

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

Janet Kile called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence for the law enforcement officials that lost their lives in Texas.

Minutes of the June 8th meeting were approved on a motion by Marvin Hedrick. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TRANSFERS

Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested that \$46.23 be transferred from office equipment to part time in the Deferral Fund. Marvin Hedrick moved to approve the transfer. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judge Hill was present to request the transfer of \$621.57 in the Community Corrections Fund. Charles Smith moved to approve the transfer of \$121.57 from office supplies to contracts. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried. Warren Norris made a motion to accept the transfer of \$500.00 from drug testing supplies to contracts. Scott Barnes offered the second and the motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Community Corrections Grant Fund, the Community Correction User Fund, and the Public Health Emergency Grant Fund are awarded on a fiscal year. They are handled as an additional appropriation since they do not coincide with the annual budget of the County. Marvin Hedrick moved to approve the appropriation for the Community Corrections Grant Fund. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried. The appropriation for the Community Corrections User Fund was approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris. Charles Smith moved to approve the Public Health Emergency Grant with Warren Norris seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff Jim Cowan requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$7,800 for prisoner housing. Cowan explained that he had a prisoner that posed a danger to himself and others and he is being held for safekeeping at Pendleton. Marvin Hedrick moved to allow the additional funds. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilman McCorkle questioned Auditor Mary Ann Beard why she had not prepared the request from the Sheriff for additional part time funds. Beard explained that she had not received the request in time to process it for this meeting. McCorkle stated that the request was given to the Auditor on June 8th but Beard stated that she had not received it until July 11th. McCorkle went on to say that the elected officials here in this courthouse do not want the Sheriff to have the budget he needs to run his department. Janet Kile explained that we are all

working on a lean budget. Marvin Hedrick asked the Sheriff if he could transfer funds until a later date. Cowan stated that his transportation offices have already driven more miles than the entire year last year and he now has two prisoners in Texas that are waiting for extradition. Cowan said he would be moving money from rank pay to cover the shortage.

AREA PLAN

APC director Bryant Niehoff presented an update of his department. Niehoff emphasized the need to move forward with the comprehensive plan. A request for quotes for companies to assist in the development of the plan would be the next step. Scott Barnes stated that the comprehensive plan would become the road map for the county and needs to be pursued. Mr. Niehoff shared that he has been working with the Mayor on the proposed budget for 2017.

HOSPITAL INVITATION

Rush Memorial Hospital has invited the County Council to visit the hospital for a tour of the facility on August 24th. It was decided that the Council will open the meeting, conduct business, and hold the public hearing on the budget at the courthouse as scheduled and recess the meeting to be reconvened at RMH.

COURTHOUSE

Employees that are enrolled in the county's health insurance plan will attend a meeting on July 19th to receive the changes to the plan for 2017. The cost of providing insurance has warranted substantial changes to the plan. A representative from APEX Insurance Company will conduct the sessions and return on July 21st for individual counseling.

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive in the assembly room of the courthouse on July 14th.

BUDGET 2017

Auditor Beard presented the list of county departments. Each Councilman selected three departments to visit before budget hearings.

Beard then explained the change to FSLA that raises the threshold to be exempted from overtime status. It appears that two employees are affected by the change.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

-Steve Mc Corkle reported that the merit board was cancelled and he did not have the opportunity to speak with the board in regard to setting merit salaries.

Mc Corkle also iterated that there has been no word from Owens on the radio licensing.

-Marvin Hedrick stated that there has been no action on the purchase of sheriff cars.

-Scott Barnes shared that rules and procedures for conducting the APC & BZA meetings have been established.

-Warren Norris presented the 2017 budget estimate for the Solid Waste District.

SHERIFF

The Sheriff's reported 47 inmates occupying the jail. Cowan also submitted the Sheriff's Department Six Month Activity Report. The Sheriff noted that FEMA is no longer in the disaster business and it is now the County's responsibility to assess disaster. Dave Sliger, Chuck Kemker and the Sheriff have received training to do disaster assessments. Scott Barnes shared that he has an associate that is a disaster adjuster that could assist those involved.

The Sheriff was proud to share that Michael Harr, a part time dispatcher was recently awarded the Life Saving Award presented by the Indiana Sheriff's Association. Harr received a 911 call stating that a female victim was choking and not breathing. The caller was given Heimlich instructions by Mr. Harr and the female was breathing when emergency services arrived.

SOIL & WATER

Councilman Charles Smith stated that he had business at the Rush County Soil & Water office, to find out that the Shelby County and Rush County office secretary are off on the same day. Smith reported that the issue has been resolved and days off are now staggered.

The next meeting will be the public hearing for the budget slated for August 24th at 9:00a.m.

Charles Smith 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

/s/ Steve McCorkle
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor