

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL

MARCH 14, 2018

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

Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2018 were approved on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.

LCC

At the February council meeting, Bob Bridges requested an additional appropriation in fund 4907 LCC Alcohol and Drug in the amount of \$5,000.00. The request was advertised for public notice. Charles Smith made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY JAIL PROCEEDS

Resolution # 2018-2 Appropriating Rush County Jail Building Corp Bond Proceeds for capital improvements in the amount of \$16.7 million was presented to the county council. It was properly advertised and does include the \$125,000 approved at the February 14, 2018 council meeting. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the additional appropriation. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

ECDC

John McCane was present to request additional financial assistance to help pay for a retail consultant to help the county find other retail companies who are interested in locating here. He has not had a great deal of experience in recruiting retail business. The hope is that a business can be found to replace WalMart whether it be at the old WalMart location or somewhere else within the county. The cost of the consultant is \$36,000 for one year. He is asking all agencies who have a stake in economic development within the county to help cover the cost. Rush County Schools, Rush County Chamber of Commerce and Rush County ECDC has committed to help cover the cost. He is asking the county to commit \$5,000.

Commissioner Chairman Paul Wilkinson agrees that we currently do not have anyone in place to help with this locally. He believes this is a good idea and a good investment. He has not spoken with the other commissioners but it would have his support. Councilman Marvin Hedrick stated he would not be opposed to this for one year. His concern is that this consultant is from Texas and would prefer using someone locally or within the state of Indiana if possible. McCane confirmed this price is for one year. Hopefully after the first year, the scope of the consultant's services can be lowered. The consultant would be looking at more than the WalMart replacement. Hedrick commented he would like to see all areas of the county be considered for possible growth. The consultant will look at all possible retail. The cost

includes the consultant's fees and the cost for the ECDC team to attend the retail trade show in Texas. At the tradeshow the consultant will set up client meetings for the county team that will be in attendance. McCane also noted the property owner has already talked to the county assessor regarding lowering his property assessment. The owner has also hired a marketing consultant to help find a business to fill the empty space.

Scott Barnes made the motion to recommend to the county commissioners to allow the requested \$5,000 be paid from the County Project line of the EDIT fund. Charles Smith seconded. Motion carried.

McCane also updated the council on ongoing projects and leads the ECDC is working on.

COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Commissioner Chairman Paul Wilkinson gave the following updates:

- The commissioners and IT Director Randy Herbert are looking at a new phone system for the courthouse, sheriff department and highway department. They have a quote from Frontier and will have one from Ninestar next week. They are also talking to Ninestar about possible providing high speed internet throughout the county.
- Scott Barnes has provided the commissioners with a bird's eye view of the courthouse roof. They will be making that available to get quotes from contractors for repair/replacement.
- He gave a status report on the jail construction project.
- He is in the talking stages of possibly placing solar panels on the county farm.
- They are working with the City of Rushville and the Sheriff to reorganize the E911 Board. The hope is to have that completed before any new state legislation would be in effect on July 1, 2018.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reviewed the 2017 Annual Jail Report which will be submitted to Circuit Court Judge David Northam.

Charles Smith moved to adjourn. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/Gerald Mohr/
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/Warren Norris/
Warren Norris

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Marvin Hedrick/
Marvin Hedrick

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/absent 3-14-18/
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor