

Miami County Council Meeting

August 19, 2025

Meeting Information

1. Date & Time: 08-19-25 7:00 pm
2. Location: GAR room
3. Attendees:
 - President Chittum – Present
 - Councilman Wiles – Present
 - Councilman Fruth – Present
 - Councilman Sailors – Present
 - Councilman Nutt – Present
 - Councilman Allen – Present
 - Councilman Scott – Present
 - Annette Phillippo - Auditor

Meeting Notes

Meeting Opening and Procedural Matters

President Chittum called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15th, 2025, at the Miami County Community Building. The meeting began with prayer by Councilman Sailors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The previous meeting minutes were presented for approval. Councilman Fruth made a motion to accept the July 15, 2025 minutes. Seconded by Councilman Sailors. Motion carried 7-0.

1. **EMA Additional Appropriations for Hazmat Reimbursement**

EMA requested an additional appropriation of \$2,288.40. This includes \$700 for the Peru Fire Department, \$308.90 for an Ice Machine, \$39.20 for two Ice Machine Filters, and \$1,240.30 for EMA Materials Reimbursement. Herb clarified that this is for hazmat cleanup reimbursement, transferring funds from a non-reverting fund to pay the fire department and restock cleaning materials.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve for advertising, Councilman Scott seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

2. EMA Additional Appropriations for 2025 Budget Shortfall

EMA requested an additional appropriation of \$15,000 to cover a shortfall in the 2025 budget. Herb explained that the previous director set the budget, and increased call volume from the volunteer group has depleted funds. The fuel budget (\$9,000 annual, \$750/month allotted) has only \$1,599 remaining, and the repairs and maintenance budget (\$10,000 annual, \$833/month allotted) has \$1,400 remaining, with actual spending exceeding allotments. Councilman Fruth requested more clarification on the allocation of the \$15,000 is requested for the next meeting.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve for advertising, Councilman Sailors seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Planning and Zoning Fees Chart Approval

Corey Roser presented the updated Planning and Zoning fee chart for 2026, which was approved by the Plan Commission and Commissioners. Key changes include: residential carports/sheds now \$75 (without electric) or \$125 (with electric); appeal of administrative decisions increased from \$50 to \$185; new fees of \$185 for petition for rezoning and petition for vacation of a plat/public way. Zoning compliance letters changed to \$25 per parcel plus 10 cents per page, and a new zoning verification letter fee of \$100 per parcel was added. One research fee was removed.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve for advertising, Councilman Sailors seconded. Motion to approve carried (4-3 vote). Aye: Wiles, Fruth, Sailors, Chittum. Nay: Nutt, Allen, Scott.

4. Resolution for Encumbrances

A resolution was presented to encumber \$3,037,811.31 from 2024 funds for the 2025 budget year. This amount includes payroll approved in 2024 but paid in 2025.

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve, Councilman Nutt seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Appropriations for Employee Payout and Training

An appropriation of \$6,000 was requested for Jody Hutchins' payout and to cover the overlap for one week of training for a new employee.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve, Councilman Nutt seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Demolition of Grissom Inn

Approval was sought for the appropriation of \$177,000 for the demolition of Grissom Inn, transferring funds from CEDIT to unsafe building funds. The demolition cost is approximately \$144,000, and the balance for asbestos removal (already completed) is \$33,000. The unsafe building budget is around \$45,000, so the request is to use economic development funds. The demolition is aimed to start by the end of the year. A lien will be placed on the property for the demolition cost, which must be paid upon transfer or tax sale. The process is complicated by a reverse mortgage and difficulty locating the property owners.

Councilman Allen made a motion to approve, Councilman Fruth seconded. Motion to approve carried (5-2 vote). Aye: Wiles, Fruth, Saylor, Chittum, Allen. Nay: Nutt, Scott.

7. Baker Tilly and the Five-year financial plan

Paige Sansone represented Baker Tilly and discussed the Five-year financial plan. She made quite a few recommendations in the coming years on how the county can prepare for the future due to recent legislative changes and updates.

8. Southern Miami County Fire Territory

Councilman Fruth presented a proposal that the county use Economic Development funds to help fund a fire services study to do an analysis of what it would be to form a fire territory or district for Pipe Creek or all of the south county. He asked that at the next meeting the council appropriate \$12,000 from LIT Economic Development to cover the costs for the townships.

Councilman Allen made a motion to advertise, Councilman Saylor seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Council Chair Chittum reminded the audience that the Budget Workshops would be held August 26th, 27th and 28th. The October meeting will be moved to October 14th as the Auditor has a conference the week of the regularly scheduled meeting.

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

Attested

Auditor Annette Phillippo