

# Miami County Council Meeting

## 01-21-25

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### Meeting Information

- Date & Time: 2025-01-21 7:00 pm
- Location: 25 N Broadway, Peru IN 46970
- President Chittum – Present
- Councilman Fruth – Present
- Councilman Scott – Present
- Councilman Wiles – Present
- Councilman Allen – Present
- Councilman Sailors – Present
- Councilman Nutt-Present

President Chittum called the meeting to order.

Councilman Sailors led the group in prayer and President Chittum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. County Council Meeting and Economic Development Review

- **Election of Officers**  
The meeting began with the election of officers for 2025. Sandy Chittum was nominated and elected as President, and Brian Nutt was elected as Vice President of the County Council. President Chittum called for vote and both passed 7-0

**Councilwoman Chittum welcomed newly elected Councilman Thomas Scott, Auditor Annette Phillippo and Chief Deputy Auditor Marci Hasselkus.**

- **Committee Appointments**  
Committee appointments for 2025 were discussed, and a motion to approve them was carried without any questions. Passed 7-0

<b>Budget and Wage</b>	<b>3</b>	Brad Fruth, Sandy Chittum, Bryan Nutt
<b>Community Corrections</b>	<b>1</b>	Sandy Chittum
<b>County Plan Commission</b>	<b>1</b>	Brad Fruth
<b>Courthouse Security</b>	<b>1-2</b>	Bryan Nutt, Thomas Scott
<b>Dukes Healthcare Foundation</b>	<b>2</b>	David Sailors, Richard Wiles
<b>E911</b>	<b>2</b>	Richard Wiles, Sandy Chittum
<b>Emergency Management Agency</b>	<b>1</b>	Thomas Scott
<b>Historical Society</b>	<b>1</b>	Sandy Chittum
<b>IT Committee</b>	<b>1</b>	Brad Fruth
<b>Jail</b>	<b>2</b>	David Sailors, Sandy Chittum
<b>Local Coordinating Council</b>	<b>1</b>	John Allen
<b>MCEDA Elected Officials Council</b>	<b>1-2</b>	Sandy Chittum, Bryan Nutt
<b>Miami County Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>1</b>	Sandy Chittum
<b>Purdue Extension Advisory Board</b>	<b>1</b>	Sandy Chittum
<b>Regional Planning Council</b>	<b>1</b>	Richard Wiles
<b>Solid Waste District</b>	<b>1</b>	Sandy Chittum
<b>Tax Abatement</b>	<b>3</b>	Brad Fruth, Sandy Chittum, Bryan Nutt
<b>Peru Public Library</b>	<b>1</b>	John Allen

- **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting on December 17, 2024, were reviewed and approved. Passed 7-0

## Economic Development and Community Growth

- **Economic Development Indicators**  
**Jim Tidd introduce Heidi Amspaugh and Anekahaker Sinykin with Baker Tilly to** present economic development indicators from 2019 to 2024, highlighting a 34% growth in assessed value for Miami County from 2019 to 2025.
- **TIF Areas and Economic Growth**  
The meeting discussed the success of TIF areas in Miami, Cass, and Wabash counties, highlighting significant growth in assessed values and the role of TIFs in attracting businesses. Miami County's Grissom TIF area was notably successful, contributing to economic development.
- **Economic Development Income Tax**  
The growth of economic development income tax in Miami, Cass, and Wabash counties was analyzed, showing significant increases over five years. The importance of attracting jobs to increase this revenue was emphasized.
- **Housing Market Trends**  
The meeting reviewed the increase in median home values in Miami, Cass, and Wabash counties, stressing the need for diverse housing stock to attract a range of employees and support economic growth.
- **Median Household Income**  
The rise in median household income in Miami County was discussed, with a focus on attracting higher-end jobs to further increase income levels.
- **Educational Attainment**  
Educational attainment data for Logansport, Peru, and Wabash was presented, showing improvements over a decade. The importance of this data for attracting and retaining businesses was highlighted.
- **Tax Rate Considerations**  
The meeting addressed the recent decrease in tax rates and advised maintaining a balanced tax rate to support ongoing projects and economic growth.
- **Community Collaboration in Economic Development**  
The importance of community collaboration in economic development was emphasized, highlighting the role of various stakeholders in creating a desirable living and working environment.

## 3. County Development and Legal Proceedings

- **County Home and Land Valuation**  
Discussion on the median home value in the county, including land assessment at \$20,500 per acre. The valuation includes both land and home, with potential for larger homes on more acres.

- **Business Developments Since 2019**  
Several companies have moved to the area since 2019, including Chinook RV, OP Nutrition, Norco Industries, Evo Exhibits, AZ Isotopes, Spectron RX, Simplot Sales, and Carolina Recycling Partners. Investments and employment numbers were discussed.
  - **Newspaper and Publicity**  
Discussion on the lack of a local newspaper affecting publicity for new developments.
  - **Reappointment of Law Firm**  
Motion to approve the reappointment of the law firm Downs, Tandy, and Petrino to represent the county council, with Mark France as the representative. Passed 7-0
- 4. Brad Fruth gave Planning Commission Update**  
on the Planning Commission's activities, including permits issued, unsafe buildings, and a developmental plan review within the Grissom TIF.
- **Grissom Hotel Legal Proceedings**  
Discussion on the legal proceedings related to the Grissom Hotel, including difficulties in serving the landowner and the use of publication for service.
  - **Public Comment on EV Battery Facility**  
Public comment on the future of the EV battery facility in Kokomo and its potential impact on the local area.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Allen seconded.  
Passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted

**Annette Phillippo**

Miami County Auditor