

## **REGULAR MEETING     RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL     July 9, 2025**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Grant Reeves were also present.

Councilman Charlie Smith called the Regular Session to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners roll call at 9:00 a.m. with Ron Jarman, Kenny Aulbach and Jeff Wilson present.

Minutes of June 11, 2025, Regular Session meeting was presented. Carl Harcourt made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**

- Director Lisa Carpenter advised the Council that the Solid Waste Board voted to move forward with the construction of a transfer station within the city limits. In order to move forward with the project, the County Council would also need to approve an Ordinance of the Rush County Council Approving the Issuance of Bonds by the Solid Waste Management District of Rush County, Approving the Appropriation of the Proceeds Thereof, and Other Matters Connected Therewith in the amount of \$3,250,000.00. Jimmy Shanahan, Bond Council, was present via conference call to answer any questions the Council had. Carpenter advised she had applied for a grant to help with the cost and should know by the end of the year if it will be awarded. Carpenter stated the Solid Waste tax rate would increase an additional .0192 or more county wide in order to pay the bond debt. After much discussion Scott Barnes moved to approve Ordinance 2025-5 moving forward with the transfer station. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **PROSECUTOR**

- Deputy Prosecutor Laura Holt requested the approval of the Council to apply for the 2025-2026 Stop Grant in the amount of \$41,021.08 with a county match of \$13,673.69 that is paid out of deferral funds. The purpose of the grant is to provide a deputy prosecutor dedicated to the prosecution of cases involving domestic violence. Denny Corn moved to approve applying for the Stop Grant. Second by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Director Jodi Harr advised the Council she had met with the Rush County Rec Center regarding Rush County employee memberships. The Rec Center has agreed to a 5% discount on monthly membership fees for full-time employees and a 50% discount on joining fees at the time of enrollment. Full-time employees would have membership dues payroll deducted and sent to the Rec Center by the payroll department. Harr and the Health Insurance Committee are requesting from the Council to utilize the health insurance fund 5202 to pay the Rec Centers monthly billing as well as

reimburse employees \$20.00 as a wellness benefit for those who have visited the center at least 10 times per month. Scott Barnes made a motion to approve using the Health Insurance fund 5202. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Director Jodi Harr advised the Council that she has recently spoken with employees who are leaving employment. Most of them are leaving due to higher wages and free health insurance.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$1,618.84 from 8113.30002.00000.0000 PHEP Grant Travel to 8113.20010.00000.0000 PHEP Grant Supplies. Amy Grocox moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$.03 from 8113.30005.00000.0000 PHEP Grant Misc. Services to 813.10200.00000.0000 PHEP Grant Social Security and \$.08 from 8113.30005.00000.0000 PHEP Grant Misc. Services to 8113.10205.00000.0000 PHEP Grant PERF. Amy Grocox moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **AUDITOR**

- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council the Surveyor had used the incorrect fund to make the debt payment for the Carr Stanley loan in 2024. Justice requested approval to transfer \$45,942.70 out of fund 4602 Carr Stanley Drain to fund 1158 Drain Maintenance. Janet Kile moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that the DLGF had given her the incorrect PTRC rate to use for the 2024 pay 2025 property taxes. Justice advised the Council that the DLGF recommended several ways to rectify the issue, however, in order to not increase the LIT rate, the PTRC settlement fund will end the year with a negative balance and then through the abstract process with the state the PTRC rate will be lowered for the 2025 pay 2026 property taxes to recoup those negative funds.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council she had received notice from the State Budget Director that there will be no salary increases for the judicial officers and prosecutors in 2026. The Sheriff's contract states he is to be paid 51% of the prosecutor's salary.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council the Actuarial Valuation report for the Sheriff Retirement Plan for 2026 indicates payment of \$333,271.00 and that is the amount budgeted by the sheriff for 2026.

### **SHERIFF**

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council fair week went well with only one incident.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council regarding the jail freezer and air conditioning issues.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that all information has been submitted for the Federal Inmate Study, and he is waiting to hear back on approval.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council he is in dire need of employees at the jail.

**MISC**

- Jon York with the Boys and Girls Club addressed the Council and requested to be put in the 2026 budget for a \$25,000.00 donation.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves discussed the letters received by the township trustees along with the volunteer fire departments for the portion of funding from LIT. Reeves stated the paperwork is ready to submit to the state for review and then we will need to advertise 10 days prior to the August meeting.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Council on the 504 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street conversion as well as fiber optics, BEAD, courthouse renovations and concrete and landscaping work.

Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Grocox. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be an all-day budget workshop on August 13, 2025.

/Charlie Smith/  
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Scott Barnes/  
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/  
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/  
Janet Kile

/Kyle Gardner/  
Kyle Gardner

/Carl Harcourt/  
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/  
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:  
/Tammy Justice/  
Tammy Justice, Auditor