

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 1, 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 – present; 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

Steve Witt with Vigo County Redevelopment Commission presented the annual Report of the Redevelopment Commission for the TIF Districts which was prepared by Baker Tilly. The Department of Local Government and Finance requires redevelopment commissions to put together an annual report of their TIF Districts. A new requirement this year is to present this to the County Council as well but there is no action required by the Council. Mr. Witt then briefly reviewed the five tax income finance areas in the Industrial Park and the former Pfizer property. There are no outstanding bonds on any of the areas. Another new rule this year is that prior to December 1, they will have to come back to the Council with a spending plan. If he had to put the plan together today, it would show \$2 million that had been committed to Entek for infrastructure improvements. Entek has not said yet what they would like that used for but Mr. Witt believes it will be for improvements to Harlan Road. This will probably come out of the Staples and CertainTeed TIF areas. With TIF areas, once the obligation is terminated, they like to get that assessed value into the general fund of the county.

President Thacker thanked everyone for understanding about the rescheduling of the Sunshine Meeting due to ISU competing in the NIT tournament. It was believed there would not have been a quorum to conduct the meeting on the regularly scheduled time so it was rescheduled to today.

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard noted that two requests had been withdrawn from tonight's agenda. He also gave an update on the status of the morgue/storage facility being constructed. It is on time and on budget with possible completion in June. There was enough left in contingencies to provide funding for the morgue cooler, any lifts needed for the morgue, and the lifts for the Sheriff's Department. He also noted that all local trades are being used on the job. He also said that a price for the generator for the Court House was received this morning. It is going to be significantly less than originally anticipated. The size will be slightly smaller than originally planned but it will cover everything the generator used to cover plus a little bit more but it won't cover everything. It will be at a price of less than \$400,000 as opposed to \$850,000 originally anticipated.

It will be 230 kw and Mr. Clinkenbeard has the information on it if anyone would like to have it. Still waiting to hear about insurance costs.

Reports from committees

There were none.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

There were none.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Additional Appropriation 2024-34: Honey Creek Fire Protection District Fund 8961 Special Cum Fire

Joe Shackelford, Chairman of the Fire District Trustees for the Honey Creek District, said they are requesting an additional appropriation from their 2024 Cum Fund to fund a study to determine building use and the suitability of Honey Creek Fire Station 91. The building is 50 years old and they have far outgrown it and are out of space. He gave a short history of the building. It originally housed one engine and one tanker. They currently have 7 pieces of apparatus parked in it. Their largest truck with an aerial has 3 inches of clearance from the main beam and requires exact parking in order not to incur damage. They have 30 firefighters and 2 administrative personnel. They are requesting \$50,000 for a study to tell them what needs to be done with the building. It was clarified that this location is the one at the top of Allendale Hill.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2024-35: Honey Creek Fire Protection District Fund 8603 Special Fire General

Joe Shackelford explained that this request is for \$25,000 to be used to supplement the funding the Vigo County Redevelopment Commission is giving to the Fire District, which they are then passing on to the fire department to fund the hiring of three additional firefighters. The need for the additional firefighters is due to the Entek tax abatement. The Redevelopment Commission agreed to help with funding for additional firefighters. If they do this, they will be back to full staffing with 11 firefighters on each of the three shifts.

iii. Additional Appropriation 2024-36: EDIT – Parks Improvements

Adam Grossman, Parks Superintendent, and Rich Moore, Griffin Bike Park Manager, gave a short presentation combining the requests for Additional Appropriation 2024-36 and 2024-37. A video highlighting all the offerings of Griffin Bike Park was shown. People come from all over the country to use this park and participate in national competitions. They currently have \$366,000 dedicated from Healthy First Indiana funds for a capital improvement project. The funds being requested from EDIT and ARPA are to build a building. After talking with a couple of contractors, it is estimated that the building itself will cost \$800,000-\$850,000. They would also pave the pump track, redo the parking area and install lighting. They set out the goals for the project which include classes for youth, additional bikes to allow for free bike rentals for the youth in their programs (since a lot of them do not have bikes). THRIVE has agreed to help with

transportation of the children. The building will provide the desperately needed office space, storage space, community space, and vendor space. This will also allow someone to be present to provide information not only about the park but about local amenities that can also benefit from out-of-town dollars that will be spent by visitors. The vendor space would also generate revenue for maintenance. Bike rentals would also be handled out of this space. Rich Moore talked about the number of visitors the park has annually. 4H has also agreed to partner with them get a program going for children. There was a brief discussion.

iv. Additional Appropriation 2024-37: ARPA Grant Fund – Parks Improvements

See iii above.

v. Additional Appropriation 2024-38: ARPA Grant Fund – Chances and Services for Youth

Brandon Halleck, Chief Operating Officer for Chances and Services for Youth, gave a brief overview of his organization and the services they provide. This request is for establishing a high quality childcare located on Old Hunt Road. The first phase would accommodate 192 children. They will work to become military-certified which will help the 181st Tactical Fighter Group located east. They will also be looking at offering extended hours care (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.). The location places them centrally among many areas, including Brazil. The second phase would serve an additional 96 children. The initial phase would be 35,000 square feet with the building purchase and renovations coming in at \$6.8 million. They have hired an architect to help with this plan who is experienced in building these types of buildings and the rules and regulations that are required. This early learning center would increase the child capacity in Vigo County by 11%. He quoted statistics about what Vigo County currently has versus what is needed and the lack of quality child care centers. He also talked about financial assistance that will be offered for families in need. There was lengthy discussion.

vi. Additional Appropriation 2024-39: ARPA Grant Fund – Manna from Seven

A representative of Manna from Seven explained that they are a non-profit organization working primarily as a food pantry. St. Stephens Episcopal Church provides the group, at no cost, with space to work from. Their mission is to provide people with food and necessities in order to help them become job-ready. She explained how distribution of the goods works. They typically serve 300-400 families each week. Primarily distribution is handled on a drive-through basis but they do have a walk-up area for those people who do not have a vehicle (typically 50-60 families). Home delivery was established in 2020 during Covid and has grown to about 150 families. 20-25 volunteers deliver to those families every Saturday morning. They also offer a free laundry service every Wednesday at a local laundromat where they provide the quarters for the machines, detergent, bleach, and snacks and beverages for those using the service. They do have a couple of smaller satellite pantries at Thyssenkrup, and St. George Episcopal Church. St. George does not have regular hours but contact can be made at St. Stephens and someone will make sure that the people can get food. That pantry is also used to fill

blessing boxes throughout the West Terre Haute area (there are at least 5). They try to coordinate their efforts with other similar agencies. They have to rent a box truck every Thursday for a 24-hour period to get to the Mid-West Food Bank in Indianapolis to pick up their food for distribution, get it back and unloaded and returned in that 24-hour period. They have other food pickups during the week but do not have the use of the truck and have to depend on volunteers to use their own vehicles to do them. The purpose of their request tonight is for assistance in purchasing a truck so they will no longer have to rent one and have it to use for all their needs. The full cost of the truck is in the neighborhood of \$150,000. They have a budget that will provide maintenance, insurance, fuel, and a parking place for the truck but there is just not enough for the truck itself. They are run strictly by volunteers and there are no paid staff. Everything they give away is given to them. During a short discussion, she advised that they would be speaking with the Mayor, the City Council, and have been encouraged by Mayor Sakbun to apply for some additional ARPA funds that are going to be released to the United Way to supplement any funding received from this request.

vii. Additional Appropriation 2024-40: ARPA Grant Fund – Vigo County Fairgrounds

Daniel Armstrong with the Vigo County Fairgrounds explained that they are currently working on a project to redo the entire water system at the fairgrounds. It is extremely dilapidated and he doesn't believe it was installed according to Code many years ago when it was first put in. Repairs have been costing a lot of money, along with hefty sewage bills, and they are a not-for-profit organization. This space is used by many organizations in the community. They plan to be as cost saving as possible and do as much of the work themselves as they can. This request is for \$75,000 to help with the project. Originally, the total cost was around \$150,000 but they have had to adjust that down to about \$85,000.

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

This was withdrawn.

ix. Additional Appropriation 2024-42: ARPA Grant Fund – Building Renovation

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard said they County Commissioners are requesting \$50,000 in ARPA funds to renovate a room in the Court House for two small holding cells for inmates waiting for Court. When the jail moved to a new location, they no longer have any holding cells. The Judges and Sheriff's Department have both requested this space. It is located at the secure entrance on the north side. It is believed that the room was built for this purpose long ago but no one is sure about that. It could be made into two small holding cells to help during lunch breaks, etc. It was estimated that this could be accomplished in a couple of months' time.

x. Additional Appropriation 2024-43: ARPA Grant Fund – Vigo County Juvenile Center

Norm Loudermilk, Executive Director of the Juvenile Center, and Assistant Director Cindy Hunter gave a powerpoint presentation for this request. Mr. Loudermilk quoted statistics for the State regarding the number of counties (92) versus the number of juvenile detention centers (17). Vigo County currently takes kids from 47 counties. He receives inquiries from upper Michigan, from outside of St. Louis, and from Illinois looking for an opening in a detention center. Housing detainees from outside Vigo County does generate revenue. He currently has 16 cells with 19 beds. Facts and figures were given if a new detention center were to be constructed along with operations. Until the time comes that this can happen, this requested appropriation is for \$400,000 to allow an addition to the back of the current building for a new sally port. The current sally port is being used for storage of refrigerators and freezers to store the food being picked up to feed the detainees. When detainees have to be moved now for court appearances, doctor appointments, or whatever, they are exposed to the public while exiting the building to a vehicle. It is impossible to pull a vehicle into the current sally port for this transfer. \$380,000 of the request would be used for the building addition which would add a 2-car sally port. The other \$20,000 would be used for counseling and programming. DLZ had prepared a drawing of the plans for the addition and they have a quote from a contractor for \$370,000 for building costs. Mr. Loudermilk hoped to work on some additional cost savings for building. Councilwoman Theisz posed the question whether there was any money available from the State to help pick up some of the costs associated with so many juvenile detention centers closing. Mr. Loudermilk said if any grants were available, he would definitely apply. Councilwoman Theisz said she would be happy to meet with some of the legislators with Mr. Loudermilk to talk about funding. Commissioner Mike Morris clarified that the request before the Council is for a sally port and not a new facility.

xi. Additional Appropriation 2024-44: ARPA Grant Fund – Vigo County Sheriff’s Department Retirement Insurance

This was withdrawn.

Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk said that she expected to receive an email from Nyhart regarding the Sheriff’s retirement insurance for the County to review. She was unsure if she would have it by the time of the next meeting, but they will be getting some information back to the Auditor’s Office.

President Thacker said he had intended to address the following item at the beginning of the meeting. He asked Council Attorney Michael Wright to read the following Proclamation:

Whereas, a day, April 28, on which our nation after the tireless efforts of the labor movement and dedicated advocates determined that a governmental agency of occupation safety and health should be established to assure safe and healthful working conditions for all workers,

Whereas, this date is now recognized across this country and in the world to remember and honor workers who have been killed or disabled in the course of their work,

Whereas, the AFL-CIO theme for 2024 is Good Jobs. Safe Jobs. Protect Our Rights.

Whereas, in the State of Indiana in 2022, there were 156 fatal work-related injuries and countless more illnesses, injuries and disabling accidents,

Whereas, we recognize that workplace injuries can be prevented by awakening awareness of dangerous conditions,

Whereas, Eugene V. Debs dedicated his life in labor to ensure the safety and health of workers in and beyond his home in Vigo County,

Whereas, we dedicate ourselves to improving safety and health in our County, by seeking higher standards and better enforcement and fair and just compensation,

Therefore, the Vigo County Council proclaims, April 28, 2024

Workers Memorial Day

and urges all people in the County to honor these fallen and injured workers by calling for increased workplace safety standards and practices.

Signed on this day of April 1, 2024.

Todd Thacker
President, Vigo County Council

President Thacker said April 28 is the day the federal government created OSHA. There will be a service at the Debs Society on April 28.

Public Comments

Commissioner Clinkenbeard expressed his appreciation to Norm Loudermilk on the job he does at the Juvenile Detention Center but he wanted it to be clear and understood that the Commissioners are asking for a building addition/sally port for the current building and not a new building.

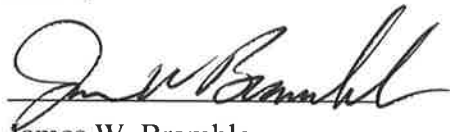
Marie Theisz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 6-0 (Councilman Aaron Loudermilk had left the meeting during public comment), the motion unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
APRIL 1, 2024

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of May, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:



James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor