

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Sunshine Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers - Vigo County Government Center**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Todd Thacker called the meeting to order at 5:00.

**Calling of the roll**

Aaron Loudermilk – present, Nancy Allsup – present; Vicki Weger – present; Todd Thacker – present; Marie Theisz – present; Travis Norris – present; and David Thompson – absent.

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

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard gave a progress update on E911 relocation. He gave each Council member a copy of a timeline for completion of the renovations. In meeting with Jeff Fox, Ricky Hammonds and the subcontractors working on the project, he was informed work is ahead of schedule. All the materials are in, most of the equipment is in and what is not yet here will be in by the end of October. Without any unforeseen problems, E911 will be up and running December 15. Jeff Fox has gone above and beyond and Ricky Hammonds and the Maintenance crew have also been helping out and doing some of the work. He thanked the Council for working with them to get this project underway so quickly. He said they would probably have to use the THPD back-up space for about ten days in November while they were transitioning all the equipment to the new facility. Todd Thacker commented that he was happy all concerned had worked together so well and seamlessly to make this happen. Mr. Clinkenbeard also said they were making the final updates on the plans for the new maintenance facility and reviewing the contracts this week. It was hoped for bids to be let by the end of October, groundbreaking in November, and completion in the Spring. Lastly, the temporary road needed for demolition of the Markle Mill Dam is in and demolition is scheduled for 8:00 Monday morning. Rosedale Road will be closed from 8:00 a.m. until noon to allow the public to come and watch and take pictures. New playground equipment has been installed. The final design on the parking lot has been approved and that should be started in early November. Larry Mullen, a north end resident, was recognized for a contribution to the Park. He had contracted with a wood carver to come out and carve an angel with some otters out of one of the big tree stumps. Marie Theisz expressed her gratitude for how well things have been handled with regard to the demolition.

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

- i. Additional Appropriation 2023-67: Riley Fire Protection District – Capital Outlay
- ii. Additional Appropriation 2023-60: Courts – Physician Fees, Printing, Supplement to Community Corrections, Drug Testing and Service Agreements

- iii. Additional Appropriation 2023-61: Coroner – Transportation of Corpse
- iv. Additional Appropriation 2023-62: Commissioners – Service Agreements, Electricity, Burial of Soldiers and Telephone
- v. Additional Appropriation 2023-63: ARPA Grant Fund – Children’s Museum
- vi. Additional Appropriation 2023-64: ARPA Grant Fund – Swope Art Museum
- vii. Additional Appropriation 2023-65: ARPA Grant Fund – United Way to Support United Way Programming
- viii. Additional Appropriation 2023-66: ARPA Grant Fund – Historical Society – Exterior Wall Rehabilitation

**Reports from committees**

Vicki Weger said it had been an interesting budget year. The Committee is not finished yet but hopes to be finished by the end of the week. The Baker Tilly study was a big factor in this year’s budget. Todd Thacker noted that there had been several issues come up creating a scheduling conflict for the October 10 meeting. That meeting will be rescheduled for October 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the City Court Room in City Hall due to early voting.

**Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.**

**Ordinances relating to Appropriations.**

**i. Additional Appropriation 2023-67: Riley Fire Protection District – Capital Outlay**

There was no representative there to talk about this request. Cheryl Loudermilk, Chief Deputy Auditor, said the Fire District Board is asking for the request so they can reimburse the actual fire department for safety equipment that they had purchased. That’s the way it generally works. We will make sure a representative is here at the next meeting to answer any questions.

**ii. Additional Appropriation 2023-60: Courts – Physician Fees, Printing, Supplement to Community Corrections, Drug Testing and Service Agreement**

Judge Lewis was present for this request on behalf of Judge Newton. The money being requested was for (1) Physician Fees – they have a lot of sanity and competency evaluations; (2) Printing is for jury forms and envelopes for all the different courts; (3) Supplement to Community Corrections is a reimbursement for drug screening they have done for the Courts that were court ordered; (4) Drug Testing is for additional drug testing that will be ordered through the end of the year; and (5) Service Agreements is for the copiers they have in all the Court Rooms. Budget cuts from last year have run these line items short. Council had no further questions.

**iii. Additional Appropriation 2023-61: Coroner – Transportation of Corpse**

Donna Weger said there had been 201 removals so far this year. She transferred money from another fund earlier this year but it has been depleted. There is not much money left in that line item and there are three months yet to go this year. There was a short discussion.

**iv. Additional Appropriation 2023-62: Commissioners – Service Agreements, Electricity, Burial of Soldiers and Telephone**

Commissioner Chris Switzer said with budget cutbacks last year, they are running out of funds in some line items. He briefly reviewed the funds left in each account and the typical monthly costs. There was a short discussion regarding telephone bills.

**v. Additional Appropriation 2023-63: ARPA Grant Fund – Children’s Museum**

Susan Turner, Executive Director of the Children’s Museum, gave a brief history of the Children’s Museum. The mission of the museum is to enrich children’s lives through play, the exploration of science, technology, engineering and math. It is an earned-revenue business. They make their revenue from admissions, memberships, birthday parties, facility rentals, fundraisers, and grant writing. They have a strategic plan for the organization, a master facility plan, created a re-brand of the logo and revamped their website. The museum is 13 years old and is due for some sprucing up. Plans for renovation in the coming years was discussed. One of the ideas was to expand. The dream is to close South 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Wabash Avenue and Ohio Street, keeping the alleyway open, with the front portion to the alley to become a playscape, and then the back of the alley to Ohio Street would become a green space that anyone in the community could use. It would be fenced for security purposes. Windows might be placed in the museum for viewing purposes. They would also keep a sidewalk open all the way through and a bike path so it will be accessible from a pedestrian standpoint. The total revamp comes at a cost of \$7.8 million. They are using READI grant money to do a feasibility study. They will have a campaign in 2024 and 2025 to start raising money aiming to open in 2026. The money requested will be used in the outdoor planning and moving forward with the outdoor play space. There was a short discussion.

**vi. Additional Appropriation 2023-64: ARPA Grant Fund – Swope Art Museum**

Fred Nation was present on behalf of the request for the Swope Art Museum. First, Mr. Nation pointed out the camaraderie and mutual support between the Swope, the Children’s Museum, the Historical Society, and CANDLES Holocaust Museum. They meet monthly to work together to promote Terre Haute as a destination for tourism. The Swope has been in operation since 1942 in a building built in 1901. They have allocated \$150,000 through the READI program for projects related to promoting access to the museum and to preserve and protect their priceless collection. Both the READI and ARPA allocations will be part of an expenditure of \$3.5 million to do a variety of projects. Their new heating system should be operational within the month. The air conditioning system will be replaced in the next two years. Both are being done by local union labor. It is imperative to maintain temperature and humidity control to preserve the works and priceless collections and for their accreditation. Other plans are to replace the

1948 elevator and to construct an indoor fire escape system to supplement the one on the outside of the building, relocate their art storage, and create a new gallery. They also plan to renovate the third floor to make it more useful and so that it can be used for receptions/meetings. The total cost is estimated at \$3.5 million. They are, hopefully, in the final months of a \$6 million capital campaign. That figure also includes \$2.5 million for endowment funding. This ARPA request will take them to close to \$5 million committed funding with their goal to finish the \$6 million funding by May of next year. This ARPA request of \$225,000 will be half of the match of their READI allocation of \$150,000 and they will raise another \$225,000 before May to match that other half. There was a short discussion.

**vii. Additional Appropriation 2023-65: ARPA Grant Fund – United Way – Support to United Way Programming**

Danielle Isbell, Abby Desboro, and Kristin Craig of the United Way were present for this request. Their proposals centered around small business, non-profit, and quality childcare grant programs. They are requesting \$1 million. The United Way has been serving the Wabash Valley since 1958. She gave a brief synopsis of what they do. Abby Desboro briefly reviewed the three categories that their request would be split into and the eligible use of funds for each. First, they have developed a grant process to help small businesses. They are asking for \$600,000 from the County and \$1.5 million from the City for the small business portion. Grant awards in this category will be up to \$100,000 and a minimum of \$10,000 and awardees will have up to 2 years to implement and complete projects. Secondly, for non-profits, they are requesting \$200,000 from the County and \$750,000 from the City. Grant awards in this category will be range from a maximum of \$50,000 and a minimum of \$10,000 and organizations must be a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) corporation. They will have up to 18 months to implement and complete the project. Lastly, unique to the County, they wanted to make sure that quality childcare received some of these funds, so \$200,000 of the request would be allocated for child care. Funding is to be used to allow childcare programs to become eligible to enroll in and attain a Level 3 or 4 on the *Paths to Quality* rating scale to improve the quality of care provided; allow Level 3 or 4 programs to expand regulated capacity; or allow unlicensed registered ministries to meet quality standards to enroll in and attain a Level 3 or 4 in *Paths to Quality*. Awards in this category would be a maximum of \$50,000 and a minimum of \$10,000. Awardees will have 18 months to implement and complete projects. The process to qualify for these categories was reviewed. Funding will not actually be awarded until mid-year in 2024. The grand total of funds being requested from the County for these three proposals is \$1,000,000. Discussion/questions from the Council ranged from why the City chose not to participate in the funding for childcare, whether or not \$200,000 was enough to allot to childcare; how much of the funding will be used for administrative costs; if child care applicants could qualify under more than one category; if results will be reported once awards were given, and progress going forward.

**viii. Additional Appropriation 2023-66: ARPA Grant Fund – Historical Society – Exterior Wall Rehabilitation**

Marla Flowers gave a brief history of the Vigo County Historical Society. They are currently located at 929 Wabash Avenue. They have been having issues with the east façade of the building. This is the wall with the Coca Cola mural on it. The problem was there when the mural was painted but it was not addressed. When the celebration and unveiling of the mural took place in 2018, a representative from Coca Cola was there and in his toast said “Terre Haute has given the world the number 1 most recognized consumer package of all time.” There are a lot of voids in the bricks making up the wall along with peeling paint. The problem is moisture gets in behind the paint and the paint is so thick, it can’t escape. It then leeches through the voids in the bricks to the interior and water runs down the interior walls. It is very important for them to address the problem. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and there are a lot of restrictions in making any changes to structures. She has been working with Indiana Landmarks, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Division of Historic Preservation Archaeology. Upon their review and approval, they then send it on to the National Park Service. Two weeks ago, she finally received approval to move forward. They will be launching a capital campaign because the project will cost over \$300,000. This repair will necessitate touching every single brick and will cut all the mortar joints on 42,000 bricks. She explained how the campaign will work. They are requesting \$50,000 in ARPA funds. She did say she has reached out to the Root Family Foundation and the Hulman-George family for assistance. The Historical Society will be using Midwest Restoration out of Paris, Illinois to do the work. Their specialty is historic buildings and they have been approved by the DNR Division of Historic Preservation. They anticipate starting the project in the Spring. Once the brickwork is restored, Jeff Boes will be putting the mural back up.





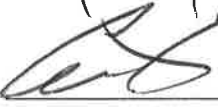
### **Public Comments**

There were none.

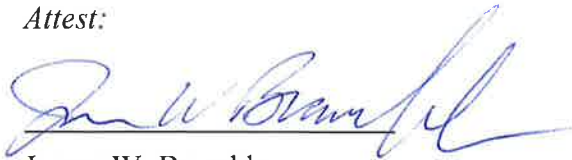
Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn. Marie Theisz seconded the motion. Upon a unanimous vote by all, President Thacker adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SUNSHINE MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 3, 2023**

*Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.*

Aye <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		David Thompson	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>			
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"/>		Marie Theisz	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>			
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>		R. Todd Thacker, President	
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"/>		Nancy Allsup	
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"/>			

Attest:



James W. Bramble  
Vigo Auditor