

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2026

6:30 P.M.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Roll Call
- IV. All present except Brenda Furry
Approval of Minutes for Council Meeting 07.13.2026

Weir Motion

Summersville Second

All in Favor, Motion Carried

V. Monthly Treasure Report

Council acknowledges monthly treasures report.

VI. Transfer of Funds

TRANSFERRING FROM	TRANSFERRING TO	FUND/ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	1 ST /2 ND
1000.30570.000.130	Professional Services	1000.30302.000.130	Historical Markers	REPORTING ONLY
Transferring for historical marker projects. Left over funds from 2025 to be appropriated in September 2026 meeting and reimbursed back to Professional Services.				

VII. Additional Appropriations

ACCOUNT/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	1 ST /2 ND
1000.12800.0000.105 Sheriff	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	Weir/Costello Passed
Appropriation for medical, transport, and staffing			
2500.37000.000.242 Lease Vehicle	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Bose/Brown
2500.33501.000.242 Repair & Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	TABLED
Need funds Appropriated from Probation Administration for the purpose of leasing a Vehicle for the Probation Department. Leasing of this vehicle will allow for home checks on our offenders. Also, this will be used to attend Conference & Training to further continuing education for probation changes and updates.			

VIII. Old Business

a. Economic Development Agreement

Needs President Ashley James signature. Commissioners have already signed the agreement.

IX. New Business

a. Ince Mahan, Veterans Service Office Update

The Veterans Service Officer reported serving approximately 342 veterans, including 280 Vermillion County veterans, with additional veterans from other Indiana counties and former county residents also receiving assistance. She explained the extensive research, medical-record review, evidence gathering, claims preparation, and appeals work required to assist veterans with VA benefits and service-connected disabilities.

The Veterans Service Officer reported that the workload has increased substantially and requested additional part-time assistance, preferably 15–20 hours per week, to assist with the workload and allow for necessary time away from the office. She emphasized the importance of maintaining continuity of services for veterans and surviving spouses.

Council members discussed whether additional assistance should consist of a receptionist, additional Veterans Service Officer, or other support position. Members agreed that a preliminary meeting between the Council, Commissioners, and Veterans Service Officer should be held to evaluate staffing needs and determine an appropriate course of action.

It was noted that additional appropriations and the required advertising process may be necessary because sufficient funds are not currently available in the existing budget. The Veterans Service Officer requested assistance during the remainder of the current budget year if possible.

Council members expressed support for the Veterans Service Officer and recognized the importance of maintaining adequate services for county veterans.

b. George Sanguenetti Vermillion County Heritage Alliance – Historical Marker Update

The Council was informed that the historical marker for Universal has been completed and installed. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vermillion County Fairgrounds near Gun Club Road. Council members and Commissioners were invited to attend.

Sanguenetti also reported that the Heritage Alliance has obtained nonprofit status and has received grant support. The organization is pursuing additional historical markers. Resolution 2026-13 – Historical Marker Fund

The Council considered Resolution 2026-13, establishing a separate, non-reverting Historical Marker Fund, Fund 8131.

The resolution provides for:

- A transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Historical Marker Fund.
- Transfer of \$2,500 in existing appropriations for 2026 historical-marker expenses.
- Establishment of the fund as a non-reverting fund for costs associated with purchasing and installing historical markers within the county.

The purpose of the fund is to prevent historical-marker appropriations from reverting at the end of a budget year when markers or invoices are delayed.

Brown Motion

Bose Second

All in Favor, Motion Carried to approve Resolution 2026-13.

c. Friends of Ernie Pyle – Museum and Veterans Memorial Park Update

Steve Key, representing the Friends of Ernie Pyle, provided an update on the Ernie Pyle Museum and Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Key thanked the Council for its support of the organization's Ready 2.0 Arts and Culture initiative. Although the organization did not receive grant funding, it received more than 40 letters of support from Vermillion County and surrounding communities. Recent accomplishments include the dedication of the Ernie Pyle sculpture, completion of ADA-compliant restrooms, continued park improvements, and additional programming and fundraising efforts.

The organization also reported receiving three Ernie Pyle artifacts on loan from the Indiana State Museum. Plans are underway for additional partnerships and artifact loans in the future.

The Friends of Ernie Pyle are developing a high school writing contest encouraging students to interview veterans or servicemembers and write stories in the style of Ernie Pyle. Discussions are also underway regarding expansion of the contest statewide.

A historical marker honoring Ernie Pyle and Bert Shepard is being developed through the Jewish American Society of Historic Preservation, which will fund the marker.

Mr. Key reported that approximately \$500,000 has been invested in the Veterans Memorial Park project to date and that fundraising efforts will continue. He did not request county funding at this meeting but encouraged consideration of a future community grant fund through which qualifying nonprofit organizations could apply for assistance.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT Purdue Extension Update

Lori Bouslog from Purdue Extension provided an update concerning the statewide transition to a regional service model.

Vermillion County will become part of Region 5, consisting of nine counties. The new regional structure is intended to provide sustainable services, increase collaboration among counties, and better align local programming with Purdue University resources. The regional model is expected to become operational in January 2027. The Purdue Extension office in Vermillion County will remain open, and local staff will continue to be based in the county.

Dee Nicley, Regional Operations Lead was introduced and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Council, Commissioners, and other county officials.

Veteran Public Comment

Steve Bales, an Army and Cold War veteran, addressed the Council in support of the County Veterans Service Officer.

Mr. Bales shared his personal experience obtaining assistance with VA benefits and stated that the current Veterans Service Officer has provided valuable assistance with his claims. He expressed concern regarding the officer's workload and appointment delays and emphasized the time-sensitive nature of veterans' claims.

Mr. Bales encouraged the Council to provide additional assistance to the Veterans Service Office and stated that retaining the current Veterans Service Officer is important to the veteran community.

The Council thanked Mr. Bales for his comments and support.

XI. Adjourn Weir Motion

Bose Second

AYE:

NYE:

Ashley James

Absent

Brenda Furry

Brenda Furry

Rick Weir

Neil Costello

Tammie Brown

Kelly Summerville

Jeff Bose

Attest:

Ron Dunavan

Date 9/16/2024