for all participants. He talked about the survey that the National Boys & Girls Club conducts which each child must participate in regarding their opinion about their feelings and treatment experienced during their time spent at the Boys & Girls Club. The Terre Haute Boys & Girls Club rates higher than the national average in all categories. Attorney Dave Friedrich distributed a handout prepared by Sanders & Associates (architects) for the renovation they would like to occur at their new location of the former Meadows Elementary School. He briefly reviewed the history of how the Boys & Girls Club ended up at Meadows Elementary School. This renovation was prompted by the fact that the Lilly Foundation gave millions of dollars to Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the State of Indiana. It is part of a matching grant that if this expansion takes place, Eli Lilly will contribute on a 3 to 1 match. A contract has been executed with Strode Construction to begin work in the next 30 days on the project. Due to Lilly Endowment requirements, it was important to get started now in order to complete the project by the end of the year to be able to meet the requirements to get the money from Lilly. Mr. Friedrich talked about what some of the renovation would entail. As of now, it is estimated the project will cost between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. This ARPA request is for \$100,000. Todd Thacker asked about their lease with the school corporation. There was a short discussion.

ix. Salary Ordinance 2024-52A: Prosecutor – Add Deputy Prosecutor Position (1)

Prosecutor Terry Modesitt said an opportunity had arisen for their office to be able to hire an attorney who was going to be relocating here in early July. There is currently no position open for a deputy prosecutor. During discussions she stated that she would be

willing to take a position if it were open at the entry level salary. Mr. Modesitt talked about their past history of difficulty in being able to obtain attorneys to fill open positions. They were able to fill the two open positions after the last pay increase but were not flooded with applicants. They had previously asked for an additional position but that request was withdrawn during discussions regarding pay increases. If this additional position was granted, his office would give the new person hired a lower level position and move a more experienced employee to the position to be filled and they would work on all the high profile cases. Those duties were briefly reviewed. Their caseload continues to increase.

Public Comments


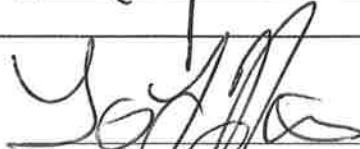


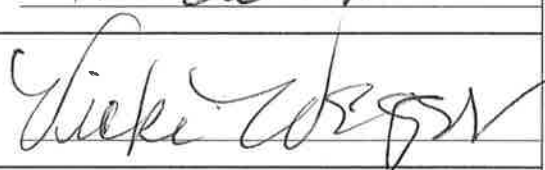
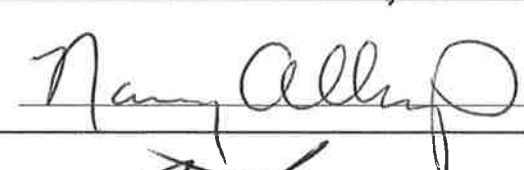

President Thacker noted that a group of high school students were in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Richard Bowers, 9891 East Flesher Avenue, Terre Haute, commented about his property taxes and assessed valuation. After comments and discussion, President Thacker offered to meet with Mr. Bowers after adjournment of the meeting, along with County Assessor Kevin Gardner (who was in attendance at the meeting) for further discussion.

Marie Theisz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 5-0, the motion unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
MAY 8, 2024

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 11th day of June, 2024.

Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	David Thompson	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Travis Norris	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Marie Theisz	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	R. Todd Thacker, President	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Weger	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Allsup	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:



James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor

RESOLUTION 2024-09

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER THE FUNDING OF AN ADDITIONAL COURT

WHEREAS, the Vigo County Courts have the third highest caseload in the state of Indiana and

WHEREAS, Vigo County currently operates with six Superior Courts one being a hybrid Circuit Court, and also employ a Juvenile Magistrate and a Title IV-D Commissioner and

WHEREAS, to address the growing number of cases the Vigo County Courts have established six problem solving courts and have combined and shared resources and services of programs within the Vigo County Court system; and

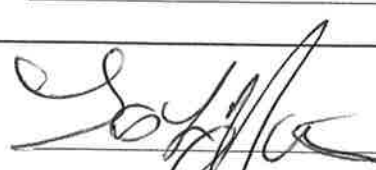
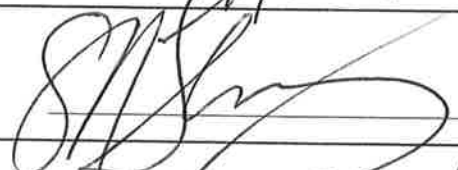

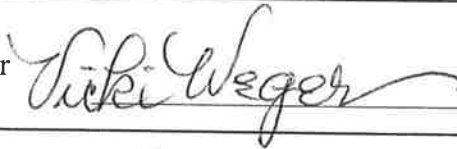
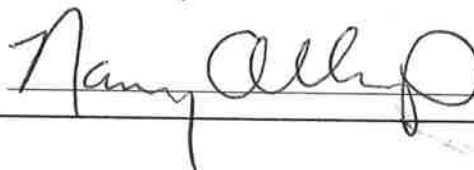
WHEREAS, the Vigo County Courts have utilized that assistance of a Senior Judge to hear the mushrooming number of CHINS cases filed in Juvenile Court, but said Senior Judge's availability ended on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS the Juvenile Court's caseload has hovered between 2.5 and 3.0 times the recommended caseload under the state's weighted caseload system for the last several years; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court Judges believe that adding an additional court would better serve the needs of the citizens of Vigo County.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the Vigo County Council agrees that there is need to add an additional court to better serve the needs of the citizens of Vigo County supports a request of the Vigo Superior Courts to add an additional court and would reasonably consider the request of the Vigo Superior Courts to the Vigo County Council for the county portion of funding such additional court.

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Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marie Theisz	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	R. Todd Thacker, President	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Weger	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Allsup	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:

James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor