

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 9, 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 p.m.

Calling of the Roll

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

Correcting the Journal of the Preceding Meetings if Needed

August 5, 2025 Sunshine Meeting

August 12, 2025 Meeting

There were no corrections to the August 5, 2025 Sunshine Meeting, Vicki Weger made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025 Sunshine Meeting. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

There were no corrections to the August 12, 2025 Meeting. Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 Meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

Communications from Elected Officials or Agencies of the County

Commissioner Chris Switzer thanked the Council Annual Budget Committee for their work over the past several weeks.

Jon Shackleford with the Honey Creek Fire Protection District approached the Council to give an update on their operations. He said after the 2023 tornado outbreak the district established the structure collapse entrance rescue teams. He provided an overview of the teams' operations. Jon said an assessment after the 2023 outbreak showed the district did not have the training, equipment, or funding to properly respond to similar disasters. Jon noted the shortage of response teams in natural disasters of this nature. He said there would be a second class for 19 firefighters later this month. Jon thanked the Council for making this operation possible through approval of the district's budget.

Judge Lakshmi Reddy approached the Council to express further support for the Family Court project. She said she was informed the project would not be fully funded being part of cuts the Annual Budget Committee made. Judge Reddy noted continuing problems with population of local jails and the expenses related. She said her family court project is early intervention and she

believed this would make a difference. Judge Reddy once again requested the Council revisit this project and encouraged fully funding it.

Vigo County Assessor Kevin Gardner approached the Council to explain a situation around Saturn Petcare not complying with the stipulations of their tax abatement. He said in 2024 Saturn Petcare did not file a personal property return. He said Saturn Petcare received a tax bill due to the lack of response from Saturn. Kevin said Saturn did not pay the bill, so they were marked as delinquent. Kevin said in 2025, Saturn did file a personal property return without information. Kevin then outlined the County's various communications with Saturn. He said since Saturn was not in compliance that one year, this could lead to their abatement being removed. David Thompson asked about staffing changes at Saturn. Kevin said he was not sure about details of Saturn's staffing. There was discussion among the Council about whether Saturn Petcare's non-compliance for in this situation warranted action from the Council. Kevin Gardner said it was his personal belief this situation didn't warrant a removal of the abatement. Michael Wright Saturn Petcare was in compliance said outside of this situation. He said he would try to get something into writing the Council was comfortable with dictating what was expected of Saturn Petcare in relation to fees and/or action as a result of this situation sometime in the future.

a. Annual Budget Committee Update

Brad Anderson gave a brief Annual Budget Committee Update. He said there have been several meetings so far and would be holding what potentially could be a final meeting the following Monday at 10AM.

Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations

a. First Reading of the Vigo County 2026 Budget

Auditor Larry Hutchings noted the first reading of the Vigo County Solid Waste Management District and the Terre Haute International Airport's annual budget would need to happen at a later date due to inadequate time between him filing a notice to taxpayers and this public hearing. He said these two binding units' budgets would be publically read at a special call meeting September 18th at 3:30pm.

Auditor Larry Hutchings gave the first reading of the 2026 annual budget for Vigo County as follows: Notice to taxpayers is available online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov or by calling 888-739-9826. Complete details of budget estimates by fund and/or department may be seen by visiting the office of this unit of government at 131 Oak St. Terre Haute, IN 47807. Notice is hereby given to taxpayers of Vigo County, Indiana that the proper officers of Vigo County will conduct a public hearing on the year 2026 budget. Following this meeting, any ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of Vigo County not more than seven days after the hearing. The objection petition must identify the provisions of the budget, tax rate, or tax levy to which taxpayers object. If a petition is filed, Vigo County shall adopt with the budget a finding concerning the objections in the petition and testimony presented. Following the aforementioned hearing, the proper officers of Vigo County will meet to adopt the following budget. Public hearing date – Tuesday,

September 9, 2025 at 5pm at 127 Oak St. Terre Haute, Indiana. The adoption meeting will be Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5pm at 127 Oak St. Terre Haute, Indiana. Total budget estimate - \$118,083,305 with a maximum estimated funds to be raised (including appeals and levies exempt from maximum levy limitations - \$55,261,699.

b. First Reading of the Binding Units 2026 Annual Budget

Auditor Larry Hutchings gave the first reading of the 2026 annual budget for the Binding Units for 2026 Annual Budgets as follows: Notice to taxpayers is available online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov or by calling 888-739-9826. Complete details of budget estimates by fund and/or department may be seen by visiting the office of this unit of government at 131 Oak St. Terre Haute, IN 47807. Notice is hereby given to taxpayers of the Honey Creek Fire Protection District, New Goshen Fire Protection District, Lost Creek Fire Protection District, Riley Fire Protection District, Sugar Creek Fire Protection District, Prairieton Fire Protection District, and the Vigo County Capital Improvement Board that the proper officers of Vigo County will conduct a public hearing on the year 2026 budget. Following this meeting, any ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of Vigo County not more than seven days after the hearing. The objection petition must identify the provisions of the budget, tax rate, or tax levy to which taxpayers object. If a petition is filed, Vigo County shall adopt with the budget a finding concerning the objections in the petition and testimony presented. Following the aforementioned hearing, the proper officers of Vigo County will meet to adopt the following budget. Public hearing date – Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 5pm at 127 Oak St. Terre Haute, Indiana. The adoption meeting will be Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5pm at 127 Oak St. Terre Haute, Indiana.

c. Resolution 2025-2: Resolution Modifying Local Income Tax Rates Vigo County

Auditor Larry Hutchings said this resolution concerned the fire departments in the County and the amounts that will be coming in based on the calculations used. These distributions were based on a 65/35 split consistent with years past. The Council voted on this split in the August meetings. This resolution was discussed at the sunshine meeting. Randy Gentry asked when the deadline to approve these LIT rates and distributions to local fire departments. Michael Wright said October 31st. Chris Switzer gave an overview of various LIT rates and how the funds containing the money captured by the LIT can be used. Terre Haute mayor Brandon Sakbun approached the Council and how the LIT process would change in 2027 due to new state laws. Randy Gentry made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-2 as presented. 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 – aye; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

d. Resolution 2025-3: Sugar Creek Fire Protection District Debt Service Fund Request

Carol Holbert approached the Council and explained Chief Scott could not make the meeting, but she could answer any questions from Council. This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Resolution

2025-3 as presented. Brad Anderson 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 – aye; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

**e. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-6: Group Homes
Transfer of Funds**

This request was withdrawn.

**f. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-19: CASA – Request for Staff Advocate
Positions**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. CASA Director Glenna Cheeseman approached the Council and stressed the need for these requested positions and the negative effects of these positions losing their funding would have on CASA. Randy Gentry asked what the budget committee decided in relation to funding these positions. Brad Anderson said the budget committee had made the decision to not fund these positions due to the loss of grant funding. The Council discussed the option of tabling this request and discussing the request again closer to the date the grant funding was lost. Glenna gave a brief history of how these positions were funded in the past. Brad Anderson made a motion to table this request. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

Ordinances Relating to Appropriations

**a. Additional Appropriation 2025-46: CASA – Request for Staff Advocate
Positions**

This request would fund the request above. Randy Gentry made a motion to table this request. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a vocal vote.

**b. Additional Appropriation 2025-48: CASY – Substance Use/Misuse Prevention
Initiative Grant**

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. Brandon Halleck approached the Council to answer any further questions. Randy Gentry expressed his concerns with using opioid settlement funds and his concerns with the success of this program. Brandon Halleck said the purpose of grants, like the matching-grant this request is in relation to, is to motivate counties to spend unused opioid settlement dollars. He said this program uses proven remedies to combat the impacts of opioid abuse in local communities. Brandon said he was also seeking funding from multiple sources. Randy Gentry said he would prefer these funds be distributed to fund county government services. Brandon provided an overview of the programs Chances and Services for Youth's provides and the potential effectiveness of them. Steve Ellis expressed his trepidation with the Council funding a non-profit with county funds. Judge Lakshmi Reddy approached the Council and expressed support for Brandon's request. Randy said if the funds were distributed to fund county services this would allow for oversight he would be more comfortable with. Brenda Wilson made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-48. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. During discussion, Steve Ellis said he would make it a policy of his to require a report of the finances of any non-profit that requests an appropriation of county funds. David Thompson

asked how much money was in the opioid settlement funds at the time of the meeting. Auditor Larry Hutchings said was \$880,461.11 in the Opioid Restricted Fund, and \$197,925.47 in the Opioid Unrestricted Fund. Randy Gentry expressed his support for spreading awareness to County entities these funds were available. 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 – aye; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 5-2, the motion passed.

c. Additional Appropriation 2025-49: Terre Haute Regional Airport – Rainy Day Fund Request

This request was discussed at the sunshine meeting. There were no further questions. Brad Anderson made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation 2025-49. 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 – aye; David Thompson – aye. With a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Honorary Resolutions

There were none.

Resolutions Relating to Fiscal Policies of the Council

There were none.

Appointments

There were none.

Public Comment

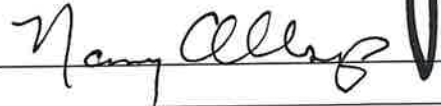
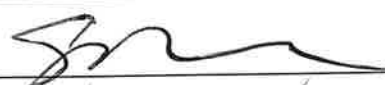
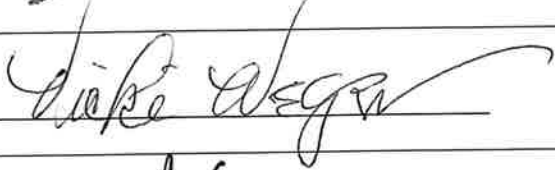
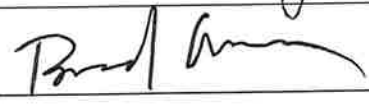
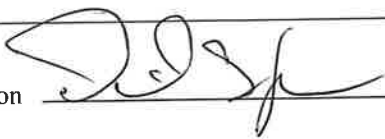
There were none.

Adjournment

Brenda Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Ellis seconded the motion. With a vocal vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of October, 2025.

Aye	☒	Absent	☐	Randy Gentry	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Nancy Allsup	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Brenda Wilson	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Steve Ellis	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Vicki Weger	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Brad Anderson	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	David Thompson	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		

Attest:



Larry T. Hutchings, II
Auditor