

# Miami County Council Meeting

July 15, 2025

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## Meeting Information

- Date & Time: 07-15-25 7:00 pm
- Location: 4H Community Building Miami County Fairgrounds
- Attendees:
  - President Chittum – Present
  - Councilman Wiles – Present
  - Councilman Fruth – Present
  - Councilman Sailors – Absent
  - 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 Wiles followed by and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Allen Made a motion to except the June 16, 2025, Previous Minutes. Seconded by Councilman Fruth. Carried 6-0

### 1. Appropriations and Tax: Mary Brown Attorney Payment

Mary Brown requested an appropriation of \$1,148.75 for attorney fees, which was brought to the council for approval last month. The Claim would require approval from BOC if approved.

Motion to approve by Councilman Nutt, seconded by Councilman Scott.

– Motion failed approval with a 3/3 vote. Nay votes by Councilman Wiles, Councilman Allen, and Councilman Fruth.

## **2. Demolition of Congress Amendment Building**

Discussion from Councilman Fruth on appropriating \$177,000 for the demolition and asbestos removal of a building, which includes 17,000 square feet of asbestos tiling. This appropriation is intended to transfer funds into the unsafe building demolition fund managed by the commissioners. The total \$177,000 covers both asbestos remediation and demolition. Specific allocations include \$45,000 for demolition and \$32,000 for expenses, based on received bids. The lowest qualifying bid accepted by Plainfield was \$145,000. Ownership issues and liens were discussed, with Firma Investments LLC, an entity out of Florida, identified as the property owner. A lien would be placed on the property, requiring the owner or buyer to pay it.

177,000 to transfer the money from CEDIT into the Unsafe building. The fund is used for demolition.

Motion to advertise 177000 for demolition and cleanup of the Grissom Inn by Councilman Allen. Seconded by Commissioner Fruth. Motion passed 6-0

## **3. Wheel Tax Ordinance and Funding**

Councilman Fruth Review of Miami County's wheel tax ordinance, adopted in November 2014, currently set at \$20 for cars. The ordinance also includes a schedule for other vehicle types like buses and recreational vehicles. The minimum rate is \$20, while the maximum rate allowed by state statute is \$80. Current annual collection at the minimum rate is approximately \$246,046; if increased to the maximum rate of \$80, it could generate \$1.78 million. Distribution schedules, where all units receive a share, and different vehicle classifications (e.g., trailers, buses, semis, with heavier vehicles incurring higher taxes) were discussed. The wheel tax is assessed annually by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles during vehicle registration.

Discussion centered on the adequacy of wheel tax revenue for road maintenance, noting that the \$20 rate has been static since 2014, leading to struggles in generating sufficient income. The wheel tax is stated to be strictly restricted to general funds, though it also contributes to road funds. The budget committee has received a preliminary report from Baker Tilly on a five-year plan, which will provide a roadmap for future funding and will be reviewed in August. There was also mention of past budget discussions from 2010 regarding available vehicles.

**4. Fire Protection and Territory**

Councilman Fruth updated the Board of the discussions with townships regarding the persistent lack of fire protection, particularly in Pipe Creek. Consideration is being given to forming a fire territory or district. A meeting is scheduled next week to explore options and funding possibilities, including how to continue acquiring necessary equipment. It was clarified that the county council lacks authority to enact such a measure; any decision to move forward would rest with the township and its board. This initiative would not alter existing fire coverage.

**5. Tax Abatements**

Chairwoman Chittum stated that the Tax abatement was reviewed on June 26<sup>th</sup> and all were passed.

**6. EMA Report: Sirens and Reimbursements**

EMA reported receiving \$6,000 in insurance reimbursements for supplies used in recent incidents, noting that Peru Fire Department will receive a cut from these reimbursements if they assist. Updates were provided on siren repairs: three sirens were down (Peru, Bunker Hill, and Converse); Peru and Bunker Hill sirens were fixed due to a software issue, but the Converse siren remains down. A new siren is planned for Eagles Pointe and West End, paid for by MCEDA, to cover the new industrial area and Eagles Point. EMA also plans to request approximately \$500 for ice and coolers, including \$300 for an ice machine.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Fruth, Seconded by Councilman Allen. Motion passed 6-0

Attested

**Auditor Annette Phillippo**