

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 3, 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 reminded Council that a letter of support for a second juvenile magistrate had been signed last month for Judge Mullican to submit. After some consultation, a policy was discovered that mandates that each county can only have one juvenile magistrate. Judge Mullican has now requested that the letter of support be modified to simply support a general jurisdiction magistrate so that the position would not be limited to just Juvenile Court and could handle any duty delegated, including Juvenile Court. It would be a fully financially supported State position. However, the County would then be responsible for providing staffing. It was thought that would probably be comprised of providing two employees with benefits and salary which would probably be somewhere in the \$120,000-\$130,000 range. Mr. Wright will clarify those figures before next week's meeting.

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard gave a short update on the old jail demolition. Bids were opened last Thursday. There were 3 bids for access road construction and 5 bids for demolition. Copies of the bid opening minutes were provided to each Council member. It currently looks like McGuire Excavating was low bidder for the earth work and the drive. It also appears that Dore & Associates, at the time, was the low bidder for demolition. It is approximately \$1.2 million below the projected budget for the project. Due diligence and interviews are being conducted this week by Garmong with the two lowest bidders to make sure that everything required was included in the bid and will meet with RBO requirements. The building below the tower is ready to go. The old jail will be powered down on September 16 with demolition to begin the first of October. The THPD will be conducting some training exercises in the empty jail building in the time period between powering it down and the start of demolition. Marie Theisz asked if the Turn to the River project was still being kept in mind with the approaching demolition. Mr. Clinkenbeard said that they had been included in conversations. There will be additional handicap parking spots, parking spots for the jail transport vans, and building maintenance. Audience member Trent Short asked if the RBO was going to be enforced and who would be enforcing it. There was a brief discussion. David Thompson asked if they planned to keep as much of the demo process as possible local.

Preliminarily, it appears that the bid will be awarded to a local contractor due to some omissions from the low bid submission and the fact that they are not prepared to abide by the RBO. Commissioner Mike Morris said that everything is currently very preliminary. He also noted that once the utilities are completely shut off at the old jail, there would be a substantial cost savings in utilities.

Reports from committees

Vicki Weger said the Budget Committee will be meeting again on Thursday morning which is just a continuation of the annual budget meeting.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

i. Agreement Establishing Approved Uses of Sheriff's Office Commissary Fund Outside the Set Allowances in State Statute

Sheriff Derek Fell said there are basically 8 items the commissary fund can be spent on according to state statute. A ninth item says other items can be added if it benefits the Sheriff's Office and is mutually agreed upon by the County fiscal body. A list has been prepared requesting approval of the Council for needs/items that can be paid for by these funds. This is not a request for additional funds from the County. These funds are generated by inmate funds. David Thompson asked if the Council could get back on the mailing list for the commissary account reports. Sheriff Fell said he would see to it.

ii. Resolution 2024-13 – Resolution of the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana Expressing Interest in the Purchase of Specified Real Estate and Appointing Appraisers

Commissioner Chris Switzer said this concerns 21 acres located behind the Security Center (a map had been provided to Council members). Conversations had been had with property owners to the north and ultimately decided that the property would be out of the County's price range. However, the opportunity has presented itself to purchase the 21 acres south of the Security Center for possible future expansion. They also do not want to be landlocked at the Security Center. They would like to seek appraisals for the 21 acres. This is all owned by S&G Excavating. There is a southeast portion about 100 feet square that is in a flood zone and the current owner said he would move some of the dirt on the property to bring that area out of the flood zone. There was a brief discussion about the boundaries of the property. Current owner would like to keep a small piece of the parcel that has a home on it. Entry to the property would be off of State Road 63. There is a Duke Energy substation on the east portion. This might present a way to obtain access to Johnson Avenue along Duke Energy's easement.

iii. Resolution of Reallocation of Existing Appropriation 2024-14 – Juvenile Justice Center

Norm Loudermilk, Executive Director of the Juvenile Center, said that he was asking to transfer money that was previously appropriated under the Food line item in the amount of \$38,000 into the Vehicle line item. The funds would be used to replace a 2011 Crown Victoria with more than 220,000 miles on it that has a multitude of safety risks. They can purchase a used 2023 Dodge Durango with 22,000 miles from Eastgate Dodge in Indianapolis. Some of the money being transferred would also be used to outfit it for

proper safety protocols for a prisoner transport. Nancy Allsup asked if they would still have enough money to pay for their food. Mr. Loudermilk believed that they would. There was a brief discussion.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Additional Appropriation 2024-72: Parks – Payroll Salaries

Parks Superintendent Adam Grossman said this concerned HFI funds. There was a short discussion about what is requested by his letter and what was actually advertised. His request letter did not include FICA and PERF which both have to be paid on a stipend. The actual requested amount is \$9,939 and that is what was advertised. Money had been appropriated in an earlier meeting for HFI funds to be used for their biking program at Griffin Bike Park. A portion of that was for stipends. There was a brief discussion about the location of the funds and how it will need to be transferred. Marie Theisz commented that once the grant is gone, these stipends would go away. Mr. Grossman is aware of that. The balance of the funding will be used for the purchase of bikes.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2024-73: EDIT – Honey Creek Conservancy

Commissioner Chris Switzer said they had been working with Honey Creek Conservancy for 2-3 years trying to get them over the hump to get things accomplished in southern Vigo County. A southern portion of the county has been in a flood plain for several years. The Conservancy has been working on getting these areas into FEMA compliance and get them out of the flood plain. They need help in getting some walls repaired, drainage ditches repaired, and things of that nature. Helping get this accomplished will lift several thousand southern Vigo County residents out of a flood zone and allow them to decrease their insurance premiums. It will also allow new construction of homes, commercial business and things of that nature to not have flood insurance or have their buildings raised by 3-4 feet. A home developer that was potentially going to build on Springhill had to change plans due to the astronomical cost to raise those buildings high enough to not be in a flood zone. Parker Manning of the Honey Creek Conservancy briefly outlined the history of the Conservancy and what they had been doing to get into FEMA compliance and what remains to be done. A.J. Fricke with Christopher Burke Engineering gave a presentation on the project. There was lengthy discussion. Vicki Weger raised the question of the cost spent so far on the project and where the funding came from. Over \$500,000 has been spent on engineering work and the funding has come exclusively from the Conservancy District. Parker Manning clarified that the project that they are hoping to get additional funding for is for anticipated additional FEMA requirements in order to approve the map revision. They are trying to plan ahead. Discussion continued. It was noted this system is designed to accommodate up to 100-year floods. Commissioner Switzer pointed out that if anyone would like to see a visual of how much an area needs to be raised to meet current requirements, Fuson Automotive recently added a new detail shop behind their business and had to increase their dirt level to meet County ordinance.

iii. Additional Appropriation 2024-74: LIT/Special Purpose – Contractual Services

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard said Council had previously appropriated money for two secure rooms in the Court House to hold inmates awaiting court appearances. Items that had been overlooked during this construction included cameras and card swipes. This request is to fund those items. Mr. Clinkenbeard pointed out that Council had also appropriated roughly \$130,000 for dome repair and painting at the Court House which are now both complete. There is approximately \$6,700 left because the project came in under budget that will go back into the ARPA funds. That could possibly be used to offset some of this cost. Mr. Clinkenbeard said those rooms are complete except for installation of glass and once that is installed, the rooms will be operational. Travis Norris asked what the initial amount of money was that was appropriated to do the project. Commissioner Clinkenbeard said it was \$50,000.

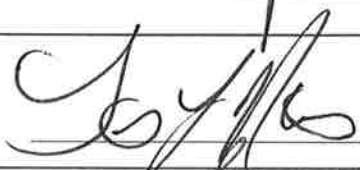



Public Comments

There were none.

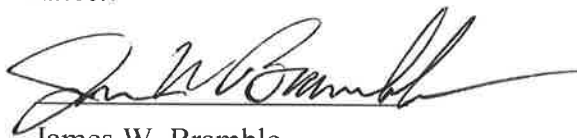
Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 6-0, the motion unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 8th day of October, 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 type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:



James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor