

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Steve McCorkle, Charles Smith, Scott Barnes, Marvin Hedrick, Warren Norris, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning. Janet Kile was absent.

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2018 were approved on a motion by Steve McCorkle and seconded by Marvin Hedrick. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 9 a.m. Chairman Gerald Mohr opened the Public Hearing to discuss the creating of a new fund establishing a fund for proceeds of the sale of real estate to the Rush County, Indiana Jail Building Corporation and approving an additional appropriation from this new fund. County Attorney Leigh Morning explained that although the heading of the legal notice for this public hearing is incorrect, the information in the body of the legal advertisement is correct so the public hearing can be held. Upon asking for public comment, there was no response.

Marvin Hedrick made the motion to adopt Resolution 2018-1 establishing a new fund for proceeds of the sale of real estate to the Rush County, Indiana Jail Building Corporation. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$125,000 in the newly created fund. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Steve McCorkle made the motion to close the public hearing. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Gracie Marlatt has received the 2017 Purdue Extension Annual Report. Each county council member should be receiving one in the mail. She referred them to page ten of the report which highlights Rush County. The position for their summer intern position has been posted. She reminded the council of the local extension annual meeting which will be held next week.

PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST

County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the council she is reviewing the public records request received by each of the council members from Bobbi Plummer. Morning will have a response for the council by the end of the week.

LCC

Bob Bridges representing the LCC requested permission to advertise an additional appropriation in Fund 4907 LCC in the amount of \$5,000. The council already approved \$15,000 in the 2018 budget; however, the LCC is receiving several grant requests. This money is to be used for drug treatment, enforcement and education. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the advertisement of the additional appropriation. Scott Barnes seconded. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan presented the current department statistical and training information. There are currently 58 inmates housed at the jail. Job Descriptions have been completed and signed by employees. One of the descriptions does need some revisions. His department is working on the 2019 budget for jail expenses. They have a meeting set with Perry County to go over their utility cost and other expenses that we need to account for. He is working with the commissioners to use trustee help in redoing the floors in the assembly room. He gave the following update on the new jail construction:

- Work on the storm drains and rubble removal on the east side of the alley has started.
- The first and third Thursdays will be progress meetings on the progress of the construction.

Cowan also updated the council on plumbing issues in the current jail. They are trying to fix things enough to be safe but not spend more than necessary since the building will be torn down in two years.

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Auditor Jodi Harr presented a proposal from Umbaugh and Associates to do a Comprehensive Financial Report for Rush County. They would do a five year Financial Plan which would look at projected income and property tax to be collected, history and prediction of county expenditures, and the effects of circuit breaker losses. The cost would be \$25,000 to \$30,000 to complete this plan. This could be used along with the council's goals and objectives they have been working on. Leigh Morning noted this would be a tool to help set financial goals such as minimum fund balances the council would like to maintain. She noted this would also help with S&P ratings when needed in the future and that the council would need to keep it updated on a regular basis. Barnes asked if this is something we could do on our own by using the sample plan provided as a guide. Due to the complications of the tax system, we do not have someone who has the knowledge to do this kind of reporting. Councilman Marvin Hedrick commented the county has done a lot of studies but has not done anything with the information. He would like to see the county complete the courthouse roof, jail and job descriptions prior to starting any other project. Barnes agreed. McCorkle commented that sound decisions are based on facts. Discussion was held on how to make sound financial decisions without standard operating procedures and the council does not get all of the reports, information and updates that happen throughout the month when they are not here. It was determined that now is not the time to pay for this comprehensive financial report.

MISC.

- Councilman McCorkle gave an update on the last commissioner meeting
- McCorkle noted that there is an EMA meeting on February 26, 2018 at 3 p.m. that he cannot attend. He asked that one of the other council members please attend for him.
- It was noted that the council does support the ECDC and they are appropriately responding the WalMart closing. McCorkle would like to see the county council meet and work more closely with the city council.
- Councilman Scott Barnes will attend the ECDC meeting on February 15 and report back to the county council.
- McCorkle would like to see some committees set up to follow up with the goal/objective lists that was made by the county commissioners and county council members.

Charles Smith moved to adjourn. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/Gerald Mohr/

Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/Warren Norris/

Warren Norris

/Charles Smith/

Charles Smith

Janet Kile

/Marvin Hedrick/
Marvin Hedrick

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/absent/
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor