

## **REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL September 26, 2023**

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes, Carl Harcourt and Charlie Smith present. County Attorney Leigh Morning was also present. Auditor Tammy Justice was not present.

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING RUSH COUNTY BUDGET 2024**

- At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Smith called to order the Public Hearing for the Rush County 2024 budget. Hearing no comments from the public, Amy Grocox made the motion to close the public hearing. Denny Corn seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **POSEY TOWNSHIP BUDGET 2024**

- Due to the Posey Township Advisory Board having Posey Township volunteer firefighters on their board, I.C. 36-1-23-2 states the fiscal body of Rush County must review and adopt their budget. Monty McMahan was present to answer any questions the board may have. After reviewing the proposed budget, Janet Kile made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-8 adopting the 2024 budget for Posey Township. Amy Grocox seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the August 29, 2023, Regular Session were presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in 8130 CFDA #93.354 Immunization Coop Fund in the amount of \$20,133.11. This is to provide vaccinations for children in Rush County and purchase of a refrigerator and freezer to hold additional vaccines. Amy Grocox made the motion to advertise for a \$20,133.11 additional appropriation in 8130 CFDA #93.354 Immunization Coop Fund. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **CLERK**

- Clerk Angie Buckley requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in the Clerk Records Perpetuation Fund in the amount of \$3,250.00. Scott Barnes made the motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$3,250.00 in the Clerk Records Perpetuation Fund. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council of his intent to sell two (2) 2019 Durango's for \$25,500.00 to Campbell Brothers and would need those funds reappropriated back into the vehicle line to pay for the 2023 vehicles. Sheriff Rice also advised the Council that the price of new vehicles is rising and should possibly consider purchasing additional 2024 vehicles next year.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council he had made the Commissioners aware of continuing issues with the video system at the jail and he is looking into implementing a plan to change companies. Sheriff Rice advised that the camera issues put the County at a liability if something were to go wrong. Councilman Scott Barnes expressed his concerns that it does not look good for Rush County to not hold companies liable for the warranty issues we have had with the jail construction. Councilman Scott Barnes expressed his frustration regarding the jail committee making recommendations to the commissioners at that time, regarding the hiring of construction companies and managers and they did not accept those recommendations and now the County is liable for fixing all the issues with the construction. Councilman Scott Barnes also expressed his frustration regarding paying the retainer, stating the retainer should have not been paid until we were completely satisfied with the work. Councilman Scott Barnes asked County Attorney Leigh Morning why we are not putting DLZ on notice of being sued over the ongoing issues. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised she had sent a letter to DLZ. Councilman Scott Barnes stated that we needed to set deadlines for issues to be resolved by DLZ or be faced with a lawsuit.

## MISC

- Abe Keim from Hoosier Pallet LLC and John McCane presented the Council with SB-1's for abatements on personal and real property for Hoosier Pallet. McCane noted that the applications for abatements were not completed fully and that Keim would present them again at the next council meeting in October. McCane stated that Diamond Pet Food is looking at partnering with Hoosier Pallet LLC for approximately 3,000 pallets a day. Keim discussed expansion of the facility and employing 5 to 10 additional people to meet the Diamond Pet Food demands. Councilman Scott Barnes advised he was part of a group to tour Hoosier Pallet and expressed his gratitude to Keim for employing all types of workers and giving everyone a chance.
- John McCane updated the Council on the Diamond Pet Food Plant stating once it is completed, it will be the largest pet food manufacturer in the world.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Council with Resolution No. 2023-6 Resolution of the County Council of Rush County, Indiana Approving the Granting of a Deed to Anderson Township Regional Sewer District. This deed was approved and signed by the commissioners at their September 25, 2023, meeting. Deed is for Lot 10 in G.W. Tompkins's Addition to the Town of Milroy in Rush County, Indiana. Denny Corn motioned to approve and sign Resolution No. 2023-6. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Councilman Charlie Smith advised the Council he had attended a meeting with the Indiana Volunteer Fire Association at Manilla. Discussion was held regarding the options available to raise the public safety tax from one (1) cent up to five (5) cents for the volunteer fire departments.

- Councilman Kyle Gardner updated the Council regarding READI 2.0 meeting being held in Muncie and possible local projects for the READI funds.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Harcourt. 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

/Carl Harcourt/  
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/  
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/  
Tammy Justice, Auditor