

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
Tuesday, August 11, 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

June 9, 2020

There were no corrections to the minutes. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the minutes. Lisa Spence-Bunnett seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Public Comment

In compliance with the meeting structure for COVID 19, any comments from the public may be submitted to county.council@vigocounty.in.gov and will be distributed to the Council members. There were public comments sent via email for this month's meeting. Council Administrator Kylissa Miller received one email from Donna Williams reading as follows: "Dear Council Members, I recently attended a Norman Rockwell exhibit and noted this picture of citizens asking government what they are doing. It prompts me to ask, as I did in June, what is the plan for the surplus money as projected by Councilwoman Spence-Bunnett and confirmed by Councilman Thompson?" [There was a copy of the Norman Rockwell picture attached but due to size problems, it was unable to be printed off and attached to these minutes.] Lisa Spence-Bunnett asked if the Council was going to answer that question. There was a short discussion. President Morris stated that he had a list entitled "10 Threats to Local Government Revenues from Corona Recession" that would be reviewed after regular business is conducted and he thought that might shed some light on what our actual revenue is. Mr. Morris also stated that there would be a presentation that could possibly be funded with some of those revenues.

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

Three departments have been invited to give information on their annual budget requests but such will be discussed later in the meeting.

Reports from standing committees

There were none.

Reports from select committees

There were none.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

a. ***Resolution 2020-06, Resolution Modifying Local Income Tax Rates for Vigo County***

Councilman Aaron Loudermilk reminded the Council that this had come up in a prior meeting where the rules were suspended in order to discuss this matter and set the rates for the fire protection districts and the firetrucks within the County. At that time, the allocation was set at 65%-35% ratio. The resolution being presented tonight reflects those numbers. Each of the listed service providers had submitted their numbers in a timely fashion requesting funds before the statutorily provided deadline. A proper announcement was made to DLGF for the resolution and it was reviewed and accepted. This must be approved or disapproved by the Council on or before September 1 for the funds to be given to the service providers. After a short discussion, Vicki Weger moved to approve Resolution 2020-06. David Thompson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion unanimously passed with a vote of 7-0.

b. ***Personnel Committee.***

i. ***ROC 24 - Adjust pay rate for court reporter.***

Aaron Loudermilk, as a member of the Personnel Committee, presented the Council with information on this request. Hon. Phillip Adler was present to give the facts behind this request. Judge Adler advised that this court reporter had served in such a position in a different court for over 15 years, including working for Judge Adler when he presided over a different court, and was extremely qualified and had a good work ethic. After Judge Adler took over the reins of Title IV-D Court, the then-court reporter retired this year leaving a vacancy. The current court reporter came in to fill the vacant position but in so doing, ended up taking a pay cut for taking a job that she was more than qualified for, already trained to do, and taking on more job duties than she had previously performed. Even though the amount was nominal, Judge Adler felt that she should receive the same pay rate as her prior position paid. This matter was tabled by the Personnel Committee until further information could be gathered and submitted to the Committee. There was concern of setting a precedent since this type of situation had arisen before and the pay requests were denied. The Committee wanted to know how many times this had happened in the past and what the impact might be. After lengthy discussion, the Council felt that even though they felt this request should be granted, they still wanted the information regarding prior similar instances before any decision could be made. There was further in-depth discussion. Vicki Weger moved to table this request. David Thompson seconded the motion. Before the vote was taken, Councilwoman Spence-Bunnett asked to formally request the salary research be done by the Auditor's Office. Also, Councilman Mann asked for clarification on how this is being tabled. It was decided to run it through Committee again. Upon a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Chris Switzer – no; Lisa Spence-Bunnett – aye; James R. Mann II – aye; Vicki Weger – aye; Aaron Loudermilk – aye; David Thompson – aye; and Mike Morris - aye. By a vote of 6-1, the motion was passed to table the matter.

c. *Annual Budget Committee.*

i. **Discussion of Vigo County 2021 Budget**

ii. **Review Max Levy and Property Tax Caps of all Units.**

Council Attorney Robert Effner explained that statute requirements are that Council review the estimated budget limits provided by DLGF and also the estimates provided by DLGF how the property taxes will be reduced by creditors. That's the requirement. In the alternative, the Auditor is required to provide to each of the taxing units the minutes after they have been approved by the Council. A discussion was had about whether or not a motion was needed in this matter. After discussion, Jim Mann made a motion that the Council has reviewed the information being presented and given a chance to examine the numbers. Lisa Spence-Bunnett seconded the motion. Council Attorney Robert Effner advised that it should just be made of record that the levies and reductions have been reviewed as presented by the DLGF and the Council had an opportunity to comment and/or make recommendations. Upon a roll call vote of 7-0, it was affirmed that the levies and reductions have been reviewed and accepted as presented.

President Morris advised that three departments had been invited to the full Council meeting to explain their budget requests. First up was the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff John Plasse first spoke about the federal grant that the department had applied and qualified for. The grant was for \$875,000.00 for the hiring of seven deputies, or, \$225,000.00 per deputy for three years. The approximate cost to county would be \$525,004.83 of salary benefits for seven deputies. The grant would cover \$291,666.67 per year of that. Each year, the County would be responsible for \$233,338.16. The retirement would increase the funding the county would be responsible for between \$20,000-\$22,000 per deputy. However, the retirement portion would not begin to accrue for them until 2023 if they were hired in 2021. The grant does not require these positions be retained at the end of the grant. Upon questioning, it was determined that the only other cost to the County for the seven deputies would be for bullet proof vests. There were some additional questions from Council members and a lengthy discussion took place. It was also noted that on top of the 7 deputies for the grant request, the department is requesting one more part-time process server and two building security personnel. One is for Community Corrections and the other would be a rover in the Court House. There are two part-time personnel in the Court House now but they are working way over their part-time hours because there are needs that have to be addressed. The stipend requested is for a security sergeant who is acting as a sergeant but not getting paid for additional duties. The Sheriff next talked about the longevity request. This request would amount to an additional \$145,639 on top of what is currently being paid. The amount of the request is modeled after other local law enforcement policies. This would help with retention of current officers and be more attractive to new employees. The Council had some questions and a lengthy discussion followed.

Larry Robbins, Highway Director, was present to talk about the reorganization and budget requests of the Highway Department. He handed out a form with budget estimates and projections. He has been working with the Auditor's Office to reorganize what gets paid out of each fund in order to streamline things and make some reporting more transparent. He gave a brief explanation of what MVH consists of and how he was

reorganizing what gets paid out of each fund in order to make more sense. Questions were asked about how the figures were arrived at on his estimates. He expanded further on how he came up with the numbers. He feels like the numbers might be a bit conservative but he would rather err on the side of caution hoping they will be higher than shown. The Council members had several questions and a lengthy discussion took place.

Hon. Sarah Mullican and Bill Watson, Director of Court Services, were present to talk about their requests for the Courts. They are asking for another pre-trial screener. In addition, they are asking for two other positions. One would be a contract employee, a nurse practitioner, and also a therapist to do assessments at the jail. Judge Mullican then talked about the types of offenders and the need that is there for these services. She then turned the presentation over to Bill Watson to explain how the pre-trial programs work. They are in the jails doing assessments seven days a week evaluating people and determining who is appropriate within the guidelines of the program that could be released. They have had a very good success rate. He gave an in-depth presentation as to how this is working and helping the people they identify and also saving money for the county. He also explained how they have to juggle the hours for their screeners in order to comply with the number of hours the department has to work with. Last year they asked for four screeners. The State provided two and the County funded one. So they are asking this year for an additional screener which will then give them four screeners total. Further facts and figures were talked about. The additional positions they are asking for will help accomplish what needs to be done in order for the success rate to continue. They realize that the dollars they are asking for is not a cheap fix. But if we can't address the mental health side of this, the offenders are going to continue the abuse, continue to get arrested, and continue to go to jail. This program will help stabilize the situation and help these people get a handle on things to help make them more productive citizens and stop the cycle. The Council members had many questions and a lengthy discussion took place. Councilman Switzer commented that in his opinion, this was something that the County could invest in using some of the funds referred to in the email from Donna Williams which was read at the beginning of the meeting. Councilman Mann raised the question as to which fund these would be listed under. A discussion then took place regarding the funding, etc. and how these will be listed.

President Morris then spoke about the 10 Threats to Local Government Revenues from Corona Recession published by Larry DeBoer of the Department of Agriculture at Purdue University. County Auditor James Bramble stated that the Governor, by executive order, had extended the June 30 deadline for counting income tax collections toward next year's distributions to September so the July 15 tax deadline won't affect next year. He does not look for significant decline in income tax revenue next year. Maybe the year after but it shouldn't be too bad next year because it is based on 2019.

Honorary Resolutions

There were none.

First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions

President Mike Morris assigned the Requests of Council to Committee for further review as follows:

Budget Adjustment Committee

Request of Council 20-025 – E911 – Additional funds for contractual services

Request of Council 20-026 – Juvenile Justice Center Non-Reverting Fund – Additional funds for institutional supplies

Request of Council 20-027 – Health Department – Withdrawn

Request of Council 20-028 – E911 – Additional Appropriation for New Equipment for new consoles for dispatch

Request of Council 20-029 – Building Maintenance – Additional appropriation

Appointments

There were none.

The next meeting will be on September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

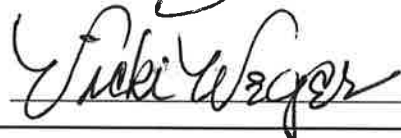
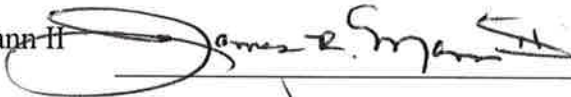
Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 8:40 PM. **Action:** Adjourned. **Moved by:** Chris Switzer.

Seconded by: David Thompson. By a voice vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
August 11, 2020

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 8th day of September, 2020.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/> | Lisa Spence-Bunnett |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/> | Chris Switzer |  |
| 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"/> | James R. Mann II |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/> | Aaron Loudermilk |  |
| 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"/> | Mike Morris, President |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Attest:

James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor

Dear Council Members,

I recently attended a Norman Rockwell exhibit and noted this picture of citizens asking government what they are doing. It prompts me to ask, as I did in June, what is the plan for the surplus money as projected by Councilwoman Spence-Bunnett and confirmed by Councilman Thompson?

Thank you,

Donna Williams

51 E. Long Ridge Rd.

Terre Haute, IN

Sent from my iPhone

**RESOLUTION 2020-06
RESOLUTION MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX RATES
VIGO COUNTY**

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Vigo County that a need now exists to modify the local income tax rates imposed in the following way:

| Allocation Rate Category | Existing LIT Rate | Proposed LIT Rate |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Certified Shares (IC 6-3.6-6) | 0.75% | 0.75% |
| Public Safety (IC 6-3.6-6) | 0.30% | 0.30% |
| Economic Development (IC 6-3.6-6) | 0.50% | 0.50% |
| Property Tax Relief Rate ¹ (IC 6-3.6-5) | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Special Purpose Rate ² (IC 6-3.6-7-25) | 0.25% | 0.25% |
| Correctional or Rehabilitation Facilities ³ (IC 6-3.6-6-2.7) | 0.20% | 0.20% |

The public safety allocation identified above includes revenue associated with an expenditure rate that was previously authorized for the purposes of funding the county's public safety access point ("PSAP"). The revenue associated with this rate shall be directed to the PSAP prior to the distribution of the remainder of the public safety revenue.

| Allocation Rate Category | Existing LIT Rate | Proposed LIT Rate |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Public Safety (IC 6-3.6-6) | 0.30% | 0.30% |


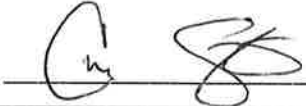
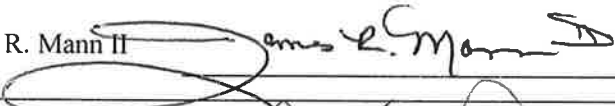


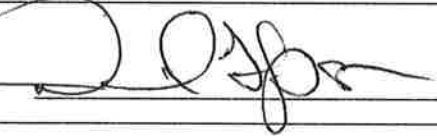

| Local Income Tax Type | Existing PSAP Rate | Proposed PSAP Rate |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Public Safety Access Point Rate | 0.10% | 0.10% |

From the LIT amount generated by the Public Safety Rate (IC 6-3.6-6), the following qualifying service providers shall receive a specified amount of the tax revenue to be distributed under this section during the following calendar year.

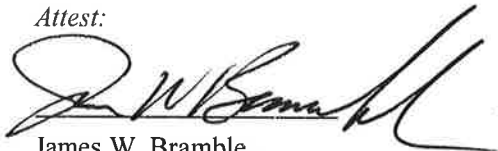
| Service Provider Name | Amount |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Honey Creek Fire Protection District | \$91,810.80 |
| Linton Fire Department | \$4,946.04 |
| Nevins Fire Department | \$8,054.88 |
| New Goshen Fire Protection District | \$9,608.88 |
| Otter Creek Fire Department | \$25,359.84 |
| Pierson Fire Department | \$4,916.64 |
| Prairieton Fire Protection District | \$10,926.12 |
| Riley Fire Protection District | \$21,271.92 |
| Lost Creek Fire Protection District | \$18,852.48 |
| Shepardsville Fire Department | \$4,548.00 |
| Sugar Creek Fire Protection District | \$47,286.72 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing was held on the proposed local income tax rate modifications on August 11, 2020. Proper notice of the public hearing was provided pursuant to IC 5-3-1.

Duly adopted by the following vote of the members of said Vigo County Council this 11th day of August, 2020.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/> | Lisa Spence-Bunnett |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/> | Chris Switzer |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/> | James R. Mann II |  |
| 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"/> | Aaron Loudermilk |  |
| 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"/> | Mike Morris, President |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Attest:



James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor