

Vigo County Council
Minutes (*As Amended on November 13, 2018*)
Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Annex

Pledge of Allegiance

President Aaron Loudermilk called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Calling of the Roll

Present: James R. Mann II, Mike Morris, Bill Thomas, Vicki Weger, Tim P. Curley, Brendan R. Kearns, Aaron Loudermilk

Vigo County Commissioners public hearing on the feasibility study of possible alternatives to construction or reconstruction of county jail.

County Attorney Mike Wright commented to the public that we are here to meet the expectations for Indiana Code 36-1-8-19. The feasibility study has been available on the Vigo County website since July 23, 2018. The purpose of this meeting tonight is to have the public comment and question about the feasibility study.

Public comment

The public expressed their concerns regarding the new upcoming jail for Vigo County. Those who spoke were Bob Murray, Don Hyde, Jerry McGlone, Donna Williams, Joy Setter, Lisa Spence, Kevin Southwood, Robert Guell, Mike Gordon, Marian Ramsey Ford, Jack Meany, Ralph Lech, Sylvester Edwards, Fred Nation, Myra Wilkie, Charlie Williams, Robert Compton, Jackie Lower, Liz Brown, Jeff Kohr, Dorothy Drummond

Jane Conner commented in regards to an error that was printed in Tribune Star by Howard Greninger between the County Commissioners and Citizens for Better Government

Darrick Scott with Sugar Creek Fire and Robert Salmon with Otter Creek Fire trustee commented about public safety tax and their need for more money to have more manpower to help take care of the citizens of Vigo County.

President Aaron Loudermilk called for a ten minute recess and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Council Comment

Councilman Jim Mann questioned the County Commissioners about the number of components to the lawsuits against Vigo County.

Councilman Bill Thomas questioned the County Commissioners about Phase II of the study of the jail and how many beds are needed and why. County Commissioner Jon Marvel answered with an email that he has received from Dr. Ray regarding Phase II that he read to the County Councilman and public.

Councilwoman Vicki Weger commented that we need a new jail to have a better and safe place for the inmates and a better working environment for the employees of the jail.

Councilman Tim Curley commented that he agreed with the Sugar Creek and Otter Creek fire department and not being able to have enough money to be able to have enough men to take care of the citizens of Vigo County.

Councilman Brendan Kearns commented to the County Commissioners on an update with the location of 201 Cherry Street. He also questioned the money that is given to maintenance every year to help fix the jail and why the maintenance is not staying updated. Brendan Kearns also questioned Bill Watson about the extra space in the Community Corrections building and its usage. Bill Watson stated at the moment the extra space is not being used but it will be used soon for increasing the education levels for VCCC participants.

Councilman Mike Morris questioned the County Commissioners about how much money it would take to fix up the current jail instead of paying for a new jail to be built. County Attorney Mike Wright responded to the feasibility to repairing the current jail.

First Reading of ordinance 2018-03, an Ordinance modifying local income tax rates in Vigo County.

County Auditor James W. Bramble read the first reading of Ordinance 2018-03.

Public hearing on Ordinance 2018-03, an Ordinance modifying local income tax rates in Vigo County.

Donald Hyde stated that the County Commissioners and County Council needs to make sure that they have a plan and money.

Lisa Spence presented with a list of questions concerning the new jail.

Marian Ramsey Ford commented that the transportation of prisoners is dangerous and it's more convenient for the jail to be next to the courthouse, so the prisoners can walk to the court house instead of being transported.

Charlie Williams comment that the plan of the new jail and the bed proposal of the new jail is wrong and incomplete. He also made some comments referring to Phase I of the jail assessment.

Robert Salmon with Otter Creek fire trustee commented about public safety tax and better revenues.

Communication from elected officials, other officials, and agencies of the county

Councilman Jim Mann questioned the scope of the discussion of tonight's meeting modifying local income tax rates.

Councilman Brendan Kearns commented about the public safety tax rate of this ordinance. Tim Berry and Herschel Frierson explained in detail the public safety tax.

Councilman Aaron Loudermilk stated Ordinance 2018-03 will have a second reading of the August 14, 2018 Council meeting and then a vote will take place.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by:** Jim Mann, **Seconded by:** Vicki Weger.

Motion passed unanimously.