VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Council Chambers, Vigo County Annex

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Mike Morris called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Calling of the roll**

**Present:** Lisa Spence-Bunnett, Chris Switzer, Vicki Weger, James R. Mann II, Aaron Loudermilk, David Thompson and Mike Morris.

**Approval of Minutes**

 ***November 10, 2020***

 There were no corrections to the minutes. Aaron Loudermilk made a motion to approve the minutes. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

**Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County**

 Lisa Spence-Bunnett noted that she had been receiving emails expressing concern about incarcerated individuals. Ms. Spence-Bunnett indicated that she had also been in touch with the Health Department and it appears that steps are being taken and everyone is working within the guidelines. Councilman Morris said that he had also contacted Sheriff Plasse and matters were being handled appropriately.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**Reports from standing committees**

There were none.

**Reports from select committees**

There were none.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

1. ***Annual Budget.***
2. **Broadband Project, ROC 2020-43, Additional Appropriation 2020-23**

This matter passed Committee 3-0 with a favorable recommendation. President Morris indicated that the Council members had several questions they would like to have answered. Council Administrator Kylissa Miller indicated that a list of questions had been sent to Josh Zuerner with Joink after the draft agreement and county locations were received and responses were received yesterday. Those items had been given to each Council member and were briefly reviewed. Councilman Mann asked if the representatives in attendance had any new information tonight that had not yet been presented. Rachel Leslie with RJL Solutions was present, along with Dr. Rob Haworth, Josh Zuerner and Brendan Kearns, to speak on behalf of this request. Dr. Haworth provided the Council members with a packet of information containing data showing various tables and graphs of the WiFi usage that the students are currently using that is being supplied via school buses parked at various times and locations throughout the county and various other information. There was a very lengthy discussion. Lisa Spence-Bunnett advised that she had reached out to Steve Witt, the head of the Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation, about the value of this project to Vigo County in general along with the benefits to the school corporation. It was his feeling that this will improve home values, create potential business activity in areas that previously were not attractive due to the lack of Wifi access, improve the capability of being able to work from home, and telehealth, among other things. Now and in the future, this access is a necessity, not a luxury. The question was also raised whether at some point, individual homes would be able to hook up to the internet for a fee. This is being explored and will be available at some point. Locations were also discussed. Site substitutions would be made by and with the school corporation. It was suggested that perhaps a Council member could be part of the committee where alternate decisions get made or modified. The draft of the agreement that had been made available tonight was discussed. Some additions/changes were suggested. A short recess occurred at 7:15 so that County Attorney Michael Wright and Council Attorney Robert Effner could confer regarding some modifications they would like to have made to the draft agreement. The meeting reconvened at 7:29. Some of the changes to the agreement were discussed. It was suggested that the County Attorney and Council Attorney meet yet this week and put something together and circulate it among the parties. This new language would contain a paragraph including the City to be involved with site substitutions that would get made in the City and the County to be involved with site substitutions made in the County. This passed the Annual Budget Committee with a 3-0 favorable vote. Aaron Loudermilk made a motion to accept ROC 2020-43, Additional Appropriation for the broadband project as presented. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Council Attorney Effner suggested the Appropriation Ordinance number be mentioned in the motion. Aaron Loudermilk amended his motion to include the approval of Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2020-23. Mr. Switzer’s second to the motion still stands. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

1. **CARES Act, ROC 2020-44, Additional Appropriation 2020-24**

President Morris stated that this had been discussed at some length in committee and it moved ahead 3-0 with a favorable recommendation. The terms have changed as Mr. Bramble mentioned, when it was discussed, that most of these things were prefaced with “subject to change.” It has changed from its initial presentation of $3,101,767.00 to $3,419,767.00. Mr. Bramble explained how this had occurred. We now have the monies which need to be transferred from the CARES Act Fund to the General Fund. We haven’t used the entire $3.4 million, nor will we, by the end of the year. So what we haven’t used…the appropriation will die. But the Coronavirus is not going to go away at the end of the year so shortly after the first of the year, we will be back again for another additional appropriation for Coronavirus expenses from whatever remains at the end of the year. Vicki Weger made a motion to accept ROC 2020-44 for Additional Appropriation 2020-24 in the amount of $3,419,767.00. David Thompson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

1. ***Treasurer Request for Cash Book Adjustment; ROC 20-045***

This item was added on by President Morris. In order to act upon this tonight, the rules would have to be suspended by unanimous consent. This is a matter that needs to be acted upon to clear up an inconsistency with the cash book. Michael Wright explained that the County maintains a cash book which is an indication of how much money the County should have in its bank accounts. By statute, once a month, those amounts have to be reconciled against one another. This is a request to adjust the figures on the County’s cash book to match the ledger and the banks. A list was provided by the Treasurer of the five accounts and the amount of discrepancy with each. Mr. Wright also noted that during the process of figuring out these amounts, it became clear that balancing on a daily basis would be a good idea. It is much easier to spot and correct an error on a daily basis than to have to hunt for it over a 30-day period or longer. Mr. Wright presented a Joint Resolution for consideration which had been adopted by the Vigo County Commissioners at their meeting earlier in the day. This is guidance that was recommended by the State Board of Accounts to make an adjustment to bring the cash book back in line with the bank accounts. The State Board of Accounts had also recommended that the County balance back to the same figure for a minimum of six months and the County has been balancing back to this figure since May of 2019. Significant work hours were expended trying to find the discrepancies. Ultimately, the State Board of Accounts determined that this was the best way to deal with the correction. This is a matter that the State Board of Accounts would like to have wrapped up yet this year before the December 31, 2020 financial statements. Chris Switzer made a motion to suspend the rules so that this can be acted upon tonight. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Mann stated that he wanted to make sure, from the Council’s perspective, this is not a question of whether the money was or was not appropriated, this has nothing to do with the normal function of the County Council and the responsibilities of the seven people on this Council. That was confirmed by Mr. Wright. There was additional discussion and Councilman Mann asked several questions. Mr. Wright did point out that there was no question of impropriety and that the books have been audited. There is not any money missing from an account. The indication is that there was a mistake made in the cash book and is unable to be found. This is the fix suggested by the State Board of Accounts. Additional questions were asked and answered. Vicki Weger made a motion to approve Joint Resolution 2020-01 of the Common Council of Vigo County and the Board of Commissioners of Vigo County. David Thompson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved. Chris Switzer made a motion to reinstate the rules. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the ayes have it and the motion was unanimously passed.

**Honorary Resolutions**

There were no resolutions but Councilman David Thompson presented a plaque to James R. Mann II in recognition of his service and commitment to the Community on the Vigo County Council from 2017-2020. Councilman Thompson then presented a plaque to Mike Morris in recognition of his service and commitment to the Community on the Vigo County Council from 2013-2020.

**First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions**

There were none.

**Appointments**

There were none.

**Adjournment**

David Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.