

The Rush County Council met for a special meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with Council members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Ralph Adams, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, and Carl Harcourt, Auditor Jodi Harr, and County Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Councilman Scott Barnes was absent.

Council President Charles Smith called the council to order.

Roll call was taken for the county commissioners. Mark Bacon and Paul Wilkinson were present. Bruce Levi was absent.

The purpose the meeting was to discuss 2021 budgets. All department heads were asked to be in attendance.

Financial Service Group presented a five year expense/income outlook for the county. Due to COVID-19 our income will be less over the next few years. The council made the following recommendations to department heads:

- Do not spend your 2020 budget unless necessary. We need to leave as much cash as possible on our books to help with the next two years.
- 2021 budget amounts will be the same as or less than the 2020 budgets.
- Council Chairman Charles Smith requested everyone go back through their budgets to look for any decreases that can be made. The changes should be given to the Auditor by September 1, 2020.
- Smith also asked for each department to give a five year plan of extra expenditures to the commissioners.

FSG recommended the commissioners and council look at the EDIT fund. The expenditures are more than the receipts which is using the cash balance. They recommended moving the central ambulance expense out of economic development to another fund. They commented that economic development should be talked about at every meeting.

The Auditor will schedule a time for Sheriff Rice to meet with FSG.

The letter to the Community Foundation showing support of applying for a community development block grant in 2021 for the Rush County Community Center was agreeable to the county council.

Carl Harcourt made the motion to adjourn. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Warren Norris/
Warren Norris

/Ralph Adams/
Ralph Adams

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Marvin Hedrick/
Marvin Hedrick

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

ATTEST:

/Jodi Harr/
Jodi Harr, Auditor