

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Sunshine Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 4:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Steve Ellis called the meeting to order at 4:00 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**

Vigo County Assessor Kevin Gardner approached the Council and noted that Form 11's had been mailed to taxpayers. He suggested Council make a decision on whether or not they would like tax abatements be presented to Council. He said that legislative changes had made \$2 million and under in personal property exempt. Commissioner Mike Morris then joined Kevin and they explained taxes have gone way up for people with a disability. He said this was due to legislative changes at the state level qualifying disability as a credit instead of a deduction as it was historically. There was discussion on relief would be coming in adjustments to the law at the state level. Kevin noted any changes would be too late for this year. Mike said there was roughly 1,088 people in Vigo County impacted by this.

**a. Vigo County School Oversight Committee – May 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 May activities. She said the Committee was having discussion on outside organizations for possible capital support. Heather said there were no new contracts to report since the last meeting, the Committee had not entered into any service agreements. Heather said the Committee had received one invoice from Barnes & Thornburg for services rendered through March 31, 2026. She said the remaining balance on the account netting interest income and this pending invoice was \$93,942.42.

**Reports from Committees**

There were none.

**Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations – First Reading**

**a. An Amended Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies for Vigo County Prosecutors and Public Defenders: Section 4 Amendment**

Council Administrator Devan Gackle explained to Council Public Defender Gretchen Etling had reached out to her and made her aware that Section 4 of this Ordinance was missing the words "and Public Defenders" when referring to Prosecutors and Public Defenders being eligible for longevity pay. Gretchen had noticed this omission when working on state paperwork and this amendment would add these words. There would be no changes to funds budgeted. There was discussion on if this error was present in the 2025 budgeting process as well as the 2026.

**Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading**

**a. Additional Appropriation 2026-26: Prosecutor's Office – Law Enforcement Grants**

Chief Deputy Prosecutor Rob Roberts approached the Council and explained his request for \$25,000 to be appropriated in the Law Enforcement Grants line in the User Fee Infraction Deferral Fund and \$5,000 to be appropriated in the Youth Crime Prevention Grants line in the same Fund. Rob said the budgeted funds were

used to assist the Sheriff's Office in purchasing a vehicle and this appropriation would replenish these funds for the office for the rest of 2026. There was discussion about if these funds were part of a non-reverting fund. Rob confirmed these funds would not be reverting back to the County General Fund due to them not mingling with County General Funds in the first place. He said these funds were collected from user fees. The Auditor's Office confirmed the cash balance of the fund was approximately \$113,000 at the time of this meeting.

**b. Additional Appropriation 2026-27: Sheriff – Vehicle Purchase**

Sheriff Derek Fell approached the Council and explained this request was for \$25,000 to be appropriated in the Vehicles line in the LIT Public Safety – County Share Fund to purchase a vehicle. He said the West Terre Haute Police Department was in the process of a reduction in force and a vehicle has come up for sale. He said this vehicle, a 2023 Chevy Tahoe, would include equipment and his office valued the vehicle and equipment at \$63,000. He said the West Terre Haute Police Department agreed to sell it to the Vigo County Sheriff's Office for \$30,000. He said the additional \$5,000 needed to purchase the vehicle would come from the Sheriff's Commissary Fund. There was discussion on where the money used to purchase the vehicle would go. Derek Fell said it would go to the town of West Terre Haute as he understood it.

**c. Additional Appropriation 2026-28: Group Homes – House Manager Stipend**

Group Homes Executive Director Norm Loudermilk approached the Council and explained this request for \$4,000 to be appropriated from the Group Homes Non-Reverting Fund would fund stipends for House Manager Positions at the Group Homes. This request was discussed at previous meetings and Norm withdrew a similar request from the General Fund and was requesting these funds to be appropriated from the Non-Reverting Fund after discussion at the previous meetings.

**Public Comment**

There were none.

**Appointments**

There were none.

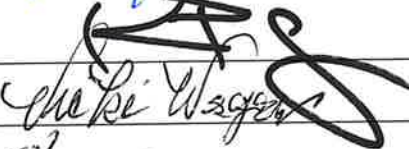
Steve noted the Council had been presented with the Sheriff's commissary Ledger for review.

**Adjournment**

Randy Gentry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

## VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MAY 6, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Duly adopted by the following vote of the members of said Vigo County Council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026

| Official Vote                              |                          | Name           | Signature                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aye                                        | Nay                      |                |                                                                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brenda Wilson  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | David Thompson |                                                                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nancy Allsup   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brad Anderson  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Randy Gentry   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vicki Weger    |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Steve Ellis    |   |
| Attestation by Secretary of Governing Body |                          |                |  |
| Date                                       |                          |                | 6/9/26                                                                              |