

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve McCorkle, Jodi Harr, Auditor and Leigh Morning attorney in attendance.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2016 were approved on a motion by Warren Norris and seconded by Scott Barnes. Motion carried.

The first order of business was to elect officers for 2017. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to retain Gerald Mohr as the chairman and Janet Kile as the vice chairman. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION

Rick Hall from Barnes & Thornburg along with Jason Semler from Umbaugh were present to go over proposed funding of the new jail project and signing the bond lease agreement. Jason informed the council the estimated total project cost is \$24,785,000.00 which would be paid with existing county funds along with bonds being issued for payment from the special local income tax. The estimated amount to be bonded is \$19,735,000.00 with an annual bond payment of \$1,530,000 per year to begin in July 2019.

Councilman Charles Smith asked what happens if the amount of income tax collected is not enough to make the bond payment. Jason said the project is backed up with property taxes and that the highest the bond payment could be is \$1,600,000.00. It will be March before the actual payment amount will be known.

Councilman Marvin Hedrick expressed his concern that the annual estimated remaining income tax collected of \$460,000 will not be enough to cover the additional operating expenses of the new jail. Councilman Scott Barnes asked at the end of the bond period and we are not collecting the surplus of income tax, how do we pay the operating expenses. Jason believes the council can continue the special income tax after the bonds are paid off to cover the operating costs. They could leave the rate the same or probably reduce to cover only the operating costs. Marvin again expressed his concern of how the cost of the new jail will negatively affect operations and employees of other county departments. Councilman Steve McCorkle asked what funds we are currently paying new jail expenses from. They are currently being paid from the special income tax which is being collected currently and the Public Safety fund.

Rick Hall informed the council that the county commissioners and the Rush County Building Corp. have approved the Jail Building Lease. The council's role is to pass an ordinance determining the need for the new jail project and pledging financial support with the special income tax to make the lease rental payments. Smith asked what if the council does not approve the ordinance. Rick said the project would not go through. Hedrick noted the council would be approving the project not knowing what the actual cost is. Councilman Warren Norris

asked if the council would be approving construction costs of \$19,000,000. The answer is yes. County Attorney Leigh Morning said the jail committee is reviewing the specs for the new jail and will put some of the original bids out for re-bid. It is not known at this time what the changes in the specs will be. Councilman Gerald Mohr noted the longer the county waits to build the new jail, the chance is the costs of building will continue to increase. Discussion was had on the increase of building costs over the last two years and why it is felt we are having a hard time getting contractors to bid. All were in agreeance that there is a need for a new jail but do we need all that is being proposed.

Ron Jarman, jail committee member and county coroner, asked if the council could approve a \$1.3 million bond payment instead of a \$1.6 million payment. He will give up the space allotted for the coroner at the new jail if need be. Rick Hall suggested the council talk to the construction manager and architect about their expectations. He also advised them to consider that bids are only good for a specified amount of time. Leigh believes the bids are good for 90 days from opening which was December 22, 2016.

It was decided a joint council commissioner special meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the assembly room with DLZ and the construction manager. This will be a public meeting. The council would like for the sheriff to bring an estimated list of operating costs to this meeting. Smith commented he asked for this list three months ago and has yet to see it. It was suggested that DLZ get this information for the council. Jason said if the information was received, Umbaugh could work the figures backwards to get the figure the council is comfortable with.

PROSECUTOR

Rush County Phil Caviness asked permission to enter into a contract with his summer intern to help him on a case to go to trial in March. The contract would be paid from his Pre-Trial Diversion fund. Henry County would refund him for this expense. The refund would go to the County General fund. Marvin Hedrick made a motion and Scott Barnes seconded to allow the independent contract. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR

Mary Ann Bridges, Rush County Assessor, requested an ordinance change in a fee charged for Business Personal Property Taxation. Ordinance 2015-10 was approved by the council imposing a \$50.00 service fee for a property owner filing an exempt from personal property form. The state has changed their legislation stating that a county cannot charge more than \$25.00 for this fee. Warren Norris made the motion to amend the ordinance to allow a service fee of \$25.00 instead of \$50.00. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Marvin Rees, President of the APC board, said they have two good candidates who are interested in the Area Plan Director position; however, they need budget approval in order to hire someone. Barnes commented he feels like it will take a \$52,000 salary in order to get someone qualified to do this job. This person will only be doing county work. The Director will be an 80 hour per pay, exempt position. The full time secretary will be a 64 hour per pay,

non-exempt employee. Rees requested the \$165,000 which was originally appropriated to the inter-local agreement with Rushville City be transferred to the following lines:

- 10018 Part Time \$1,169
- 10136 Director \$52,000
- 10062 Full Time Secretary \$29,231
- 20010 Supplies \$1,000
- 30143 Plan Consultant \$39,700
- 30110 BZA Board Members \$3,000
- 30109 APC Board Members \$5,400
- 30156 Court Costs \$5,000
- 30159 Ordinance Update \$23,300
- 30144 Map Consultant \$1,700
- 30002 Travel/Training \$3,000
- 30088 Legal Notices \$500

Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the transfers as requested. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan gave an overview of the 2016 sheriff and jail department statistics. There are currently 41 inmates housed in the jail. This is the lowest the count has been in a long time.

The state engineers have a come with a couple of solutions to the issues at the intersection of state road 3 and 244.

New deputy vehicles have bought and are having the light equipment installed. The transport van is on order.

Barnes asked the sheriff he would like to comment on the new jail project. Cowan stated the construction manager is finding ways to reduce costs by contacting bidders to see why the bids were so high. Some changes as simple as changing the color of the floor tile are being made to reduce costs. There are also some electrical changes being made. He feels the reason for the low number of bidders is that contractors are busy right now.

Cowan reminded the council of the courthouse security meeting on February 7, 2017 at noon.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Carole Yeend provided the council with information regarding the relocation of the recycling containers behind the jail. Rushville City is willing to let the county relocate the dumpsters to their Smiley Avenue location. The hours of availability would be Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The site is monitored during this time and would be fenced in. The fencing will be what is currently being stored at the county highway department. She would still like to see cameras installed and to be able to give the public a couple of week notice of the change. She also recommends a couple of weeks interruption of service in order to prepare educational information.

Marvin Hedrick asked if the Solid Waste District is interested in buying the old Duke building on Second Street. Carole said it is something she has thought of. Marvin asked if the county could use it for some of the records currently being stored in the courthouse attic. Carole asked if the county could help pay for it. The Solid Waste District could make the purchase payments if the county could pay the maintenance and upkeep expenses.

10:35 council recessed for 10 minutes.

10:45 meeting reconvened

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Jodi Harr, Auditor, requested approval for emergency transfers done in December. Marvin Hedrick made a motion to approve two transfers - \$15.04 from supplies to FICA in the Adult Probation User Fee fund and one for \$3,442.08 from workman comp to PERF in the commissioner budget in County General. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

SALARY ORDINANCES

Harr requested approval of an amended Salary Ordinance 2016-3 for 2017 salaries. Salaries that needed corrected were: deputy auditor, Deputy Ratliff, Deputy Smallwood, Deputy Horton, two Sgt Correction Officers, 4 Correction Officers, APC Executive Director, APC Secretary, Probation Officer, and Sergeant Dispatcher. Warren Norris made the motion to approve changes. Steve McCorkle seconded. Motion carried.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BOARD

Charles Smith made a motion to appoint Daniel Shanahan to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

CARTHAGE LIBRARY BOARD

The council appointed Judy Neal to the Carthage Henry Henley Library board. Per a phone call to the auditor's office, Neal decided not to serve. The question was asked if this appointment has to be a Carthage resident or can it be a Ripley Township resident. This will be addressed at the next council meeting.

WAGGONER.IRWIN.SCHEELE

In October, 2016 a quote was received from Waggoner.Irwin. Scheele to update the counties job descriptions and review the FLSA classifications of each position. The personnel committee had asked for this quote. The estimated cost is \$14,825.00. Steve McCorkle had the Letter of Engagement available for the council to review. Steve made the motion to approve the Letter of Engagement. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried. The same will be presented to the county commissioners for their approval.

RMH AMBULANCE

It was mentioned that during budget hearings the council agreed to hire someone to do a study on emergency ambulance service in Rush County. It was noted that this was brought up at the last hospital board meeting.

EMA

McCorkle noted that he had talked with Chuck Kemker regarding the hours that Chuck works. When the commissioners hired Chuck, they told him they wanted support for anyone in Rush County and that county attorney Leigh Morning stated this was a five day, forty hour a week job. He supports all that Chuck does.

COMMUNICATION

Steve asked why the council is having such a difficult time communicating with the commissioners and with Rushville City. The city has a lot to offer us and cooperation with them benefits all of us. Gerald Mohr believes the city knows the county council is supportive of the city. Craig Custer asked why Steve voted to disband the joint APC office with the city. Steve replied so it would not mess up any of the city plans and progress. It was not to divide the county and city.

Steve McCorkle 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/Jodi Harr
Jodi Harr, Auditor