

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President David Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:00.

**Calling of the Roll**

**Present:** David Thompson, Brenda Wilson, Randy Gentry, Steve Ellis, Vicki Weger, Nancy Allsup

**Correcting the Journal of the Preceding Meetings if Needed**

*February 4, 2025 Sunshine Meeting*

*February 11, 2025 Meeting*

*February 25, 2025 Executive Session*

There were no corrections to the February 4, 2025 Sunshine Meeting, Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4<sup>th</sup> Sunshine Meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

There were no corrections to the February 11, 2025 Meeting, Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

There were no corrections to the February 25, 2025 Executive Session, Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25<sup>th</sup> Executive Session. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

**Communications from Elected Officials or Agencies of the County**

There were none.

**Reports from Committees**

There were none.

**Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations**

**a. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-02: Parks  
Equipment Repair**

Council President David Thompson said that Parks superintendent Adam Grossman couldn't make it to the meeting. There were no further questions about this request. Nancy Allsup made a motion to approve Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-02. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy

Gentry – aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

### **Ordinances Relating to Appropriations**

#### **a. Additional Appropriation 2025-14: Security Cameras at the Courthouse**

Mark Clinkenbeard approached the Council and said that ICS agreed to come down \$3,000 on the total package for a total of \$110,912. Mark said attempts were made to get multiple quotes and have been unable to get any in time for the meeting. Randy Gentry said during the sunshine meeting the previous week Director of Building Security Tom Little made it seem like he was shopping for cameras on Amazon. Randy said he found hundreds of listings for the cameras on Google. He said he communicated with the camera's manufacturer and found that the price listed from ICS for the proposed courthouse cameras was \$15,000 over retail. Randy said it was important to get multiple quotes for projects like this. Brenda Wilson made a motion amend the appropriation down to \$110,912. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed. Brenda Wilson made a motion approve Additional Appropriation 2025-14. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Brenda Wilson made a motion amend the appropriation down to \$110,912. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed.

#### **b. Additional Appropriation 2025-15: Public Defender's Office Remodeling**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. Brenda Wilson asked Public Defender Gretchen Etling if the \$75,000 request would be reimbursed. Gretchen confirmed it would be. She said she had spoken to the Public Defenders' Commission. She said since this request is above \$40,000 the reimbursement would be over the course of 20 quarters to ensure the space is used for Public Defenders. She said the reimbursement rate was 40%. She said with the reimbursements this project would cost \$45,000 total to the county. Randy Gentry made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-15. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

#### **c. Additional Appropriation 2025-16: CASY Circle of Change Conference**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. Brandon Halleck explained Chances and Services for Youth was a fiscal agent for Drug Free Vigo County. He said the organization utilizes the County's drug mediation funds and grant dollars. He explained the Circle of Change Conference was organized with several groups including law-enforcement drug prevention and treatment. Organizing local events was briefly discussed. Brenda Wilson wanted to confirm this event happened on March 1<sup>st</sup> and this was a reimbursement related request. Mark Clinkenbeard confirmed it was. Mark said he was unable to get on the February meeting agenda for a request

ahead of the event. Randy Gentry expressed concern about using money from the Opioid Restricted Fund citing legal stipulations for its use. Randy gave a brief background on Opioid settlement funds. He said the funds were designed for opioid remediation. There was a brief discussion about the logistics of resubmitting the request through Council under the unrestricted fund. Mark Clinkenbeard agreed that a larger conversation needed to be had about the use of the Opioid Restricted Fund. Mark said he was not going to let the Fund be abused by multiple agencies. Mark said in this particular case he felt he needed to show CASY organization support. Mark noted CASY used the Terre Haute Convention Center to support the local economy when there were likely cheaper options. Randy said he felt this was a positive event but reiterated his concerns over the use of this particular Fund. He said the Council has a history of granting Appropriations from funds frequently. Vicki Weger rebutted Randy, saying the Council was judicious in the spending they allowed. She thanked Brandon for using the Convention Center. Council Attorney Michael Wright said when looking through the information Brandon distributed to the Council he did not see an issue with utilizing the Fund for this particular request. Mike Morris said the Commissioners were proactive in securing the Opioid settlement money for the County and have been very cautious in spending out of the Fund. Michael Wright went on to say he has reviewed the framework for what would constitute expenses to be classified as "restricted." Randy said he interpreted the stipulations on expenses from the account directing spending be exclusively for opioid remediation. He said he didn't want to approve the money to come from this Fund and then find out it was not legal at a later date. Michael said his understanding was that the Fund was for substance abuse remediation not hyper specific to opioids. Vigo County Auditor Larry Hutchings said it was his opinion this request was an appropriate use of the Fund. Brandon clarified he was just one agent for Drug Free Vigo County and the coalition has been around since 1989. Michael asked if Commissioners' Attorney Terry Modesitt looked at the request. Commissioner Chris Switzer confirmed he did not. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-16. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – nay; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 4-2, the motion passed.

**d. Additional Appropriation 2025-17: Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund**

This request was discussed in the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-17. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**e. Additional Appropriation 2025-18: Merit Deputy Funding**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. Randy Gentry told Vigo County Sheriff Derek Fell he was bothered by the previous Council deciding to add three additional deputies after grand money expired. He referenced previous failed attempts by the Sheriff's Office to add deputies while grant funds still existed. He said he felt he was put into a tough situation and would not have voted to add the additional deputy positions to the salary ordinance had he been

on the Council in December. Randy said he appreciated the open and honest conversation Derek Fell provided at the sunshine meeting. Steve Ellis said he wanted to disclose he operated a business that does regular business with the Sheriff's Office. He said he would abstain if this represented a conflict of interest. Council Attorney Michael Wright said he did not believe this represented a conflict of interest and Steve would be fine to vote on this request. David Thompson asked if Sheriff Fell had hired the three deputies and if they were still employed. Sheriff Fell confirmed they were hired and employed. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-18. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed.

**f. Additional Appropriation 2025-19: Terre Haute boys and Girls Club, Vigo County Health Department Contract Employees, Griffin Bike Park Educational Center**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Randy Gentry made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-19. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**g. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-06: Redefining and Expanding Existing Health Department Position**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-06. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed.

**h. Additional Appropriation 2025-20: Redefining and Expanding Existing Health Department Position**

This request would fund the request approved above. Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-20. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed.

**i. Additional Appropriation 2025-21: IFAK Kits, CERT kits, EMA CPR Training Mannequins, Handheld Radio**

This request was discussed in the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Randy Gentry made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-21. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry –

aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**j. Additional Appropriation 2025-22: Group Homes Repair and Refurbishment**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Randy Gentry made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-22. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**k. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-07: Vigo County Homes for Children Re-Structuring of Positions**

Human Resources Director Kara Wright said she sent an e-mail to Council explaining the reasoning and additional duties in each of the proposed position changes for pay grade changes and restructuring in this request. Steve Ellis asked if there were enough additional duties to warrant pay-grade bumps for all positions. Kara said she found that several of the positions had enough changes and additional work to warrant pay-grade adjustments, but the Council would need to determine if it would be necessary for all of them. Randy Gentry said he had been investigating this request and found the reimbursement rate of near \$1,100 a day per child may not hold because the County is in a renegotiating period with DCS. He said several counties are placing kids and the reimbursement is closer to \$600 a day. He did note the possibility of negotiating higher rates. He said the contracts are reviewed on a bi-annual basis. Randy then expressed his larger concern of adjusting pay grades for employees outside of budget meetings and said he didn't understand the need to restructure the positions at this time. He said he would like to take a look at other communities and how they structure their group homes before giving employees raises. He cited the history of Vigo County Group Homes and the lack of children being placed in the homes. Mike Morris said the previous director negotiated reimbursement rates for placed children and the previous director hired a firm to lobby for the rates they now have. He expressed his confidence in this restructuring plan finding success and said he thought it needed to happen this year. David Thompson asked Kara Wright which position changes justified pay grade increases. Kara said the Treatment/Licensing Director increase from a Grade 15 (\$68,403/yr) to a Grade 16 (\$72,850/yr) due to her taking on a large amount additional duties. Kara also said the Continued Care Worker changing from a Grade 12 (\$56,628/yr) to a Youth Services Coordinator at Grade 13 (\$60,308/yr). David Thompson asked about the new Compliance/Financial Manager position. Kara said in her professional opinion there wouldn't be enough additional duties to make it a "full" compliance job. David asked to confirm that Kara thought the Operations Director and Treatment/Licensing Director did qualify for a pay grade increase. Kara confirmed this was the case. She said the rest of the positions would be up to the Council to determine. Norm Loudermilk then explained again that some of these positions are now taking on the duties of two positions. He said the proposed Compliance/Financial Manager position had the exact same duties as the Compliance/Financial Manager at the juvenile center. He said the DCS requires similar compliance requirements and proof of practice. He said the administrators were handling compliance duties piecemeal. Norm said he felt there should be one

position handling all of this. He this proposal allows for one person to handle compliance duties, handle payments from the DCS, and payroll. He said if this is not approved, he will have to hire an additional employee to handle payroll. Norm said there was a need for restructuring like this proposal because the previous department structure was not working. He said in a week and a half with three children they've raised \$22,000 to reimburse the county. Norm said six female children had to be turned away because they can't open the north home. He stressed the need to approve this request now because of the opportunity to get reimbursed by the DCS and recoup almost all the initial costs. He said this is a two phased project. The first phase being this request to restructure the administrative staff, and the second to be restructure the direct-care staff into 12-hour shifts from 48-hour shifts. Norm said they would gain nothing by waiting for a few months. He said it would be irresponsible to hire an office manager to handle the payroll for the department then decide to go through with the restructuring request later and have to then eliminate the newly hired position. Randy asked if the commissioners had been involved in negotiations with the DCS. Commissioner Chris Switzer said they would have no role in the negotiations. Chris then gave a brief history on the group homes and said last year the commissioners decided they would close the program because it was deemed ineffective. Chris said the commissioners heard from the community there was a need for these group homes for area children. This proposal is part of their plan to turn the program around. Chris said to prevent the children from entering the court system in the community, there needs to be services like this to provide stability. He says Norm has a history of this from running the juvenile center. Chris said the commissioners don't want this request tabled, he wanted it approved or voted down and they will come back with a request later. Vicki Weger voiced her support for this proposal. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-07. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed.

**l. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-03: Vigo County Homes for Children Re-Structuring of Positions**

This would add a Building Maintenance Worker position to the Building Maintenance Department after eliminating the position from the Group Homes as part of the proposal above. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-03. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – nay; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-1, the motion passed.

**m. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-08: Assessor's Office Pay Increase (Option 1)**

This request was withdrawn.

**n. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-09: Assessor's Office Pay Increase (Option 1)**

This request was withdrawn.

**o. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-10: Assessor's Office Pay Increase (Option 2)**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. Randy Gentry said he supported this particular model of providing pay bumps to employees. He said he heard the Harrison Township Assessor's Office had not been actively trying to fill the proposed eliminated position. He said his goal would be to fulfill a promise a previous Council made getting everyone in the county's pay to midpoint. However, he said he felt requests like this should go through the budget committee so the Council can have a clearer view of where the budget stands after giving pay-bumps like this requests proposed. He said he did not feel this request would save the county money because the money was not being spent to pay the position at the time of the meeting. Vigo County Assessor Kevin Gardner briefly explained the Assessor's Offices' hiring process. Kevin said when the Council budgets they budget for every position that is in the books and this is the same as spending the money. So if they eliminate the position this will save the County money. Kevin said he was aware the money was not there to move every county employee to midpoint. He said he felt this was an effective way to at least get his office to midpoint. He said his office is the busiest in the first six months of the year while the rest of the year they try to play catch-up. He said this prevents the office from interviewing several rounds of people to fill the vacant position in a timely fashion. Brenda Wilson said she agreed with what Kevin said about these positions being budgeted and therefore eliminating one would still be a savings to the county. Kevin said his goal is to serve the taxpayer and said he has cut several line items from his budget and has made use of old equipment in order to reduce expenses. David Thompson said he appreciated what Kevin has done with this request noting the request gets his department to midpoint and gives something back to the County. Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-10. Randy Gentry seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote for the pending motion, voting was as follows: Randy Gentry – aye; Nancy Allsup – aye; Brenda Wilson – aye; Steve Ellis – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Brad Anderson – absent; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**p. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-11: Assessor's Office Pay Increase – Elected Officials (Option 2)**

Council Attorney Michael Wright said that since elected officials cannot change their salaries during a budget year, this request was a formality and did not need to be voted on. He said during budget committee hearings the salary increases for the Harrison Township Assessor and Vigo County Assessor can be discussed.

**Honorary Resolutions**

There were none.

**Resolutions Relating to Fiscal Policies of the Council**

There were none.

**Appointments**

There were none.

**Public Comment**

David Thompson said Worker's Memorial Day is Sunday April 27, 2025 at 2:30p.m. at the Eugene V. Debs Museum in Terre Haute.

David also said he had spoken with Kara about the Baker Tilly Study and has instructed her to get into contact with Baker Tilly for follow-up information due to the multiple requests for pay grade changes.

Michael Wright said the St. Patrick's Day parade was the upcoming Saturday at 1 p.m.

**Adjournment**

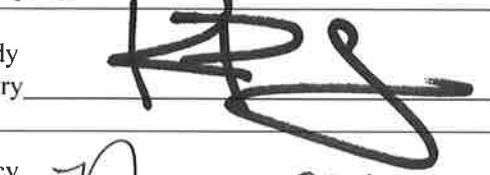



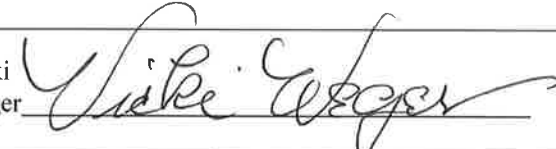


The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



# MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

## MARCH 11, 2025

*Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.*

Aye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Randy Gentry	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Allsup	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Wilson	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Ellis	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Weger	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brad Anderson	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Thompson	
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Attest:*

  
Larry T. Hutchings, II  
Auditor