

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday January 14, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Vigo County Annex**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Bernie Burns representing the Vigo Count Sheriff's Department called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Calling of the roll**

**Present:** Rick Burger, Mike Morris, Ed Ping, Bill Thomas, Kathy Miller, Tim Curley, Mark Bird.

**Reorganization**

***Election of Officers***

Tim Seprodi, Vigo County Auditor opened the floor for Vigo County Council President nominations.

**Motion:** To nominate Kathy Miller as President of the Vigo County Council, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bill Thomas, **Seconded by** Rick Burger.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

**Yes:** Bill Thomas, Ed Ping, Kathy Miller, Mark Bird, Mike Morris, Rick Burger, Tim Curley.

Mr. Seprodi passed the gavel to President Kathy Miller.

Ms. Miller opened the floor for President Pro Tempore nominations.

**Motion:** To nominate Rick Burger as President Pro Tempore, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bill Thomas, **Seconded by** Tim Curley.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

**Yes:** Bill Thomas, Ed Ping, Kathy Miller, Mark Bird, Mike Morris, Rick Burger, Tim Curley.

**Motion:** To close nominations, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Mark Bird, **Seconded by** Tim Curley.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

**Yes:** Bill Thomas, Ed Ping, Kathy Miller, Mark Bird, Mike Morris, Rick Burger, Tim Curley.

President Miller reminded all departments that Council requests are due the first Tuesday of each month and will be heard the following month. Scheduled meetings shall be held the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of May, which will be held May 20<sup>th</sup> due to the Auditor's Conference, November, which will be held November 18<sup>th</sup> due to Veteran's Day, and there will be no scheduled meeting in July or December.

***Adoption of Rules***

Ms. Miller asked for a motion to adopt the rules for 2014 and that they remain the same as 2013.

Councilman Ed Ping discussed the issue of Committee meetings and their effectiveness. He feels these meetings are undemocratic with only three members of the Council voting to make a decision as to whether or not to send a request to the full Council so that all seven members can vote.

**Motion:** Adopt rules for 2014 the same as 2013, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bill Thomas, **Seconded by** Mike Morris.

**Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 5, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

**Yes:** Bill Thomas, Kathy Miller, Mark Bird, Mike Morris, Rick Burger.

**No:** Ed Ping, Tim Curley.

### **Public comment**

Judy Anderson, Vigo County Commissioner, stated that her opinion is that the Committees are not illegal. However, anyone has the right to be heard by the Council and when three members of a Committee deny the request, that is denying their rights to be heard by the full Council. When the Committees were created with Bob Hellman (former Councilman), they were intended to advise the rest of the Council.

President Miller noted that the President of the Council may or may not send any request that was presented to a Committee to the full Council regardless of how the three Committee members voted. The President is the fourth vote in deciding whether or not a request shall be heard by the full Council.

Mike Ciolli, Vigo County Commissioner wished the vote had been tabled. He does not agree with the Committee process.

President Miller stated that information is currently being gathered during this public comment. Furthermore, she welcomes discussion and opinion and the Rules can be revised at any meeting.

Derrick Scott spoke as a former Vigo County Council member. He was a Councilman before Bob Hellman when committees did not exist. At that time he felt uniformed during the Council meeting which was a problem. He feels two or three Committee members gathering information and having discussion is a good thing whether or not there is a vote. He feels Committees are necessary because more information is gained resulting in more educated votes.

### **Communications from elected officials of the County**

Councilman Tim Curley stated that since the Rules can be changed at any time he would like to make the following motion:

**Motion:** To hold a Sunshine meeting with all Council members rather than Committees before all Council meetings. Also he would like to do away with the Annual Budget Committee and all seven Council members should participate in preparing the Budget,

**Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Tim Curley, **Seconded by** Ed Ping.

**Vote:** Motion denied (**summary:** Yes = 3, No = 4, Abstain = 0).

**Yes:** Ed Ping, Mark Bird, Tim Curley.

**No:** Bill Thomas, Kathy Miller, Mike Morris, Rick Burger.

### **Communications from other officials or agencies**

There were none.

### **Reports from standing committees**

There were none.

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

President Miller assigned Requests of Council to Council for further review.

### **Appointments**

*Annual Budget Committee:* Rick Burger, Chair; Mike Morris; Mark Bird

*Budget Adjustments, Transfers and Appropriations Committee:* Bill Thomas, Chair; Rick Burger; Tim Curley

*Personnel Committee:* Tim Curley, Chair; Ed Ping; Mark Bird

*Facilities, Services and Special Projects Committee:* Mike Morris, Chair; Ed Ping; Bill Thomas

*Vigo County Council Administrator:* Ryan P. Oilar

*Vigo County Council Attorney:* Robert Effner

*Data Processing Board:* Councilman Mike Morris; Councilman Ed Ping; Councilman Bill Thomas; Bob Lane

*Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals:* John Church

*Facilities, Services and Special Projects Committee, Ex Officio:* Kim Norris

The following appointments have expired and are currently open. If anyone is interested in any opening, please contact President Kathy Miller or Ryan Oilar, Council Administrator.

*Alcoholic Beverage Board*

*E911 Advisory Board*

*Emergency Management Council*

*Pre-Disaster Planning Committee*

*Local Emergency Planning Commission*

*West Central Indiana Economic Development District, Inc. (MPO West Central Indiana*

*Economic Development District, Inc. (Board)*

*Building Inspection Advisory Board*

*Vigo County Fair Board*

*Wabash River Development and Beautification, Inc.*

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Bill Thomas, **Seconded by** Mike Morris.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

**Yes:** Bill Thomas, Ed Ping, Kathy Miller, Mark Bird, Mike Morris, Rick Burger, Tim Curley.