

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

David Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Calling of the Roll

Nancy Allsup – present; Vicki Weger – present; Steve Ellis – present; Randy Gentry – present; Brenda Wilson – present; Brad Anderson – present; and David Thompson – present.

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

Council Attorney Michael Wright brought a request from the Drug Court and Veteran's Court. Court Coordinator Taylor Trinkle approached the Council and explained there are four funds that supply the courts with revenue. Taylor said the drug court office was being paid with cash for Drug Court Drug Screen payments and she has to drive the cash to deposit at the Treasurer's Office and then take the receipt to the Auditor's Office. Michael Wright suggested the Council would need to approve the creation of a fund that would allow the Clerk's Office to accept Drug Court Drug screen payments so the money went through that office instead of Drug Court handling the cash.

a. Annual Tax Abatement Compliance Reviews

A list tax abatement compliance reviews was distributed to the Council. David Thompson explained the reviews contained amount of employees, payroll total, and amount of the tax abatement. David said a majority of the employers were in compliance, and noticed Great Dane was not. David said Great Dane agreed to 483 employees, but currently has 366. David said Great Dane was in the process of combining buildings in Terre Haute and may not be up and running yet. David said there was an issue with Industrial Maintenance and Engineering. Michael Wright explained every entity with an abatement must update the Auditor's Office with a status update using an SB-1 form to prove to Council they are in compliance on an annual basis. Michael said all of Industrial Maintenance and Engineering information has been secured, but they had been not been responsive when prompted for their annual review this year. Michael explained that revoking an abatement is an action within the Council's authority when entities are not responsive or do not comply with the agreed abatement, but scenarios had never progressed that far in the past. Michael said he would look into penalties short of revoking an abatement when it came to securing these SB-1 forms.

b. Communication from Hamilton Center

The Council had received communication from the Hamilton Center's Attorney Terry Modesitt stating the Hamilton Center had taken all appropriate action to ensure the Hamilton Center was in compliance with Indiana HB1001. Molly Funk approached the podium to answer any questions from the Council. David Thompson asked if Molly knew anything about compliance with salaries to the new Indiana statute. Molly said she did not know specifics about salaries, but she said the Hamilton Center was in compliance. David Thompson said the Hamilton Center Director's salary was \$1,020,275 the previous year. David asked if the Council could make a recommendation to no longer pay the Hamilton Center until they prove how they have complied. Michael Wright said the Hamilton Center's designation of Community Mental Health Center comes from the Commissioners. He said he wasn't sure if anything could be done with this year's budgeted amount. Michael said he would follow-up with more specific answers in the following week's meeting.

Reports from Committees

a. Annual Budget Committee Update

Brad Anderson said the Budget Committee had been meeting the past two days and would be meeting again the next day. He said the committee had been collecting information from departments and would be going over the information in the next few weeks.

Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations – First Reading

a. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-05: Group Homes – Transfer of Funds

Executive Director of Group Homes Norm Loudermilk explained this request was to transfer \$3,200 from the Contractual Services line item to the New Equipment line item in the Juvenile Justice Center Non-Reverting Fund. He said this request was for a storage shed needed for the Glenn Home. There were no questions.

Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading

a. Additional Appropriation 2025-40: Group Homes – Glenn Home & Carpenter Home Repairs

This request is for \$76,700 to be appropriated from the County General Fund for Group Homes to the Building Repairs line item. Norm Loudermilk said this request would pay for repairs at both Homes for Children. He also said these repairs would get the Carpenter Home closer to being ready to accept children. He said there was a moisture issue at the Carpenter Home caused by a variety of factors. Norm said the crawlspace work at the Carpenter Home would cost \$26,850 from this appropriation. Norm said another part of this request was for replacing furnaces and air conditioning at the Carpenter Home. He said the furnace on the west side of the home is inoperable. He said this part of the request would cost \$8,952.56 to remove and replace the furnace on one side of the house and \$9,007.23 for a unit on the other side of the house. The last part of this request is for \$31,790 to re-wire the entire Glenn Home with new plugs, wiring, and breaker panels. He said upon inspection from Commissioners, and the building maintenance department, it was determined these repairs needed to be a priority. Brenda Wilson asked about the request in the letter to Council being a different amount of money compared to the documents provided for the repairs. Norm explained he met with the contractor again, and more issues were brought to his attention so his appropriation request increased. Steve Ellis asked about warranties on the furnaces. Norm was not sure on the specific warranties on these proposed units. Mark Clinkenbeard said most warranties for units like these are five years. Mark also stressed the need for repairs at these homes. Brenda Wilson asked again about the \$10,000 difference in the request and the documents supplied. Norm when discovering the additional amount of work needed to repair the homes this request was increased after the documents were submitted. He said he did not know what vendor he would be using for this additional work yet. Steve Ellis asked about the advantages of possibly selling the home and buying a different home somewhere else and if this would be more cost effective than starting a large amount of repairs. Norm said he thought a buying newer 5-6 bedroom home will still be prohibitively expensive. Mark Clinkenbeard said it was his opinion the money put into this home would be made back when it came time to sell. He said this home would have to be sold at a big discount due to the amount of work. Vicki Weger endorsed Mark Clinkenbeard's expertise when it came to building repairs. Brenda Wilson asked if children could be immediately placed in the Carpenter Home if opened. Norm Loudermilk provided documents showing DCS reimbursement rates and said salaries and work would be recouped. He said DCS reimbursement rates are projected to rise over the next year. Norm noted the Group Homes have been reimbursed by the DCS with more money than they have spent so far with one home. The documents also contained information about the amount of girls denied due to the County not having a home for girls open yet. Randy Gentry asked about the value of the home. Norm said the home was valued close to \$210,000. Randy reiterated the possibility of selling the home if the repairs started to become unmanageably

expensive. Mark Clinkenbeard agreed this could be something to consider, but also expressed his opinion these requested repairs were warranted. Randy asked how many children were in the group homes at the time of the meeting. Norm said there were seven kids. Randy asked how many children were from Vigo County. Norm said there were three from Vigo County. Randy asked what the max capacity of the home currently operating. Norm said the county was licensed for 9 children.

b. Additional Appropriation 2025-41: Group Homes – Carpenter Home Start-Up Costs

This request is for \$48,550 from the Group Homes Non-Reverting Fund to be used for start-up costs for the Carpenter Home located at 3646 E. Rosehill Avenue. Norm said this requested appropriation would be used for several items necessary to get the Carpenter Home operational. He said food items, furniture, clothes, replacing the driveway, cleaning equipment, and hygiene items were some of the items needed. David Thompson asked Norm to confirm the Non-Reverting Fund had \$88,502.46. Norm said this was true as of when the request letter was written. Norm explained there was a 60 day “lag time” between when the County bills the DCS and when the reimbursement is paid out. Randy Gentry noted the documents provided with this request contained a proposed \$10,000 to replace the driveway. Randy asked if this was initially part of the previous request. Norm said these documents were outdated and now the \$10,000 would go toward grading work near the home. Randy asked if this was a mistake. Norm confirmed this was a mistake, but he said there was still work that needed done and these funds would go toward this work if appropriated. He said this request could be lowered at the Council’s discretion, but requested the Council leave the \$10,000 in the current request.

c. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-18: Group Homes – Carpenter Home Staffing

This request to amend the Salary Ordinance would add 5 Youth Care specialists and 3 Part-Time/Relief Staff to staff the proposed operational Carpenter outlined in the requests above. Norm said the home is licensed by the Department of Child Services for 8 children and for females only. Norm said \$173,542.12 was requested to be appropriated for the positions, but due to the length of the hiring and vetting process the total amount may not be spent before the end of 2025. Randy Gentry and Norm Loudermilk discussed the timing and logistics of hiring staff, housing children and making the repairs to the carpenter home. Norm said he would be able to house children in the Carpenter Home while making some of the repairs.

d. Additional Appropriation 2025-42: Group Homes – Carpenter Home Staffing

This request for an additional appropriation of \$173,542.12 from the General Fund would fund the request outlined above. There were no questions.

e. Additional Appropriation 2025-43: Riley Fire District – Special Cumulative Fire Fund

This request is for \$59,100 to be appropriated for the Special Cumulative Fire Fund. President of the Riley Fire Protection District Board Vern Tinscher explained the additional funding was needed due to a Gateway error in funding the original 2025 budget line for the special cumulative fire fund. Brad Anderson asked if this was a correction for last year’s budget. Vern confirmed this was true.

f. Additional Appropriation 2025-44: Maintenance Budget Reimbursement & Community Corrections Parking Costs

Mark Clinkenbeard clarified for the Additional Appropriation 2025-40 request, if the request to open the Carpenter Home was not granted, then the request to repair the Carpenter Home would be withdrawn.

This request would be for \$20,396 out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund to reimburse the Maintenance Department’s budget. Money was spent out of the maintenance department’s budget to remodel a portion of the 4D Court on the Community Corrections building. This remodel

was necessary to accommodate the new magistrate and staff. The second part of this request was for \$7,500 to be appropriated out of the County General Fund for additional parking spaces at the old Thompson's Honda lot as there are no additional spaces at the Community Corrections building. There were no questions.

- g. Additional Appropriation 2025-45: Prosecutor's Office – New Vehicle & New Equipment**
This request was for \$95,000 to be appropriated out of the Seized Asset/Drug Task Force budget for new equipment for the Drug Task force in the amount of \$40,000 and a replacement vehicle in the amount of \$40,000. David Thompson said he spoke with Chief Deputy Prosecutor Rob Roberts and was told Rob would not be able to make the meeting, but would be present at following Council meeting.

Public Comment

A new representative Hannig Construction gave a brief outline of the organization's operations and expressed interest maintaining relationships with both public and private partners.

David Thompson noted report of receipts and disbursements from the Sheriff's commissary fund was distributed to each Council member. He said these reports were to be provided to the council quarterly.

Adjournment

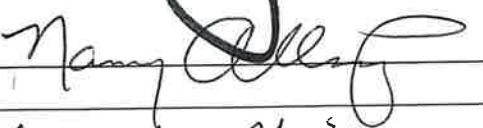
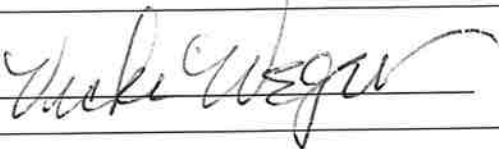
Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 7-0 the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

[Signature Page to Follow]

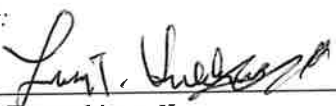
MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL SUNSHINE MEETING

August 5, 2025

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 9th day of September, 2025.

Aye ☒	Absent ☐	Randy Gentry 
Nay ☒	Abstain ☐	
Aye ☐	Absent ☐	Nancy Allsup 
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐	
Aye ☐	Absent ☐	Brenda Wilson 
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐	
Aye ☐	Absent ☐	Steve Ellis 
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐	
Aye ☐	Absent ☐	Vicki Weger 
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐	
Aye ☐	Absent ☐	Brad Anderson 
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐	
Aye ☐	Absent ☐	David Thompson 
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐	

Attest:


Larry T. Hutchings, II
Auditor