

The Rush County Council met for their regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Warren Norris, Ralph Adams, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt present. Jodi Harr, Auditor and County Attorney Leigh Morning were in attendance.

The meeting was properly advertised with notice given to the media.

Chairman Charles Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 10, 2020 regular meeting were approved with a motion from Carl Harcourt. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the June 17, 2020 executive session were approved with a motion from Scott Barnes. Marvin Hedrick seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

RCCC Director Ashley Stevens requested permission to apply for the new grant cycle for the Community Corrections Grant and the Drug Court Grant through the Indiana Department of Corrections. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve application of the Community Corrections grant for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Scott Barnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve application of the Drug Court grant for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Stevens requested permission to fill an employee vacancy in the administrative assistant position for her office. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve. Warren Norris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested approval to apply for the Prosecutor Deferral 1006 grant through the community corrections grant through the Indiana Department of Corrections which is for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to allow the application. Janet Kile seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute has approved an extension for the STOP grant to run from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Ralph Adams made the motion to allow the extension of the grant. Marvin Hedrick seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. The auditor will advertise the additional appropriation for the extension of the appropriations.

The current salary ordinance only approved the salary of the prosecutor position working on the STOP grant through June 30, 2020. Scott Barnes made the motion to amend the salary ordinance to allow the pay through September 30, 2020. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT/CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Brian Hill and Judge David Northam were present to notify the council they have authorized the four court employees to work thirty two hours per week rather than the thirty five hours worked by other courthouse employees. The courts operate under their own personnel policy. If the employees work more than thirty two hours, they will receive comp time not paid overtime.

SALARY ORDINACE

Auditor Harr presented amended Salary Ordinance 2019-11. The changes include the extension of the STOP grant prosecutor grant through September 30, 2020 and the change in hours from thirty five to thirty two for the four court positions. Marvin Hedrick made the motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Ralph Adams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTER DISTRICT

Carole Yeend via email requested permission to advertise for an additional appropriation in the Rush County Solid Waste District budget. She was not present but board member Warren Norris was available to answer questions. Discussion was held on the council's directive to not allow any additional appropriations for the remainder of 2020 and would there have been enough money appropriated if the director had not been given a salary increase earlier in the year. There is cash in the fund. It just needs appropriated. Since this is only permission to advertise the additional appropriation, Warren Norris made the motion to approve the advertisement. Janet Kile seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

EMA Director Chuck Kemker requested permission to purchase a new truck to pull the mobile command trailer. He sent a question to the Indiana Finance Authority to see if the purchase could be reimbursed with COVID-19 CARES Act funds. The truck/trailer would be used to set up testing, immunization, and food distribution sites for COVID-19 or other pandemics. The additional expense to county general will be to pay for the auto insurance which is estimated to be \$1,000 annually. He would use the truck to travel to trainings that are not three or four days in length so it would reduce the amount of mileage paid to Kemker for the use of his personal vehicle. The complete cost of the truck and equipment is \$55,709. It would need to be paid from the council use only line and reimbursed by CARES funds. Ralph Adams made the motion to allow the purchase from council use only funds with the understanding the CARES Act is going to reimburse. Marvin Hedrick seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chairman Mark Bacon reported the courthouse roof on the west side has been repaired without incident.

The parking lot that is going where the old jail sat is being completed. The commissioners made the decision to delete some trees in the middle of the lot to allow for easier snow removal. The request has been made to the City of Rushville for their approval for the changes in the lot.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Alisa Winters with the Rush County Community Foundation was present to update the status of the grant for a new community center. Rush County is one of seventeen projects still in the running for the five million dollar grant award. The next step is to secure local funding. She is working with a financial advisor to get the most for the money available. She asked the council to please consider budgeting beginning with the 2021 budget to help fund the much needed community center.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Allan Rice presented a magazine directed to Rush County teens and their families regarding drug abuse and help that is available. Local businesses sponsored the magazine.

Sheriff Rice has reviewed his current budgets to determine how to pay for the second courthouse security officer. For the remainder of 2020, he has enough money in the inmate lodging/meals account of Fund 1114 LIT Special Purpose to transfer to pay for a new correction officer position. Due to low inmate count during the COVID-19 pandemic, he has the extra funds. This will allow the current deputy stationed at the courthouse to go back on the road.

