

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Sunshine Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Aaron Loudermilk called the meeting to order at 5:00.

**Calling of the roll**

R. Todd Thacker – present, Vicki Weger - present, Marie Theisz - present, Travis Norris – present, Brenda Wilson - present, David Thompson – present, and Aaron Loudermilk - present.

**Public Comments**

Barbara Ater of 222 South 25<sup>th</sup> in Terre Haute was there to plead with the Council to please approve the request to expend money from the American Recovery Act to replace infrastructure out in the County. She had personally viewed the serious deterioration of various culverts and ditches around the county and considered this an emergency. There was a lengthy discussion during which Brenda Wilson stated that the Council would not approve any expenditures unless and until a full comprehensive plan for the entire \$20 million is submitted by the Commissioners.

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

Brenda Wilson addressed the request of using ARP money to re-work the entrance to the Government Center. She stated she had a solution to the problem that would satisfy the urgent need for safety that would not take 6 months to a year for completion. She knows that the Commissioners and the Sheriff's Office both have a line item for Contractual Services that can be used for this solution. She suggested locking all entrances except for the south entrance where the security office is located right now, hire an outside security firm who can sit at that door Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:00 who can scan people when they walk in the door and point them to the offices they are looking for. Problem solved. There is security for the building. She talked about further benefits this would provide. She believes it to be a good solution for the emergency problem right now and ARP money does not have to be used for it. Commissioner Mike Morris asked if this a proposal for the Council to give an additional appropriation in Contractual Services for the Commissioners and for maintenance because there was no money to do that right now. He asked if he heard correctly that she was proposing to increase those budgets. Ms. Wilson said that was not necessarily what he heard. She knew there was money in their budget for contractual services. Mr. Morris said that the money was used but there was no money for this expenditure. A lengthy discussion continued. Ms. Wilson said that she had proposed her solution as an option that would solve the immediate need of an emergency need. Discussion continued. Marie Theisz made several comments about ADA compliance if Ms. Wilson's idea were implemented. Leanna Moore, Chief Deputy Clerk, said that with the talk of switching the main entrance to the other end of the

building, she wanted it to be kept in mind that an election is coming up in the next couple of months and this location is a vote center and the north entrance has always been the main entrance and is near where the voting takes place. If changes are implemented before the election, she feels it might have a detrimental effect to voter turnout. She just wants to be sure that the election is kept in mind with any decisions that may get made.

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

- i. ROC 2022-39, Additional Appropriation 2022-30 – Riley Fire Protection District – Capital Outlay
- ii. ROC 2022-40, Salary Ordinance 2022-17 and Additional Appropriation 2022-31: Clerk – salary increases
- iii. ROC 2022-41, Ordinance 2022-03: Council – to reserve funds to pay off jail early

**Reports from committees**

There were none.

**Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.** There were none.

**Ordinances relating to appropriations.**

**i. Additional Appropriation 2022-30; ROC 2022-39: Riley Fire Protection District, Capital Outlay**

Matt McCollough, Chief of the Riley Fire Department, was present to answer any questions with respect to this request. This money would be for a down payment for the purchase of a new tanker. They are currently operating on a 1993 1800-gallon tanker. They are replacing it with a 2022 2000-gallon tanker. Brenda Wilson asked if there was a reason they were needing to replace it. Chief McCollough stated that there had been mechanical issues over the years and it had reached the point where it had been repaired so many times that it can't be fixed any more. Plus there were safety issues with the age of it. David Thompson asked if it had to be ordered and, if so, how long it would take. Chief McCollough said that normally if you ordered one right now, it would be 2025 because everything currently is two years out. This was a demo that was just starting the process. They were lucky enough to get there when the process was just starting and it could be purchased now. It is technically a demo but when it comes off the line, it will belong to them. It will not go through the demo phase. They just got lucky. There were no further questions.

**ii. Salary Ordinance 2022-17 and Additional Appropriation 2022-30; ROC 2022-40: Clerk, Salary Increases**

Leanna Moore, Chief Deputy Clerk, said that they had lost another full-time employee since this request had been made. They have lost 13 people this year. Some are due to retirement and just moving away. But to lose that many in such a short period of time poses a lot of challenges. It was felt that if there was an increase in wages, it might help keep employees from leaving. Brenda Wilson said that with inflation the way it is and the fact that they did not have their salary study back yet, their hands were tied. There

were requests for 19 additional employees for this year's budget that can't be funded. She did not feel they, as a Council, without having the compensation study back yet, can do anything. Ms. Moore said that, without approving this request, it will cost the County more money because they will have to employ more people for a short amount of time for the elections. Discussion continued. Todd Thacker asked if exit interviews had been conducted and that such might be helpful to learn why people are leaving. There were additional questions from Council members and lengthy discussion.

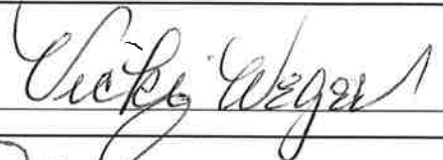
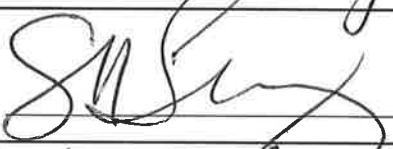
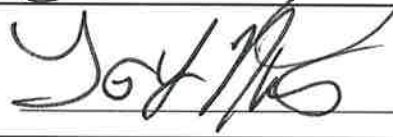
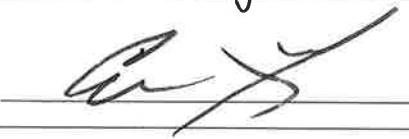
**iii. Ordinance 2022-03: ROC 2022-41, Council, to reserve fund to pay off jail early**

Aaron Loudermilk introduced Ordinance 2022-03 entitled Ordinance of the County Council of Vigo County, Indiana to Reserve Funds From Special Purpose Income Tax Revenues and Jail Income Tax Revenues for the Purpose of Funding an Option to Purchase the New County Jail Facility in 2029, and Calling and Paying Off the Bonds Issued in Regard Thereto and distributed copies to Council members and the Auditor's Office. He explained what the Special Purpose Tax, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Facilities tax, the Public Safety tax and the PSAP tax were. These had increased the local income tax by 2%. At the time these were enacted, the then-Council members had essentially pledged to pay off the jail bond in advance of 2039 if an opportunity presented itself. He is proposing that the Council adopt a plan to take additional revenues that aren't set aside for the bond payment of LIT Special Purpose and LIT Correctional Rehab and put them into debt reserve. Each would have a separate fund for the debt service reserve to be placed. In looking at 2024 and beyond, the estimated amount for Special Purpose is \$6.2 million annually in revenue and for Correctional Rehab Facilities \$5 million annually. Once you put in your bond payment, once you add additional funds to the debt service reserve, roughly in July 2029, there should be \$19.4 million which is exclusively for payment of the new facility, and roughly \$10 million from the Correctional Rehab Facilities fund. With those two amounts and the \$4.1 million of debt service reserve set aside when the bond process was started, this results in a total of \$33.57 million. That would allow the jail bond to be paid off in July of 2029 and also allow the LIT Special Purpose tax to be eliminated 10 years early. That elimination would create an estimated \$62 million dollar savings to taxpayers. This had been discussed by the Council in 2018 if the revenue stream allowed it and has been talked about for several months and it is felt that now is the time to do it. Everyone would like some tax relief, even if it won't happen for several years. Several comments were offered by Council members. Marie Theisz said that she felt this should be looked at to see if there were any consequences to other areas in implementing this.

David Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 7-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SUNSHINE MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

*Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.*

|                                         |                                  |  |                                |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Absent <input type="checkbox"/>  |  | R. Todd Thacker                |    |
| 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"/>  |  | Marie Theisz                   |    |
| 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"/>  |  | Brenda Wilson                  |  |
| 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"/>  |  | Aaron Loudermilk,<br>President |  |
| Nay <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abstain <input type="checkbox"/> |  |                                |                                                                                      |

Attest:



James W. Bramble  
Vigo Auditor