

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL March 8, 2023

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. with County Council Members Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Charlie Smith present. Auditor, Tammy Justice and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also present.

Councilman Charlie Smith called the Regular Session to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call for the Commissioners was called with Mark Bacon and Kenny Aulbach present.

Minutes of the February 8, 2023 Regular Session meeting were presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

JRAC

- Judge Brian Hill, chairman of the local JRAC requested approval to advertise for additional appropriations for fund 1238 Opioid Unrestricted in the amount of \$35,553.76 in Misc. Services, and fund 1237 Opioid Restricted in the amount of \$83,216.56 in Misc. Services. Amy Grocox made the motion to advertise for additional appropriations for both funds. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Council woman Janet Kile entered the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

Commissioner Ron Jarman entered the meeting at 8:06 a.m.

PROSECUTOR

- Deputy Prosecutor David Thompson advised the Council that IDOC is requiring the use of alternating fund numbers for their grants. For the 9110 Prosecutor Deferral Grant he is requesting to use alternating fund number 9121. Kyle Gardner made the motion to use alternating fund number 9121 for the 2023 budget year. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Deputy Prosecutor David Thompson requested to advertise for additional appropriations for fund 9121 Prosecutor Deferral Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 in Misc. Services and \$2,000.00 in Drug Testing. These lines were inadvertently left off the requested budget for 2023, however was submitted and approved by IDOC. Scott Barnes made the motion to advertise for the additional appropriations. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

- EMA Director Chuck Kemker requested approval to apply for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is for a part time position of Emergency Preparedness and Preparedness Functions. Amy Grocox made the motion to apply for the PHEP grant in the amount of \$25,000.00. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council of an in-custody inmate death on Friday, March 3, 2023. Indiana State Police are heading the investigation at this time and will update as he can.
- Sheriff Allan Rice presented the Council with wage matrix sheets from Hancock County and Indiana State Police. Discussion was held in regards to other Indiana counties and ISP hiring and wages.

At 8:30 a.m. Charlie Smith recessed the regular council meeting to meet virtually with FSG on the sustainability plan of increasing wages. After much discussion on revenue assumptions and spending trends, FSG believes the county can sustain an hourly rate increase for employees in order for wages to be competitive.

Councilman Carl Harcourt entered the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

At 9:23 a.m. the virtual meeting with FSG was done and the regular council meeting was reconvened.

WAGES

- Discussion was held regarding if increasing hourly rates now and regular yearly increases in the future, would keep us on top in regards to hiring and retaining employees in the future.
- Discussion was held regarding percentage raises or whole dollar amount raises and the impact that has on employees that are in a higher wage category.
- All three Commissioners gave their respective opinions on wage increases and offering longevity in order to bring in new employees and also retention of employees.
- Scott Barnes made the motion to approve a \$2.00 per hour rate increase, based on today's figures, starting on hours paid out on June 9, 2023 pay date, except for elected officials. Amy Grocox seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISC

- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Council in regards to Fiber within the City of Rushville, Rush County and out lying areas. Commissioner Jarman also advised the Council that Rush Shelby Energy has agreed to partner with the County for Fiber.
- Councilman Charlie Smith discussed some of the topics from the Association of County Council meeting he attended.

- Sheriff Allan Rice clarified some things that were stated by Greg Guerrettaz from FSG.
- Councilman Kyle Gardner advised the Council he had accepted the position of Special Projects Director with the City of Rushville.

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

/Charles Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Kyle Gardner/
Kyle Gardner

/Absent/
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor