

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****JULY 11, 2018**

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Gerald Mohr, Charles Smith, Steve McCorkle, Janet Kile, Warren Norris, Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning. Scott Barnes and Marvin Hedrick were both absent.

Council Chairman Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of the regular council meeting of June 13, 2018 were approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

RUSHVILLE CITY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Rushville City Redevelopment Commission notified in writing to the Council that there is no excess assessed value that may be allocated to the overlapping taxing units in the manner prescribed in subdivision (1) of IC 36-7-14-39(b)(4)(B).

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Phil Caviness was present to request an additional appropriation in Fund 2502 Pretrial Diversion in the amount of \$6,000 and in fund 2503 Infraction Deferral in the amount of \$7,918.03. These amounts are needed to meet the twenty five percent match for the Stop Grant which pays the salary of the third prosecutor in his office. Steve McCorkle made the motion to approve the advertisement of the two additional appropriation request. Janet Kile seconded. Motion carried.

Caviness updated the council on the continuing increase in prosecutor cases and expenses. This increase goes along with the Public Defender and Sheriff/Jail Department increases.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

David Malson and Bryan Barrett were present to request an additional appropriation in the Public Defender budget of County General. Due to an increase in case load, their office has already expended their 2018 budget in county general for pauper attorneys and depleted all funds in the Supplemental Public Defender fund. They estimate they will need an additional \$42,000 to get them through 2018. Steve McCorkle made the motion to advertise a reduction in account 40052 County Council Use Only in the County General Commissioner budget and an additional appropriation in account 30092 pauper attorney in the County General Public Defender budget. Warren Norris seconded. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Steve McCorkle noted that Area Plan Director Gregg Duke is doing an outstanding job.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker invited council members to attend a full scale emergency exercise being held at the Rush County Jail on Saturday, July 20 from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

SALARY CLASSIFICATION STUDY

Auditor Jodi Harr notified the council that Waggoner Erwin and Scheele will have the Rush County Job Classification Study completed around July 16. The council requested to invite Kent Erwin to a Council Workshop to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 26. Any Council Member who can will attend. Harr will email the study to all of the council once she receives it.

EMS COUNTY CO-ORDINATOR

At the July 9, 2018 Rush County Commissioner meeting, the Commissioners voted to include the EMS County Coordinator responsibilities in the EMA Director responsibilities. They requested the council increase the current EMA Director salary by \$9,750 per year. Steve McCorkle made the motion to increase the EMA Director salary by \$9,750 per year. Discussion was held. Councilman Smith asked what additional responsibilities will be included. EMA Director Chuck Kemker responded he will be responsible for the oversight of the monthly reports from the EMS services that will go to the Commissioners. This was a recommendation made in the Fitch EMS study. Smith noted that he does not have a problem with an increase but he feels like \$9,750 is too much. Councilwoman Janet Kile agrees with Smith. Nick White with Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department commented Kemker has already spent five or six hours of his time helping Milroy get their recertification. Commissioner Mark Bacon commented this was a recommendation made by Fitch and Associates. The Commissioners feel like someone with EMS knowledge should do the oversight. Bacon also commented the increase is for more than just the additional EMS services. It is to help compensate him more for what he is already doing. McCorkle sees the value of this increase is Kemker's knowledge. Chairman Mohr asked if there was a second to the motion. With no second, the motion died.

Roll call was taken for the Rush County Commissioners. Paul Wilkinson and Mark Bacon were present. Bruce Levi was absent.

Commissioner Paul Wilkinson commented the County has been battling this EMS issue for years. The Fitch Report was very clear that we need a county coordinator for EMS services. Kemker is very qualified. We have to start looking at paying higher salaries for key positions. Kemker will work with all agencies involved to bring them together. He already puts the time in for this job and he should be compensated accordingly. Wilkinson also noted that half of Kemker's salary is reimbursed by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security through a grant that Kemker applies for annually. Also, this increase is already in the budget. Councilman Warren Norris agrees that Kemker is taking on more work; however, everyone else in the county is also doing more work.

Warren Norris made the motion to increase the EMA Director's annual salary by \$7,500. Janet Kile seconded. Warren Norris, Janet Kile and Gerald Mohr voted Aye. Charles Smith and Steve McCorkle voted Nay. Motion carried.

A five minute recess was held.

Warren Norris made the motion to amend the 2018 Rush County Salary Ordinance 2017-7 to increase the EMA Director salary to \$47,774 per year which is \$1,837.46 per pay for the remaining pays in 2018. The increase will be effective July 15, 2018. Janet Kile seconded. Warren Norris, Janet Kile, Steve McCorkle, and Gerald Mohr voted Aye. Charles Smith voted Nay. Motion carried.

The appropriation in Kemker's current salary account of 1000.10051.000.0360 will be short by \$3,462 for the remainder of 2018. Janet Kile made the motion to advertise for a reduction in the County General Commissioners budget account 30122 Ambulance/Carthage in the amount of \$3,462 and an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3,462 on the EMA Director salary account 10051 in the County General EMA budget. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Norris, Kile, McCorkle, and Mohr voted Aye. Smith voted Nay. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff James Cowan gave the sheriff/jail department updates. There are currently seventy inmates housed at the Rush County Jail. McCorkle asked the sheriff how soon he anticipates hiring someone to start training for the jail secretary position. Cowan responded he would like to hire someone in time to get three months of training. The current employee plans to retire in March of 2019; however, she will get her annual vacation days on January 1, 2019 and they will have to be used prior to her March retirement date or they will have to be paid out at her retirement date which will short the appropriation that she is paid from. McCorkle asked how the deputy car situation is. Chief Deputy Sliger is working on ordering the last two cars. They have hired David Green as a new transport van driver. Cowan is working with the county liability insurance carrier to create an avoidable crash policy. It will allow the county to hold employees responsible for careless accidents. The Merit Board will meet to go over the recommended policy, the insurance company will review it and then it will be taken to the Commissioners for their approval.

Steve McCorkle moved to adjourn the county council meeting. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried

_____/Gerald Mohr/_____
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

_____/Warren Norris/_____
Warren Norris

_____/Charles Smith/_____
Charles Smith

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

 /absent 7-11-18/
Marvin Hedrick

 /absent 7-11-18/
Scott Barnes

 /absent 8-22-18/
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

 /Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor