

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00 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: Brenda Wilson, Travis Norris, Marie Theisz, Don Morris, Vicki Weger, David Thompson, Aaron Loudermilk.

Public Comments

There were none.

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

Commissioner Brendan Kearns gave a quick update regarding COVID. The County is doing better numbers-wise and a contract is now in place with Haute City Center for use of the former Sears for a vaccination site. Mr. Kearns has received very positive feedback on how well that is working.

President Loudermilk welcomed two new Council members, Brenda Wilson and Travis Norris, to the Council. President Loudermilk then addressed an email that was sent to department heads and elected officials concerning some expectations this year regarding additional appropriations and what that might look like. We want to make sure that what we are funding is necessary with the chance for budgets and revenue streams to be tighter this year. The email essentially asked that prior to approving any additional appropriations outside the budget, the department heads and elected officials submit somewhat of a 5-year plan in order to see what we are looking at moving forward. Councilman Morris asked about how to obtain financial statements/information. County Auditor James Bramble responded that the year-end financial reports are in process right now and will be published on Gateway. Any other questions can be addressed directly with the Auditor's Office. Mr. Bramble also noted that in this year's Budget, a capital improvement plan had been included which essentially was a 5-year projection of what revenues are expected to be. There was additional discussion about this subject.

Reports from standing committees

There were none.

Reports from select committees

There were none.

President Loudermilk stated that this is the first Sunshine meeting of the Council. As such, he would do the first reading of the items to be covered before getting into the ordinances individually:

ROC 2021-001, Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-03, Juvenile Center Non-Reverting Fund. The ask is \$15,000 in Institutional Supplies; \$3,000 Wearing Apparel; \$5,000 Other Supplies; \$5,000 Education and Training; \$12,000 Building Repair for a total of \$40,000.

ROC 2021-002, Salary Ordinance 2021-01 and Reduction of Appropriation Ordinance 2021-01, Prosecutor's Office General Fund. Eliminate one part-time trial deputy and increase salary for six part-time deputy prosecutors.

ROC 2021-003, Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-01, Sheriff's Department E-Share Asset Forfeiture Fund. Additional Appropriation ask for \$29,994.

ROC 2021-004, Salary Ordinance 2021-02, Auditor's Office General Fund. Create two additional positions.

ROC 2021-005, Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-02. County General Fund. COVID Relief.

ROC 2021-006, Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-04, Honey Creek Fire Protection District out of the Cumulative Fire Fund for new equipment for \$230,000.

Council Attorney Robert Effner asked President Loudermilk to also indicate the Ordinance number while reading the requests.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Salary Ordinance 2021-01; ROC 2021-002 Prosecutor

There was no one present from the Prosecutor's Office. This matter was tabled.

ii. Salary Ordinance 2021-02; ROC 2021-004 Auditor

At the request of the Auditor, this matter was tabled.

iii. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-01: ROC 2020-003 E-Share Asset Forfeiture

Sheriff John Plasse was present to discuss this request. He stated that the money being requested is already in his Seized Assets account from the Drug Task Force Detectives. He is asking to use \$29,994 of those funds in order to purchase a vehicle. This has been done in the past with E-Share money. This is not an additional request from the Council or the taxpayers but to transfer money from one account to another for use for this purchase. David Thompson asked if this was an additional vehicle or were they replacing another one. This purchase will replace a 2017 Dodge Ram currently in use. The 2017 Dodge Ram will in turn replace a 2007 Chevy Silverado that is used for maintenance and

hauling of supplies. The 2007 Silverado was traded in because it had outlived its purpose and was no longer worth fixing. Councilman Thompson expressed some reservation about using the funds for a vehicle purchase when he thinks there are other expenses coming up that may require a large expenditure, specifically body cameras. Sheriff Plasse indicated that he would be coming to the Council for funding for body cameras. Although not yet submitted, he did have information that the cost would be about \$550,000 for five years or \$110,000 per year. That will require other steps before it can come to the Council. A lengthy discussion then took place. President Loudermilk raised the question regarding what type of trade in value was received for the 2007 Silverado. The use of the 2017 Dodge Ram was also discussed. President Loudermilk suggested that perhaps it might be better to trade the 2017 Dodge Ram in on the purchase of the new truck to get some value out of it instead of using it as an extra vehicle. Discussion continued. The subject of the cost of body cameras and funding was also briefly touched upon again.

**iv. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-02; ROC 2021-005
County General Fund**

This concerns the remaining monies of the CARES Act Fund. We need to appropriate what wasn't used at the end of last year. Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk stated that the \$2.7 million figure should be fairly accurate as to the amount that is left after the end of 2020 and will need to be reappropriated for those continuing COVID expenses. Mr. Bramble stated that we will need to continue paying contact tracers for the foreseeable future and now expenses are ramping up for vaccinations. That will probably be ongoing throughout the year. Final costs are unpredictable. For the benefit of the new members of the Council, Mr. Bramble gave a brief history of the CARES Act Fund.

**v. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-03; ROC 2021-001
Juvenile Justice Center Non-Reverting Fund**

Norm Loudermilk, Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Center was present to discuss this request. He stated that this is also a request for use of existing funds and no tax dollars are being requested. The monies in this non-reverting fund come from money paid to Vigo County for housing out-of-county detainees. At present, no budget exists for the expenditure of these funds but he is hoping that such will be set up in the future. The \$15,000 for institutional supplies would be used for clothing, bedding, and hygiene products. \$12,000 for building repair will be used for repair/upgrades to heating/cooling equipment, doors replacement, cell equipment, lock replacement, etc. \$5,000 for Education and Training of staff to meet statement requirements. \$5,000 for Safety would include duty belts, handcuffs, radios, and other things that detention officers use. \$3,000 for Clothing would be uniforms and such. Funds they currently have and expect to receive was explained. A lengthy discussion then took place about prior funding and what it was used for as compared to what was being asked for now. Mr. Loudermilk explained that the Juvenile Center had not been maintained and he had a large laundry list of things that needed to be done for the safety of the detainees and the employees. There was also a discussion about the progress of the new security system installation. Mr. Loudermilk indicated that he had received an email today from the vendor indicating that everything is on-site now except for the two servers. The vendor indicated that they

estimate installation should begin on the 22nd with a projected timeline of finishing in about six weeks once installation begins. The final cost for the system was an additional \$3,000 above what was approved and granted by the County Council last year. The monies being requested today will help offset that cost. Councilwoman Brenda Wilson asked if the doors being purchased by the Commissioners approved earlier today would change the amount of the funds being requested for building repair. Mr. Loudermilk stated that although that money will not now have to be used for doors, there are any number of other repairs/replacements that the requested money would be used for and gave examples. Additional lengthy discussion continued including money currently in the budget for 2021.

**vi. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-04; ROC 2021-006
Honey Creek Fire Protection District**

Joe Shackelford, Chairman of the Honey Creek Fire Protection District Trustees, was present to discuss this request from their 2021 Cumulative Equipment Fund. This money is to purchase six Lifepack 15 defibrillator units, costing \$29,000 each, one service protection plan for one year for the six units, and two CPR compression systems. They currently have \$273,000 in their Cumulative Equipment Fund plus a certificate of deposit. The money is there. HCFPD attempted to obtain a grant for this equipment last Fall but in order to receive that grant, the department needed a tax exemption status of 501c3 which is not what their current tax exempt status is. Therefore the grant was denied. The Department will be working on a status change in the upcoming year. However, the defibrillators they now have are 15 years old, no longer able to be serviced and updated to today's standards and will not last for another year. The Department currently has one CPR compression system but is requesting two more systems.

**vii. Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2021-05; ROC 2021-004
Auditor**

At the request of the Auditor, this matter was tabled.

**viii. Reduction of Appropriation Ordinance 2021-01; ROC 2021-002
Prosecutor**

There was no one present from the Prosecutor's Office. This matter was tabled.

**ix. Ordinance Establishing Sex & Violent Crime Offender Fees &
Fund**



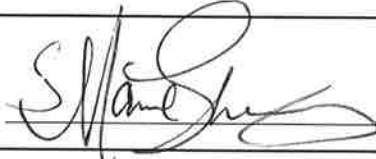
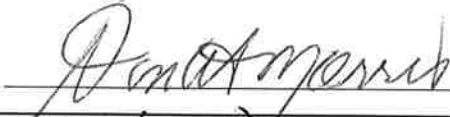
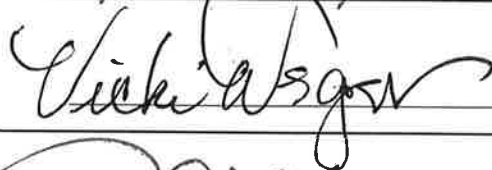
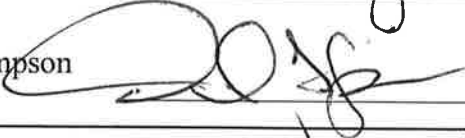

Sheriff John Plasse was present to speak about this request. President Loudermilk advised the Sheriff that he could go ahead and speak on this request but didn't think there would be any action on the request this month since it was submitted after the deadline. Sheriff Plasse indicated that nearly every county in Indiana, except Vigo, currently has this Fund in place. It requires the offender to pay a \$50 fee to register. It is believed that the numbers registered here are higher because people from other counties are registering here because they don't have to pay. Therefore, the numbers registering might decline somewhat if a fee is instituted. The monies paid would go to the non-reverting account that is up for consideration but in order to spend any of that money, the Sheriff would still have to have Council approval. The purpose of this request is to set up this fund.

Councilwoman Weger asked the approximate number of sex offenders in a month. Sheriff Plasse indicated that the number is about 200 yearly. They are required by law to register every year. Sheriff Plasse indicated that the Commissioners had approved this at their meeting last week. Councilman Morris asked why Vigo County has never had a fee. Sheriff Plasse believed that it had never been brought before the County or the Commissioners. Councilman Thompson asked if \$50 was the usual and customary fee and Sheriff Plasse replied in the affirmative. Councilwoman Theisz asked what the repercussions were if the fee was not paid. Sheriff Plasse indicated that they would not issue a warrant but would try to suggest to the offenders that they needed to register. If they did not comply, it would be up to the Prosecutor's Office to pursue that. The Sheriff's Department's goal is to get them to register like they are required to do. The timing issue was discussed in detail.


Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. David Thompson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
February 2, 2021

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 9th day of March, 2021.

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"/>	Brenda Wilson	
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"/>	Don W. Morris	
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"/>	David Thompson	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk, President	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:


James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor