

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL

APRIL 12, 2017

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Jodi Harr, Auditor and Leigh Morning attorney in attendance. Councilmen Steve McCorkhill and Scott Barnes were unable to attend.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2017 were approved on a motion by Warren Norris and seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE STUDY

Judge David Northam along with Mike Montgomery from the Preservation Collaborative Group and Attorney Carl Mulvaney from Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP were present to request a transfer of funds in the Riverboat Fund from equipment to professional services in the amount of \$75,000 to cover the cost of the courthouse house security and renovation study. Montgomery explained the reason for the range in cost of the study. He also noted the energy portion of the study is only a small amount of the cost. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the transfer. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT TRANSFERS

Due to paying out vacation time to a past employee, Judge Northam requested two transfers within his county general circuit court budget.

Charles Smith made the motion to approve the transfer from Guardian Ad Litem to Reporter salary in the amount of \$100.00. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Smith made the motion to approve the transfer from Per Diem Petit Jury to Reporter salary in the amount of \$900.00. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Fred Phillips, President of the Rush County Board of Health was present to respond to allegations made at the March 24, 2017 workshop held by the county commissioners and county council. After investigation into the examples given him, he refutes the allegation that the Rush County Board of Health is hindering economic growth in Rush County. Dr. Phillips presented written documentation from the Indiana State Board of Health and TK Homes. He requests that Councilman Smith apologize to Teresa Nigh and that Councilman Scott Barnes identify his source for the unfounded truth that TK Homes will not build in Rush County because of issues with the RCBH environmentalist. Council Chairman Gerald Mohr noted that in the future these issues should be addressed to the Rush County Board of Health.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

David Malson representing the Rush County Public Defender Board requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in the Supplemental Defender Fund in the amount of \$47,635.56. This will pay for pauper attorney fees through the end of the year. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to allow the additional appropriation request to be advertised. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT

Superior Court Judge, Brian Hill, requested a transfer in the amount of \$700.00 from his county general budget guardian ad litem fees into court administrator salary. This will enable the person hired to replace his current court administrator upon her retirement to work for two weeks of training. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the transfer request. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

CITY OF RUSHVILLE

Brian Sheehan was present to update the county council on the progress of Stellar projects and other items being worked on within Rushville City. The first year of the project is securing financing of the projects. Physical changes should be noticed within the next eighteen months. Sheehan will continue to provide updates on the projects every couple of months.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Gracie Marlatt from the county extension office commented they and the surveyor each have a copy of the housing study done by the City of Rushville in their offices.

She requested a transfer in the extension office county general budget in the amount of \$420.00 from secretary salary into contractual service. This amount is needed to pay the balance of the contract with Purdue for extension services. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the transfer. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

Diana Wright will be retiring effective July 31, 2017. She will have approximately seven weeks of retirement and comp time that will need to be paid out prior to someone new filling her position. Marlatt requested permission from the council to start to advertise for her replacement. It was suggested that she consider part time help. At this point it was agreed the council does not want to approve a full time replacement until after they see what is going to happen with the 2018 budgets. She was given the okay to utilize what salary will be left in Wright's 2017 appropriation for part time through October, November and December 2017.

Purdue is still looking for a Community Wellness Coordinator whose office will be housed in the extension office. There is no expense to the county for this person. They are looking for a qualified person to be here by mid-June.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

APC Director Gregg Duke requested permission to fill the full time administrator which was budgeted for 2017. He has been utilizing part time but feels like this position needs to be full time. Marvin Hedrick questioned whether the monthly reports he has been seeing justify a full time person. Charles Smith asked if there was a full time work load. Duke commented that

yes there is a full time work load and invited the council up to see for themselves. Hedrick noted that it has been mentioned in the past about consolidating administrative services with the surveyor's office. It was agreed the council wants to wait until budget time to determine if they will allow a full time person. Duke requested that if the position cannot be full time, that the council increase the hourly rate for part time. Again, the council agrees that will be a discussion to be had a budget time.

NEW JAIL PROJECT

Marvin Hedrick asked the commissioners for an update on the jail project. County Attorney Leigh Morning noted that there is confusion on two recommendations made by IDEM. She has a conference scheduled with DLZ and CCI today at 1:30 for clarification of the recommendations. She also noted that it is a very slow process to get IDEM funds.

SHERIFF

Chief Deputy Dave Sliger presented the department reports for the sheriff and jail. There are currently forty seven (47) inmates housed at the jail. Bliss McKnight is paying for road deputy simulation and tactical training in Muncie.

The transport van is ordered. The color requested is no longer available for 2017. The sheriff is discussing whether to order a different color or wait and purchase a van in 2018.

RUSH COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Auditor, Jodi Harr, presented the 2016 annual report of the Rush County Redevelopment Commission.

MISC

- Oversight Committee – The county council serves as the oversight committee.
- APC Revision – This will be a part of the comprehensive plan being worked on by the area plan commission.
- Jail project – Marvin Hedrick noted he would like to see the cost of the bond be kept at sixteen (16) million dollars but the total cost could be more. Leigh Morning will know more after her conference call with DLZ & CCI today. She will email the council after her discussion.

Marvin Hedrick moved to adjourn. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/Scott Barnes
Scott Barnes

Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/Jodi Harr
Jodi Harr, Auditor