

Miami County Council Meeting

May 20, 2025

Meeting Information

- Date & Time: 2025-05-20 7:00 pm
- Location: 25 N Broadway Peru IN, 46970 GAR Room

Attendees:

President Chittum – Present
Councilman Fruth – Present
Councilman Scott – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilman Allen – Present
Councilman Sailors – Present
Councilman Nutt-Present
Auditor Annette Phillippo
Judge Spahr
Judge Grund
Judge Winkler
Sheriff Tim Hunter

Meeting Notes

1. **Opening and Approval of Minutes**

The meeting began with a prayer led by Councilman Saylor, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Councilman Fruth to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on April 15, 2025, Councilman Nutt seconded, Motion approved 7-0

2. **Courthouse Security and Compliance**

Judge Spahr Opened discussion on the requirement to reduce public access to a single entrance at the courthouse, as mandated by the Indiana Courthouse Security Memo (standard 3A), and the need for screening and alarmed emergency exits.

Recent threats and incidents, including a fatal shooting outside Hendricks County courthouse about three weeks prior and past bombings in Howard County, were cited as reasons to prioritize security upgrades. It was noted that all neighboring counties, including smaller ones like Fulton and Pulaski, have secure checkpoints at their courthouses.

The security committee updated its report and submitted requests to the council and county commissioners, emphasizing the need for funding to implement security measures, particularly staffing.

Discussion on the budgeting process for security staffing and equipment, noting that changes via the regular budget process would not take effect until January 1, 2026, and that additional appropriations this year could expedite implementation.

Sheriff Tim Hunter commented on the Courthouse Security making a recommendation to hire a third security officer immediately, with the possibility of starting as early as June 23, 2025, to address immediate staffing shortages and prepare for future security upgrades.

Currently, only two handheld screening devices are available, which are not suitable for continuous daily use for all visitors.

Councilman Scott spoke gave a Preliminary estimate for permanent security equipment (interceptor) at \$160,000, with additional discussion on maintenance contracts and comparison to other options. Adding there may be a possibility of grant funds.

Sheriff Hunter suggested looking into additional personnel at this time and investigate other suggestions on equipment. Auditor Phillippo will work with Chief Deputy Vitek tomorrow on other equipment options.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to advertise for appropriations \$50,000 to add a third security officer plus equipment and ensuring sufficient funds in the county general fund. Councilman Scott seconded the motion. approved 7-0.

3. Council Fruth gave a report on Planning Commission activities, including approval of RFP for comprehensive plan update, 40 permit issued, 30 unsafe property cases, and the Grissom Inn project.

Plan to put Grissom Inn out for bid in July if the landowner does not respond; may request appropriations from CEDIT funds for demolition. We were informed by Mr. Tidd at the meeting that there is a potential apartment complex that wants to come in across the road, and they will not do that project until that building is cleaned up. Therefore, they use some economic funds now. So, there will be an ask come July and August as we continue to work through that project.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Fruth, Seconded by Councilman Saylor. Motion passed 7-0

Attested

Auditor Annette Phillippo