

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
City Court Room, 17 Harding Ave.

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 – absent; Randy Gentry – absent; Vicki Weger – present; Steve Ellis – present.

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

Steve Ellis expressed gratitude to the City of Terre Haute for providing facilities for this meeting.

a. Vigo County School Oversight Committee – April 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 April Activities. Heather said Crowe would be providing a financial analysis to the Committee the Thursday following the meeting. Heather noted the original goal was to provide Council and Commissioners a recommendation of a financially responsible plan by April, but due to the complex nature of the financial analysis the Committee is now aiming for July 15.

Reports from Committees

There were none.

Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations – First Reading

a. Amended Salary Ordinance 2026-2: Prosecutor/Public Defender – Language Correction

This request would amend Section 4 of An Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies for Vigo County Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office to Read: "All Full-Time Deputy Prosecutors and Public Defenders shall receive longevity pay annually commencing at the beginning of the calendar years for their second year in accordance with the attached longevity schedule. For each sequential year of service, they shall receive longevity pay up to the maximum of \$6,250."

b. Amended Salary Ordinance 2026-3: Group Homes – House Manager Stipends

Executive Director of the Vigo County Homes for Children Norm Loudermilk approached the Council and explained request would add a Section 20 to An Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies for Vigo County, Indiana reading "All full time Youth Care Specialists holding the current title of House Managers, are eligible to receive a stipend of \$2,000.00 to assist in the day-to-day management and oversight of the individual group home locations. To be eligible for this stipend, an employee must have continuous services as a House Manager for 6 months prior to receiving the stipend. Equal installments of the stipend will be paid in June and December." He said additional duties two employees at the Group Homes are enough to justify these proposed stipends to their compensation. Norm confirmed the homes at 4 children at the time of the meeting. He said the amount of residents at the homes was variable week to week. There was discussion on efforts for Vigo County to become what is called a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative County. This initiative allows for alternative housing instead of Juvenile Detention to reduce the number of children in secure detention. There was brief discussion on the logistics of billing DCS for services provided to children at the homes and the amount of time children would stay in various circumstances. There was discussion on the amount of homes in operation and the amount of children staying at the time of the meeting. Norm said there were two homes open, and there were seven children total. Norm reiterated DCS

would be billed for children staying at the homes as part of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative program. There was brief discussion on the profitability of the group homes department as part of the larger Vigo County budget and when the department would see more money in receipts than expenditures. Norm noted January and February of 2025 the homes were not yet open to children so there was no revenue in that period. He said for 10 months in 2025 the department brought in \$1.4 million and he said his budget was \$1.4 million. There was discussion on the state reducing the amount DCS will reimburse for housing children in 2026 and the impacts this could have from year to year.

Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading

a. Additional Appropriation 2026-17: Group Homes – House Manager Stipends

This request for \$4,000 to be appropriated in the “payroll” salaries line in the Group Home’s budget in the General Fund would fund the request outlined above.

Terre Haute Mayor Brandon Sakbun had another engagement so discussion on his office’s request (Additional Appropriation 2026-25) was moved up to this part of the meeting.

b. Additional Appropriation 2026-25: Terre Haute Mayor’s Office – Re-Appropriating Funds for Warming Center

Brandon Sakbun approached Council and explained the history of this funding request in connection to warming centers discussed at multiple previous meetings. This request was for \$15,001 to be appropriated for the professional services line in the Rainy Day Fund. He said he believed this would satisfy the procedural requirement of changing the request to be heard before the Council again after confusion about re-appropriating these unencumbered funds approved at the end of 2025. He broke down the funding sources for the warming center program. This included funding provided from the city budget, County budget, a grant from Duke Energy, and a donation from State Senator Greg Goode. He said there were 37 activation days over the course of the winter. There was discussion about a new state law dictating homelessness enforcement amid funding cuts to programs typically aiding the homeless population. He explained the success rate of the “streets to homes” program in Indianapolis and the desire to bring the program to Terre Haute.

c. Additional Appropriation 2026-18: Group Homes – Two Furnaces at Glenn Home

Norm explained this request was to appropriate \$46,500 in the contractual services line in the Group Homes Non-Reverting Fund to purchase and install two furnaces at the Glenn Home. He explained the home is currently heated by a boiler system that circulates water to radiator units throughout the building. He said during periods of extreme cold the system is unable to keep the home warm enough to allow children to stay there per DCS guidelines. Norm said he had received a quote for \$46,298 from Gibson Services and a quote for \$45,800 from B&S. He said the request was enough to cover electrical work in the moving of the furnace. Norm confirmed there would be a warranty for these furnaces.

d. Additional Appropriation 2026-19: Group Homes – Transportation Vehicle

Norm then explained this request for \$45,000 to be appropriated to the vehicles line in the Group Homes Non-Reverting Fund. He said these funds would be used to purchase a 2024 Ford Transit. He said the vehicle would cost \$38,500, but the request has enough funds for title, registration, and vehicle accessory costs. Norm noted he would fine adjusting the request to just the cost of the vehicle. There was discussion about the Group Homes being budgeted funds for a vehicle during the annual budgeting process in 2025. Norm explained the funds were used to buy building maintenance a vehicle and two snow blowers during a winter storm.

e. Additional Appropriation 2026-20: Courts – Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund

Judge Lakshmi Reddy approached the Council and explained this request was for \$75,027.10 to be appropriated to the legal services line in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund. She explained the Vigo County Clerk’s Office collects a \$20 fee for all divorce filings and the current balance is \$75,027.10. She said due to the

impossibility of predicting how much money will be needed to provide families' necessary services ordered by the court, the entire fund is requested to be appropriated on an annual basis.

f. Additional Appropriation 2026-21: Drug Free Vigo County – Drug Free Community Fund

Drug Free Vigo County Treasurer Brandon Halleck approached the Council and explained the organizations' request to appropriate \$63,066.65 to the operating expenses line in the Drug Free Community Fund. He said this program is funded by court user fees paid by the Vigo County Clerk's office and City of Terre Haute Clerk's Office. He said this was an annual appropriation made once the entire fees for fiscal year 2025 were collected. Brandon said these funds would be distributed to Team of Mercy, Mental Health America, Casey Family Links, Tobacco Free Vigo, Vigo County Drug Court, Casey Counseling, Next Step Foundation, West Terre Haute Police Department, Vigo County Juvenile Probation, Vigo County Family Court, and the Terre Haute Police Department. There was brief discussion on which court proceedings would collect the fees in this fund and how the determination was made on the recipients of the Drug Free Community Fund. Brandon Halleck noted he would not be able to make the following meeting and he could send someone in his place to answer further Council questions if the Council requested.

g. Additional Appropriation 2026-22: Drug Court – Budget Correction

Council Administrator Devan Gackle explained this request for an appropriation \$10,000 to the drug testing line in the Drug Court User Fee fund was due to a typo in the annual budgeting process resulting in only \$1,000 being appropriated in that line for budget year 2026.

h. Reduction in Appropriation Ordinance 2026-1: E911 Budget Correction – Part 1

Brian DeHart with Vigo County E911 approached the Council and explained this request for a reduction on appropriation of the equipment new line in the Vigo County 911 Fund and for the same amount to be appropriated in the equipment new line in the LIT Dedicated to PSAP Fund. Briand explained the department had a made a mistake during the annual budgeting process and due to statutory requirements this is the fix needed to be made.

i. Additional Appropriation 2026-23: E911 Budget Correction – Part 2

This request for an additional appropriation in the LIT Dedicated to PSAP Fund would be the second part in the budget correction described above.

j. Additional Appropriation 2026-24: Election Board – Poll Worker Budget Correction

Council Administrator Devan Gackle explained this request for \$265,500 to be appropriated to the payroll salaries line in the Election Board's budget was due to an error in the budgeting process. She said the budget committee approved this line for Election Board based on a non-election year, and needed these funds appropriated to compensate poll workers due to 2026 being an election year. She said the Auditor's Office met with the Vigo County Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk and this was the amount calculated to cover the costs.

OLD BUSINESS: Approving Previously Approved 2026 Additional Appropriations for DLGF

Submission

Steve Ellis said this agenda item would be addressed at the Council meeting the following week.

Public Comment

There were none.

Appointments

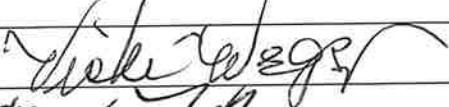
There were none.

Adjournment

Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL APRIL 7, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Presented to the Vigo County Council and adopted this 12th day of May, 2026

ADOPTION INFORMATION			
Official Vote		Name	Signature
Aye	Nay		
☒	☐	Brenda Wilson	
☒	☐	David Thompson	
☒	☐	Nancy Allsup	
☒	☐	Brad Anderson	
☒	☐	Randy Gentry	
☒	☐	Vicki Weger	
☒	☐	Steve Ellis	
Attestation by Secretary of Governing Body			
Date			5/12/26