

The Rush County Council met for the last regular session of the year on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning attorney in attendance. Steve McCorkle was unable to attend. Commissioners Mark Bacon and Paul Wilkinson were also in attendance.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of November 9th were approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Marvin Hedrick. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE AWARD

Council President Gerald Mohr displayed the “Top Ten Courthouse” award presented to the representatives from Rush County. The award was a bicentennial project of the Plainfield Rotary.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Auditor Mary Ann Beard presented the following request for budget transfers.

- Treasurer’s request for a new postage machine \$4,250 from postage to equipment in the Commissioners budget. Motion by Marvin Hedrick. Seconded by Scott Barnes. Motion carried.
- Treasurer Humphrey requested three line item transfers to supplies in the amount of \$1,257.28. Motion to approve by Charles Smith. Seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.
- Auditor Beard requested a transfer to Vacation Pay Out from Unemployment in the Commissioners’ budget in the amount of \$1,700. Motion to approve by Janet Kile. Seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.
- Circuit Court was granted a request to transfer \$200 from Supplies to Travel. Marvin Hedrick moved to approve. Seconded by Scott Barnes. Motion carried.
- The Probation Department requested two transfers to Miscellaneous Services in the amount of \$1,550. Motion by Warren Norris and seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.
- Auditor Beard asked that three line items in her budget be transferred to Supplies. Motion to allow the transfer of \$1,155 by Scott Barnes. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- The IT Department asked permission to transfer four line items in the budget in the amount of \$5,175.40. Scott Barnes moved to approve with Janet Kile seconding the motion. Motion carried.

- The Auditor was given permission to make emergency transfers at year end on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

BUDGET REDUCTION ORDINANCE

Notice was received from the Department of Local Government Finance that the 2017 budget was over the levy by \$130,000. To prevent reductions in next year's budget, several office holders re-visited their 2016 budget and voluntarily reduced line items to meet the required reduction. Charles Smith commended those who stepped forward. Scott Barnes moved to approve the budget reduction ordinance. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JOINT PLANNING & ZONING

An Inter-local agreement suspending the prior agreement that created the joint planning & zoning department was presented by Attorney Leigh Morning. This suspension agreement would return \$65,610 dollars to the county coffers and allow the County to retain the copy machine purchased by the joint board. Marvin Hedrick moved to sign the agreement. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with Scott Barnes voting "no" to the split.

SALARY ORDINANCES

Two employees will become elected officials in January. It is policy that accumulated vacation days be paid upon the transition to an elected office. The total amount required to amend the salary ordinance is \$3,278. Janet Kile moved to approve the amended 2016 salary ordinance. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The 2017 Salary Ordinance was amended to reduce the salary of the EMA director back to the amount of an elected official in the amount of \$40,274. The salary had been increased due to federal guidelines on exempt employees but now that rule has been suspended. Scott Barnes would like to see a job description for the position to alleviate the number of hours being worked.

Marvin Hedrick addressed the issue of the salary of the one remaining security officer in the Courthouse. Judge Hill stressed the need to retain the officer. A short recess was taken to work on a solution with the officer involved. Marvin Hedrick moved to raise the part time officer's pay to \$22 per hour. Any new hires will be governed by the present rate of \$15 and \$18 per hour. Marvin Hedrick moved to accept the changes to the 2017 budget. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Sheriff Deputy Allen Rice presented a request to appropriate \$16,000 of donated funds to purchase two K-9 dogs for the department. Rice explained the rigorous training in narcotics and control tracking and how the dogs assist road officers. Scott Barnes moved to allow the purchase. Warren Norris seconded the appropriation. Motion carried.

PURDUE EXTENSION

Gracie Marlatt shared that two medical leaves of absence have been filled with additional part-time staff. January 10th is the deadline to enroll in 4-H. The extension office will be celebrating 100 years in Rush County in 2017. February 23rd is the annual meeting at Center Christian Church.

ECDC

Executive Director of the ECDC, John McCane shared information related to his recent trip to Japan. The reason for the trip was to visit the parent company of INTAT. McCane continued to explain the shortage of trained workers available to fill local positions. A regional training center remains in the planning stage.

APPOINTMENTS

- Ernie Nigh was appointed to the Alcoholic Beverage Board on a motion by Janet Kile. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Janet Kile will serve as the Council representative to the APC. Marvin Hedrick moved to appoint Mrs. Kile. Warren Norris seconded the motion carried. Motion carried.
- Scott Barnes was slated to serve on the EIDD, and Economic Development Commission on a motion by Warren Norris. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Denny Corn was reappointed to serve as the Council's representative to the Rush Memorial Hospital board. Marvin Hedrick moved to appoint Mr. Corn. Warren Norris seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Warren Norris moved to retain Ron Jarman on the fiber board. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Warren Norris will remain as a representative to the Solid Waste board. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to appoint Norris. Janet Kile seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Marvin Hedrick will continue to serve on the County's Health Insurance Committee. Warren Norris moved to approve the appointment. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Charles Smith moved to appoint Steve McCorkle to the EMA board. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Gerald Mohr was appointed to another four year term on the Community Corrections board on a motion by Warren Norris. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Marvin Hedrick moved to reappoint Charles Smith to the Revolving Loan board and the Redevelopment board. Warren Norris seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Judy Neal was appointed to a 4 year term on the Henry Henley Public Library in Carthage. Janet Kile made the motion to allow the appointment. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Kenny Aulbach was nominated to fulfill the citizen's appointment to the APC on a motion by Janet Kile. Scott Barnes seconded the motion and the motion carried. Marvin Hedrick voted "no".

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that dispatch had received 307 calls last week. Taser and internal control training was received. There were 5 property damage accidents, 3 car/deer accidents, and 1 personal injury accident investigated. The inmate count stands at 56. Cowan informed the board that three new vehicles should arrive any day. Cowan shared that the demolition contract for the jail project has been awarded. Commissioner Wilkinson will have the utilities suspended. Demolition will commence when a “Notice to proceed order” is issued.

EMA

Chuck Kemker, EMA director was informed of the action to reduce the exempt employee salary. Kemker noted that the original ruling may be reinstated.

Mr. Kemker noted that another vendor (Kenwood) is being considered for the new radio equipment.

Charles Smith moved to adjourn. Scott Barnes 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/Jodi Harr
Jodi Harr, Auditor