VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance
Steve Ellis called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Calling of the Roll
Brenda Wilson – absent; David Thompson – present; Nancy Allsup – present; Brad Anderson – present; Randy Gentry – present; Vicki Weger – present; Steve Ellis – present.

Communications from elected officials, other officials, or agencies of the County
Council President Steve Ellis announced the Sheriff's office turned in their Commissary report. Commissioner Mike Morris approached the Council and stated the Commissioners are recommending a 3% raise for all Vigo County employees. He stated this would be an additional $630,000 to the budget. He offered a few suggestions on how to fund a 3% raise; Public Defenders be made contractors which would also drop the health insurance that costs $523,044.72. He thinks there are three offices that could do with one less staff member; Recorder, Treasurer, and Area Planning. Gretchen Etling approached the Council and asked if Morris' figure included the 40% reimbursement and he said no. She stated the reason the insurance is so important is because they have to have staff to be incompliance to receive the 40% reimbursement for the county. If they do not have the staff they will be out of compliance and lose the 40% reimbursement.

a. Vigo County School Oversight Committee –August 2026 Report
Council appointed member of the Vigo County School Oversight Committee Heather Pickens approached the Council and provided a brief report of the Committee's recent activities. Heather said there were no new contracts to report since the last meeting, the Committee had not entered into any new service agreements. Heather said the Committee had received four invoices from Barnes & Thornburg for services rendered through June 30, 2026. She said the balance on their account net those invoices and accrued interest $87,146.33 She said the Committee was on schedule to provide a recommendation on the Vigo County School Consolidation and Modernization Plan August 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Reports from Committees

a. Budget Committee Update

Chair of the Budget Committee, Vicki Weger said they had budget hearings scheduled next week August 12th, 13th, and 14th.

Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations – First Reading

a. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2026-02: I.T. – Transfer of Funds

Director of Information Technology, Scott Swan approached the Council and stated the transfer was to help with covering the cost to add internet services, a new host for the County's website, and improving the site to be ADA compliant.

b. Ordinance 2026-2: An Ordinance Establishing The Vigo County Sheriff's Office Ordinance Bureau

Jeff Fox from the Sheriff's Office approached Council and mentioned they have been working with the Commissioner's office and Terry Modesitt to establish this ordinance bureau. This will allow this officers to cite someone to the Sheriff's office instead of a court. The county has two ordinances one for alarm violations and one for animal control that requires the fines to be paid to the Sheriff's office non-reverting funds. Terry Modesitt and Samanatha DeWester will get together this week and speak on the ordinance bureau before Council makes a vote next week.

c. Amended Salary Ordinance 2026-4: Building Security Officer - Clothing Allowance

Financial Coordinator Devan Gackle mentioned this stipend was discussed during the budget process last year and was not included in the salary ordinance. At the time, there were three part-time building security officers who would receive a $1,500 clothing allowance stipend. It was a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee but it was never brought before the full Council for a vote.

Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading

a. Additional Appropriation 2026-35: Building Security Officer - Clothing Allowance

Financial Coordinator Devan Gackle stated the $6,450.00 was the total for the three part-time building security officers' stipends.

b. Additional Appropriation 2026-36: Commissioners – Susie's Place

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard approached the Council with what Susie's Place is and mentioned their budget was cut. Chief Development Officer Cathy Stoll went into detail on the amount of children and case loads they have now compared to 2025. She stated federal funding has been cut and will again be cut next year. This will not be a yearly ask just to help bridge the gap. Councilperson Brad Anderson mentioned they have a fundraiser at the Casino Resort August 15th.

c. Additional Appropriation 2026-37: Commissioners – Courthouse Elevator

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard and Director of Facilities Maintenance Ricky Hammond approach the Council and spoke of the secure elevator that transports the inmates at the Courthouse. They believe its rough 50-60 years old with a control mod done in the 80's/90's. It was placed in a brick chute and they believe a traditional mod is best. Mark Clinkenbeard would like to push this request to September so they can review this project's cost and meet with KONE and Garmong. Councilperson Randy Gentry asked if the elevator passed inspection and Ricky said no. Ricky said KONE did their inspection and the driver was the issue and said to only allow 3 people at a time on the elevator. Mark Clinkenbeard mentioned this request would be coming out of Fund 1233 LIT Correctional Rehab, not out of General.

d. Additional Appropriation 2026-38: Lost Creek Fire Protection District – E83 Pump Truck Repairs & Purchase Fire PPE Washer and Dryer

Fire Chief John Hendrix approached the Council and stated on one of their engines they had a pump fail and had to replace it. They are asking for an additional appropriation to offset.

e. Additional Appropriation 2026-39: Community Corrections – Supplement

Director of Court Services Bill Watson approached the Council asking to add $200,000 back into his budget that was inadvertently cut from his 2026 Budget. Councilperson Randy Gentry asked Bill Watson if they were going to need more money after this $200,000. Financial Supervisor/Grant Administrator Judy DeLisle mentioned work release from the indigent fund program to the Courts is running low. Bill Watson stated that was not a budgeted item under Community Corrections. Councilperson Randy Gentry mentioned there is a known revenue decrease from the State and it will be a continuous problem for Councils to come and encouraged Bill Watson and his team to maximize their dollars.

f. Additional Appropriation 2026-40: Veteran's – Insurance

Vigo County Service Officer William Caldero approached the Council asking for additional appropriation for insurance debt by an employee who used the benefit for a few months.

g. Additional Appropriation 2026-41: Prosecutor – Return of Fugitives

Attorney Terry Modesitt approached Council and stated these are the funds they use when they expedite a fugitive and transport out of town. They have spent $7,000 so far. The Sheriff's department will make transports that are not too far out op save money and have been trained. Councilperson Randy Gentry asked what they spend on an annual basis and if it is running higher than normal. Terry Modesitt mentioned it is a little higher than normal.

h. Additional Appropriation 2026-42: Prosecutor – Seized Assets/Drug Task Force

Attorney Terry Modesitt approached the Council and asking to appropriate the forfeiture monies they have collected. The first request is to purchase vehicles for the police department from the forfeiture monies. The second request is for contractual services to pay for three year contract for LeadsOnline. The third request is for new equipment such as tactical gear. Judy DeLisle said the cash balance was $621,780. Terry Modesitt mentioned another appropriation later in the year for law enforcement. Councilperson Randy Gentry asked if there was a restriction to use this money. Terry Modesitt mentioned a state statute that says 90% has to be used towards law enforcement.

i. Additional Appropriation 2026-43: Auditor – Juvenile Medical

Financial Supervisor/Grant Administrator Judy DeLisle was something that was left out of the budget. She found out from State board of Accounts we can use LIT Correctional Rehab for the Juvenile Detention Center.

j. Additional Appropriation 2026-44: Homes for Children – Non-Reverting Fund Requests

Commissioner Mike Morris and Executive Director Norman Loudermilk approached the Council with an itemized request. They spoke on the Open House, stated they had 9 boys and 8 girls in the Group Homes. Mike Morris mentioned Norman had been awarded a $150,000 grant from the Lilly Foundation to help with construction and remodel.

k. Additional Appropriation 2026-45: Recorders Record Perpetuation – Insurance

Financial Supervisor/Grant Administrator Judy DeLisle mentioned only one employee's insurance was budgeted from this fund when there are two.

l. Additional Appropriation 2026-46: Juv. Justice Center Non-Reverting – Insurance

Financial Supervisor/Grant Administrator Judy DeLisle mentioned the department has a new employee with different insurance then the previous employee. They are needing the appropriation for the difference.

Public Comment

Councilperson David Thompson asked Mark Clinkenbeard if the Oversight Board would be presenting next month. Mark said Wednesday the 12th they are giving their recommendation to the Commissioners and then September 1st the Commissioners would present their proposal to

Council. David asked if it would be a good idea to switch to a larger facility. There was some discussion on the matter.
Deanne Griffin, Executive Director of the Phoenix House and certified Peer Recovery Coach, spoke on the essentials of having Community Corrections, Courts, and law enforcement come together with resources.

Appointments
None

Adjournment
Brad Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Vigo County acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Vigo County Government, should contact the office of Tammy York-Allen, ADA Coordinator 650 S 1st Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807, Phone 812-231-6200, e-mail tammy.york-allen@vigocounty.in.gov as soon as possible but no later than three business days before the scheduled event.

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL AUGUST 4, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Presented to the Vigo County Council and adopted this 8th day of September, 2026

ADOPTION INFORMATION			
Official Vote Aye	Nay	**Name**	**Signature**
☐	☐	Abstain Brenda Wilson	
☑	☐	David Thompson	
☑	☐	Nancy Allsup	
☑	☐	Brad Anderson	
☑	☐	Randy Gentry	
☑	☐	Vicki Weger	
☑	☐	Steve Ellis	
Attestation by Secretary of Governing Body			
Date			9/8/26