

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8, 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 – absent, Nancy Allsup – absent; Vicki Weger – present; Todd Thacker – present; Marie Theisz – present; Travis Norris – present; and David Thompson – present.

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

Bill Watson, Director of Court Services, was present to talk about the security operation center which is basically the brain hub that runs the entire Community Corrections building. He has been trying for several years to obtain money from the State of Indiana to his budget to replace the system. It is 17 years old and very outdated. It is recommended that the system be shut down only 3 times per year but recently, with readying the building for 911, it has been taken down 3-4 times in the past month. If the system goes down and can't be restarted, then the work release center will be inoperable for a minimum of 3-5 months. It will take that long to buy, order, program and install a new system. After the system was taken down last week, there was a period of time when it appeared they were not going to be able to get it operational again which would have resulted in sending 120 people to jail that day. The IT department, engineers from Sycamore Engineering, and the Community Corrections staff all worked on trying to get it back on. It finally came back on after about 45 minutes and no one really knows why or what was done that made it happen. They have been told they should not take it off line any more unless it was critical to do so. It is on a back-up battery system that had failed. That has since been repaired but if it is necessary to use the backup, it will only keep power going for 20 minutes. There is no way to get a replacement generator in place in that amount of time. He has been working with the Commissioners on this but they want the Council to be aware of the problem, too. The system really needs to be replaced as soon as possible. The residential center is currently at capacity and is full pretty much all of the time. If the system goes down, 120 people would have to be put back in jail and there is not enough room to house that many, which would require the use and added expense of out-of-county jails. Mr. Watson said it would be in the \$300,000 range to replace the system and is waiting on a quote. There is really no way to tell how long it would take to procure the parts but it could take up to 3 months. It is built when it is ordered and can be installed in one day. Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk said she thought it might be possible to use LIT/Correctional Rehab money to fund the purchase and she will get confirmation of that.

Commissioner Clinkenbeard congratulated Brandon Sakbun on his election as the new Mayor and said the Commissioners are ready to work with the City. He also noted that some Commissioners and Council members had been invited to work with ISU on the committee to help search for a new President for ISU. He had also participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new business in northern Terre Haute today. He then spoke about the United Way request for \$1 million for ARPA funding that had been tabled last month. Although this was on tonight's agenda, he said if he spoke now that it might change the agenda. He said that request included \$600,000 for small businesses, \$200,000 for non-profits and \$200,000 for quality child care. He said the County and the City approached United Way to help allocate these funds for those categories because of their expertise. He noted that in discussions with the Council, it had been mentioned that the Council would like the remaining \$1.3 million earmarked for county programs and projects in exchange for passing this resolution. The Commissioners are very open to that idea and would like to explore that with the Council. They have come up with a strong plan that addresses critical, post-pandemic needs of the community. He then requested that the United Way request be withdrawn from tonight's agenda. He thanked everyone who had been involved in the planning of the United Way request and also apologized to those groups for not coming through.

First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions

- i. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2023-15: Adult Protective Services – Out-of-Series Transfer
- ii. Additional Appropriation 2023-68: Infraction Deferral – Law Enforcement Grants and Equipment New
- iii. Additional Appropriation 2023-69: Seized Assets - Vehicles
- iv. Additional Appropriation 2023-70: ARPA Grant Fund – Courthouse Dome - **WITHDRAWN**
- v. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2023-16: Juvenile Justice Center N/R Fund – Out-of-Series Transfer
- vi. Resolution 2023-17 – Amendment to Statement of Benefits for Great Dane Tax Abatement

Reports from committees

There were none.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

- i. **Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2023-15: Adult Protective Services – Out-of-series transfer**

The Prosecutor's Office was unable to be at tonight's meeting. Council Attorney Michael Wright briefly reviewed and explained the request. This is a request to move \$1,599 from Office Supplies to Contractual Services. There was also a request for a \$20,000 Additional Appropriation from Infraction Deferral to Law Enforcement Grants for investigative funds and \$11,000 to equipment related to investigations and the apprehension of fugitives, along with an appropriation to the Seized Asset Fund for new vehicles. They are requesting \$88,000 for 2 additional law enforcement vehicles for the Drug Task Force to be purchased by the Terre Haute Police Departments. The request

indicates that they are expecting an additional \$25,000 to be deposited into that account over the next two weeks and they may adjust their request depending on that deposit. Rob Roberts will be next week's meeting if there are any additional questions. There was a short discussion about whether these were usual funding requests.

ii. **Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2023-16:
Juvenile Justice Center N/R Fund**

Norm Loudermilk, Executive Director, said this was an end-of-the-year transfer coming from a non-reverting fund (money generated from the care and custody of detainees from other counties). He would like to transfer \$35,000 from the food line item, \$25,000 of which would be for building repair and \$10,000 for institutional supplies. They would like to repaint all of the cells, cellblocks, intake area, the dayrooms, and hallways. There are about 6 windows in the control room needing to be replaced. The money for institutional supplies is for everything (i.e. detainee clothing, hygiene needs, toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox wipes) that is needed to operate the facility.

iii. **Resolution 2023-17 – Amendment to Statement of Benefits for
Great Dane Tax Abatement**

Nick Weber, an economic consultant with Faegre Drinker, explained that back in 2021, 10-year real and personal property tax abatements were granted to Great Dane. This was a 3-phase project with a total capital investment of \$50 million creating 125 new full time jobs and retaining 483 existing jobs, all to be completed by December 21, 2024. They are requesting an amendment to Form SB-1 modifying some of the details. The original project anticipated real property investment of \$7.75 million. With Phase 1 complete, it has been determined that the total investment will be \$3 million. This will impact Phases 2 and 3 and they would like to move the completion date to December 31, 2025. They are not changing the \$42 million for personal property expenditure but they would like to adjust the amounts allocated to the four different categories. The other elements of the project are expected to proceed as originally outlined. They are not out of compliance at this point but they wanted to come ahead of time to amend the form so that they will not be out of compliance next year when the abatements are reviewed.

Ordinances relating to Appropriations.

OLD BUSINESS

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

This request had been withdrawn earlier in this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

v. **Additional Appropriation 2023-68: Infraction Deferral – 2023
Payroll Amendment, Law Enforcement Grants and Equipment
New**

This was explained earlier by Council Attorney Michael Wright for the Prosecutor's Office.

vi. Additional Appropriation 2023-69: Seized Assets – Vehicles

This was explained earlier by Council Attorney Michael Wright for the Prosecutor's Office.

vii. Additional Appropriation 2023-70: ARPA Grant Fund – Courthouse Dome - WITHDRAWN

This request was withdrawn before the meeting.

The next six appropriations are basically an end of year clean up. Salaries were increased for employees and these appropriations will clean up all the loose ends for everything that was done for the last six months. There was a brief discussion.

viii. Additional Appropriation 2023-71: County General – 2023 Payroll Amendment

This appropriation is to fund the payroll amendment passed in September.

ix. Additional Appropriation 2023-72: Cumulative Bridge – 2023 Payroll Amendment

This appropriation is to fund the payroll amendment passed in September.

x. Additional Appropriation 2023-73: Highway – 2023 Payroll Amendment

This appropriation is to fund the payroll amendment passed in August.

xi. Additional Appropriation 2023-74: Parks & Recreation NR Fund – 2023 Payroll Amendment

This appropriation is to fund the payroll amendment passed in September.

xii. Additional Appropriation 2023-75: Parks & Recreation – 2023 Payroll Amendment

This appropriation is to fund the payroll amendment passed in September.

xiii. Additional Appropriation 2023-76: Drug Court User Fee – 2023 Payroll Amendment

This appropriation is to fund the payroll amendment passed in September.

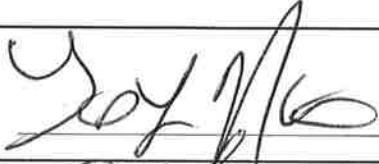


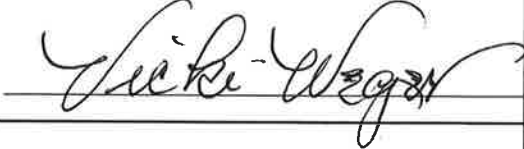
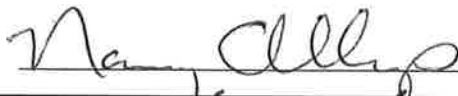

Public Comments

The following individuals addressed the meeting regarding their grave concerns regarding the Wabash Valley Resources CO2 project and their desire for the Council to rescind the tax abatements given to that company earlier this year because of the omission of facts and lies that were used to obtain those abatements: Ian Loomis, Marie Osborn, Bill Wilson, Whitney Boyce, Doug Scott, Abby Brock, and Debbie Watson.

Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn. David Thompson seconded the motion. Upon a unanimous vote by all, President Thacker adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 13th
 day of February 2024.

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

Attest:



James W. Bramble
 Vigo Auditor