

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve Mc Corkle, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Gerald Mohr called the regular meeting to order.

Minutes of the December 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved on a motion by Steve McCorkle. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting received approval on a motion by Warren Norris and seconded by Scott Barnes.

### **ORGANIZATION**

A motion to retain the current officers was received by Marvin Hedrick with Steve McCorkle offering the second. Motion carried.

Gerald Mohr will continue as Council President and Janet Kile retained her position as Council Vice President.

### **PUBLIC DEFENDER**

David Malson returned to the board to request the \$20,000 appropriation that was reduced from the Public Defenders budget. Malson stated that there is an appropriation for \$10,000 in the Supplemental Fund that could be utilized but the State Board of Accounts confirmed that it could not be transferred to the General Fund and the State Judicial System will not allow pauper attorneys to be paid from the Supplemental Fund. Malson offered to reduce his request to \$10,000; then check the balance later in the year. Malson also noted that this appropriation receives a 40% reimbursement. Steve McCorkle moved to advertise an additional appropriation in the General Fund for \$10,000. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **LCC**

Bob Bridges was present to request the \$18,000 in the Local Coordinating Council for Drug and Alcohol Free Schools Fund. Bridges explained that the funds are used for programs such as SADD, DARE, and CPR. A suicide prevention program will be presented on February 18<sup>th</sup> to school children and again in the evening which is open to the public. Marvin Hedrick moved to allow the request for funds. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **FOOD & BEVERAGE TAX**

A bill recently introduced in the State Legislature would allow Rush County and the City of Rushville to approve a food and beverage tax of 1% each. Steve McCorkle moved to support the effort of our legislators to attain permission to adopt the tax. Mayor Pavey added that a

financial study revealed a revenue estimate of \$151,000 per year for the city that would be used for secondary educational opportunities.

### **ABC**

Eileen Proffitt was recently appointed to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Gerald Mohr signed the appointment form required by the State Board.

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/PROBATION**

Community Corrections director Ashley Stevens requested an amendment to the salary ordinance. The first request was to change the hours worked to 70 hours bi-weekly for both Community Corrections and Probations departments. Stevens explained the restructure of the departments with separate identity under one umbrella which will eliminate duplicate services. Mark Fields will no longer be chief probation officer and the salary has been reduced. A case manager will be added to the Community Corrections Department and case managers will be trained to be probation officers. The amended salary ordinance reflects the change in hours as well as a reduction to \$59,315.19 for a chief probation officer. An additional \$71,000 in grant funds for Community Corrections has allowed for the following changes in wages: Director \$54,496, Case Manager-1 \$37,674, Field Supervision Officer \$33,306, & new Case Manager-2 (not to exceed) \$44,434. Charles Smith moved to approve the amended Salary Ordinance. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **AREA PLAN COMMISSION**

The new APC director Bryant Niehoff introduced himself. Niehoff explained that he will graduate in May with a degree in Urban Planning and Real Estate and his hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday until graduation. Carmen Clark has been hired as the administrative assistant and will begin her duties on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Clark is currently employed by the City of Fishers.

### **APC APPOINTMENT**

Area Plan Commission Attorney Grant Reeves reported that due to the judicial review issue and the complaint that has been filed on the MET tower, APEX completed a study to see if there was a conflict with the appointees to the APC and BZA boards. The results show that Phil Shanahan signed a sheet in July against windfarms. Shanahan retorted that the July meeting had a sign-in sheet which asked to sign "for" or "against". Mr. Shanahan asked to remain on the board and find an alternate. Grant Reeves recommended that the Council fix the issue now to avoid litigation. Janet Kile moved to seek an alternate and to give President Gerald Mohr the authority to appoint a replacement for Phil Shanahan in upcoming windfarm issues. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **PURDUE EXTENSION**

Gracie Marlatt informed the board that she has been named interim director while the search takes place to find the replacement County Extension Director. Marlatt stated that Charles Smith was the Council's liaison to the Extension Office.

## **EMERGENCY RADIOS**

Steve McCorkle reported on the meeting held by the fire chiefs to develop a communication plan. The group decided that applying for a radio license should be the first step. The cost is \$2,000 and should be issued in the name of the Sheriff or County Commissioners. The complete core (step two) would require a Sheriff's repeater at Milroy and 600N at a cost of \$50,000. Step three would be the purchase of digital radios at an estimate of \$325,000. The fire departments are requesting the plan be funded by 911.

A motion to allow the application for a license at a cost of \$2,000 from the 911 was offered by Steve McCorkle. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that the inmate count is at 38. The Sheriff offered a detailed report for 2015. Rush County deputies were dispatched to 4,439 calls for service. Reserve deputies worked at total of 2,093 hours. The sheriff reported that 889 people were booked into the jail which represents the most ever inmates incarcerated. There were 543 warrants issued and dispatch answered over 21,906 calls. The department received over 2,900 hours of training and Courthouse Security was added in 2015. The administrative staff received and disbursed \$544,003 dollars and maintained records on 38 sex offender, and 5 violet offenders.

## **AUDITOR**

Auditor Mary Ann Beard reported on the finances of 2015. Beard warned that the county general fund's disbursements were \$150,000 more than the receipts for last year.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Councilman Warren Norris added a statement that caution should be taken. Serious consideration to find non-biased appointees must be the goal in the future.

Resident Jim Wainright asked if APEX Wind had submitted to the county a sign-in sheet from the July meeting referred to earlier. The answer was no they have not.

Marvin Hedrick moved to adjourn. Steve McCorkle 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

/s/ Steve McCorkle  
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Ann Beard, Auditor