

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charles Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, and Carl Harcourt. Scott Barnes was absent. Auditor, Tammy Justice and County Attorney, Leigh Morning were in attendance. Commissioner Mark Bacon and Commissioner Ron Jarman were in attendance.

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

Minutes of the May 12, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Amy Grocox seconded. All in favored. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Highway Superintendent, Jerry Sitton asked the council for approval the Restricted Fund #1173 for summer construction. Kyle Gardner made a motion to approve the additional Appropriation for the Restricted Fund #1173 of \$400,000.00 for summer construction. Carl Harcourt seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held on the detour run around. Charlie Smith inquired about the money that Highway would get from the run around and if the money had to be appropriated. Jerry Sitton indicated we will not have to appropriate the money. The highway would look at the road to see what they have to do and send the estimates of what the repairs are. If the State approves the repairs, the State will send Jerry a contract. Jerry will give to the Commissioners for approval. Once the State approves the contract the State will give permission to fix the roads. Either the Highway will do the work or contract it out.

EXTENSTION

- Carly Holland presented a transfer request of \$2,973.90 from Mileage to the Part Time Educator line. This is to cover the miscalculation of what was left in the part time educator budgeted line. Carl Harcourt made a motion to approve the transfer request of \$2,973.90 from the Mileage Line to the Part Time Educator line. Amy Grocox seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL

- Discussion was held on the Salary Ordinance change for the Sheriff effective July 1, 2021, in the amount of \$79,975.00 annually. The salary is set by the State and statute. It is half of the Prosecutor's salary and part of the Sheriff's contract with Rush County. Denny Corn made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance for the Sheriff in the amount of \$79,975.00 annually effective July 1, 2021. Kyle Gardner seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER

- Treasurer Jodi Harr gave an update on the tax collections. The auditor is in the process of distributing the money out to the taxing units. Jodi Harr also discussed the collective overall figures. In 2019 we collected overall 10.4 million, 2020 we collected 10.2 million, 2021 we collected 11.1 million. In the County General for 2019 we collected 2.7 million, 2020 we collected 2.6 million, and 2021 we collected 2.9 million. The interest rates continue to be low.
- Treasurer is requesting guidance on how to invest the ARP funds. The Auditor and Treasurer have submitted for the funds. Treasurer requested within the next 30 days between the Council and Commissioners how she need to invest the funds short term or long term. The commissioners have not come up with a plan. They are in the process of setting up the committee. Carl Harcourt will sit on the committee along with the Auditor, treasurer, and a commissioner.

COUNCIL

- Discussion was held on the Resolution for Electronic Meeting for the Council. Carl Harcourt made a motion to approve the Resolution for Electronic Meeting. Amy Grocox seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- There will be a Joint Executive meeting held on June 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m in the Assembly room to discuss Economic Development. The Auditor, Tammy Justice will advertise for the Joint Executive meeting.

COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Mark Bacon held discussion on the courthouse roof project. We are contracting with Arsee Engineering for the engineering portion of it.
- The building plan for the storage building are being updated for review per Commissioner Ron Jarman. Hopefully we should have the plans sometime at our next Commissioners meeting.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff, Allan Rice gave an update on the year to date totals.
- Sheriff indicated that Quality Correctional has increased their rates by 3 % on health care coverage.
- Sheriff discussed the gun permit fees. We have lost revenue in 2019 in the amount of \$4,010.00, lost revenue in 2020, in the amount of \$10,770.00, lost revenue in 2021, to date is \$6,850.00. In July 1, 2021, the fees will be gone. That account will have to be funded in a different way.
- Sheriff discussed a position for Jail maintenance and he did not put it in his 2022 budget. Most of the warranties will be running out soon. We would have to get service agreement to service the equipment and it could be very expensive. Sheriff asked Choice what would it cost for us to have a maintenance man for 80 hours work period and Choice said it cost us \$194,000.00 annually. That is around 94.00 per hour. We have staffing issues and we need to get a maintenance position. Continue discussion was held.
- Sheriff gave an update the council on Jail building issues. The padded cell is being repaired and should be up and running soon. Sheriff indicated that they are having issues with the boilers. Commissioners did approve to put in a water softener and micron. DLZ is waiting on the pavement company to fix the parking lot. There is no changes in the Jail Roof. It is not leaking now.
- Sheriff Rice indicated that they purchased 2 new vehicles and currently waiting to be equipped.
- Sheriff Rice discussed shortage on staff.

COUNCIL

- Dates to remember are Aug 25, 2021 will be public hearing for the 2022 budgets. September 14 & 15 will be adopting the 2022 budget. Auditor Tammy Justice will contact FSG to see if those dates are still good.
- Discussion was held on security issues.

Denny Corn made the motion to adjourn. Carl Harcourt seconded. Motion carried.

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/absent 06.09.21 meeting/
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