

The Rush County Board of Commissioners and the Rush County Council met in special session Wednesday, October 16, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Councilmen Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Steve McCorkle, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Scott Barnes was absent.

Commissioner Levi stated that the meeting was called to gather information on the proposed jail and the status of the Area Plan Commission. No public comment will be received.

JAIL PROJECT

Jail Construction manager Jack Krouse presented cost figures for the project. That figure stands at \$23,315,000 with a bonding amount of \$18.3 million. Construction, staffing, and operations are included in the total.

Councilman Marvin Hedrick stated that the starting figures for the project were \$12-\$14 million dollars and we must be concerned that this project doesn't move from an income tax base to that of the need for property taxes.

Councilman Gerald Mohr explained that the true figure of funds available will not be known until the bonds are sold. The project can then be scaled down if needed.

Jail Committee member Ron Jarman said that they know the fixed cost of moving the fiber hut, and relocating cabling for Comcast, Duke, and Frontier. Work progresses with the city to relocate the communications tower and the fiber hut behind the Kroger building.

Mr. Krouse noted that bids will be opened on November 14th. Construction should begin in March and should conclude in twenty months. The bonds will be available for local purchase and the circulation petition for bonds will be presented to the Commissioners on October 17th.

Chief deputy Dave Sliger stated that eight additional jailers will be needed at the new facility. A fully equipped kitchen is designed for the facility since there are questions if Rush Memorial Hospital can accommodate the volume proposed for the new jail. The recycling dumpsters will be relocated at a non-disclosed site.

Construction Engineer Eric Ratts sent a question to the Commissioners asking if DLZ's should include the items if the variances are not granted by the City. Bruce Levi stated that they should hold off on the variance designs.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Mayor Mike Pavey spoke with the joint board on the subject of the future of the inter-local agreement governing the joint APC. The Mayor was going to discuss with the City Council about the future noting that the joint commission may not be feasible. The Mayor's question to the county was, "Do you want planning and zoning?" Pavey stated that we need growth initiatives but he feels that the city and the county are in two different places. "We need

to do the right thing for the next generation; we had an excellent employee who drove one hour each way to the worse job ever. Commission Paul Wilkinson noted that not once did he hear of problems from the APC office. Councilman Charles Smith stated that the Area Plan office has been the biggest problem for four years but the county needs to look at what will happen without zoning. Steve McCorkle questioned why would you need two separate commissions? Bruce Levi replied that the city and county have separate needs. McCorkle responded that it is just another split between the city and the county. McCorkle went on to say the APC should be the crown jewel to attract business.

Paul Wilkinson noted that we want growth and we need planning and he thinks the joint commission will work but the city has the advantage of a comprehensive plan.

The approval of both the Commissioners and the County Council is needed to separate from the joint venture. Mayor Pavey assured the County that the City is aware that this is not a City decision.

Mark Bacon thinks that we have not given the agreement enough time. Bacon knew of the frustration of the executive director, and believes that Mr. Niehoff was not treated fairly. Commissioner Bacon fears how difficult it will be to find a replacement. The chaos here in Rush County is known throughout the State.

Commissioner Wilkinson moved that the agreement be suspended for one year and revisited in six months and that the county operates in accordance with the state statute contingent on the inter-local agreement and County Council approval. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mark Bacon voting “no”.

Marvin Hedrick moved that the council agree to go along with the Commissioners to suspend the inter-local agreement. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor

/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