

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 6, 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 – present; and Todd Thacker – present.

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

Council Attorney Michael Wright had a letter of support for a second magistrate position. This is a different process than establishing an additional court. Early indications seem to be they recognize the County's growing need for a relief valve for the Juvenile Court. The letter reads as follows:

“Dear Judge Mullican: Please accept this letter as written acknowledgement of the Vigo County Council's support of Vigo County's application for a 2nd Magistrate Position through the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Vigo County Council understands its obligation, if the application is approved, to support this request financially for the County Portion of the salary for the 2nd Magistrate Position which is listed at Forty-One Thousand One Hundred and Ninety-Three Dollars (\$41,193.00).”

Councilwoman Marie Theisz commented about time she had recently spent at the Juvenile Court and said this is a much needed action.

Reports from committees

Vicki Weger, Chairman of the Budget Committee, said meetings were in progress. Marie Theisz said she had been working with a small group that included an individual from the City of Terre Haute on forms and processes. There have been some additional volunteers and the group wants to also involve Economic Development and legal counsel to take a look at the format. She hopes to have something in the hands of the Council in September and then adopt a final product in October. Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard also noted that the base for the Riley Trail had been started today and paving will start in the next few days. The cleaning and painting of the Court House dome was also in progress but rain had slowed things down. Also, the ribbon cutting for the new general services building will be taking place on Wednesday, August 7, at 2:00 p.m. and Council members were invited to attend.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

i. Public Safety LIT: Options for Distribution to Units for Distribution in 2025; Resolution No. 2024-12 Resolution Modifying Local Income Tax Rates

Council Attorney Michael Wright said this will be the public hearing on the proposed Local Income Tax Resolution 2024-12 which he then read into record as follows:

“Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Vigo County, Indiana that the County Council will conduct a public hearing on Resolution 2024-12 on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers located in the Vigo County Government Center, 127 Oak Street, Terre Haute, Indiana. The County Council will consider the following proposed Resolution 2024-12 regarding the local income tax imposed within Vigo County on August 13, 2024 at 5:00 pm at the same location.”

Mr. Wright explained that the modification being made concerned the monetary amounts received by the fire departments. The formula calculating those amounts is based on the actual runs and uses a 65/35 split. It was noted that Nevins Township was receiving a smaller amount but Lost Creek Fire Department has been picking up the Nevins Township runs which reduces the amount for Nevins Township.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Additional Appropriation 2024-70: Clerk Perpetuation Fund – Contractual Services

Chief Deputy Clerk Leanna Moore said they are proposing using ArcaSearch for digitizing record books. Steve Fiers from ArcaSearch was present to give a presentation on how this can be done. Ms. Moore said they realized this cannot all be done at one time but she would like to get this started. Mr. Fiers said he represented ArcaSearch, digital preservation, and Goldfinch, digital transformation. Gary Fincher was present via telephone to assist in the presentation of some methods, timelines, and budget items for preservation of the records. Each company for this presentation has its own specialty. ArcaSearch specializes in bound and pin books using specialized equipment they built and patented and utilized on site to be put into a cloud site for safety, security, and available to the County for retrieval. Goldfinch specializes in small document imaging. It was noted that one of the highest priorities in this digitization process was the marriage record books because of their high usage and the wear and tear. It was determined that the highest priority records contained 22 categories and the first proposal was based on that and would be for on-site preservation services. A second proposal had also been prepared where the digitization of the smaller-sized books would take place at ArcaSearch in Bettendorf, Iowa for a price of \$340,000 to get started. This would be the first phase. There was lengthy discussion. Travis Norris asked if the County retained the original documents. Mr. Fiers said that depended on what the Clerk’s Office wanted to do with the originals afterwards. Mr. Norris also asked if the information that would be available on line to the public could be set up in a way that users would pay for access to allow the County to be able to recoup some of the costs. It could be set up in a multitude

of ways for payment. Mr. Fiers also noted that at the end of the project, they would be giving the County two hard drives with all the images on them that could be stored in a vault as back-up. The price being quoted includes the first year of annual maintenance at a price of \$9,000. The second year and going forward would have an annual maintenance fee of \$9,000 payable by the county. However, if it is ever decided not to have ArcaSearch host the images in the Cloud, it can be stopped at any time. There is no contractual time period. The first year of service provided by ArcaSearch begins at the time of completion of the project. There was some additional discussion. Leanna Moore said she really wanted to impress upon everyone that the records are getting damaged with use. She also had concerns about destruction due to circumstances beyond control such as weather related catastrophes.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2024-71: Solid Waste Management Fund – Employee Benefits, Special Events, Equipment

Karrum Nasser, Director of the Vigo County Solid Waste Management, explained this request. He reminded everyone that Solid Waste receives their funding through tipping fees through Sycamore Ridge Landfill. This appropriation request has been approved by their Board. It was discovered during their 2024 budget discussions that one of their employees had to obtain coverage for a spouse and that is what the employee benefits request was for. They have increased and expanded recycling services. They have locations in West Terre Haute, on Haythorne Street, at the street department in the City of Terre Haute, and at the south highway garage. He also noted they do not get credit for recyclables. He reviewed statistics of the amount of recycling they do annually which has been substantially increasing every year. They also offer tire recycling, glass recycling, and e-waste recycling. They started offering furniture disposal for individuals in March but had to recently suspend that due to some abuse by businesses. Under State statute, this service can only be offered to individuals. However, furniture is still accepted on the first Saturday of the monthly clean-ups. Shredding services are also offered and they have been assisting the County and City with disposal of their sensitive documents. They are also assisting the Commissioners with their “clean streets initiative” by giving out bags, gloves, grabbers, and vests to organizations including Community Corrections. Those items are paid for out of their Special Events line item, thus the request for the appropriation. After having been approved by IDEM for a composting permit, they will be taking yard waste year-round. They are also working on agreements with Republic Services wherein Solid Waste will be taking food waste from Indiana State University and the School Corporation. They will be one of only three in the State who do that. The Equipment request will be used for that purpose. They are also applying for a grant in order to allow them to do some education in the schools.


Public Comments

Joe Shackelford of the Honey Creek Fire District thanked the Council for the action taken earlier in the evening regard the LIT distributions to the fire districts.

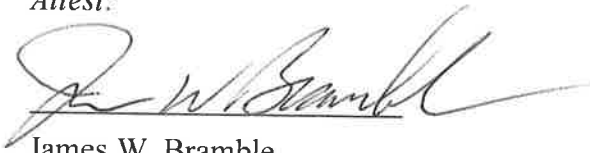
Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Travis Norris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 7-0, the motion unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2024

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 10th day of September, 2024.

Aye <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	David Thompson	
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 type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:



James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor