

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL November 8, 2023

The Rush County Council met for the Regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 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. Auditor Tammy Justice was also present. County Attorney Leigh Morning arrived at 10:03 am.

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

Minutes of the October 10, 2023, Regular Session were presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October 11, 2023, Regular Session were presented. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October 23, 2023, Special Session were presented. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2024 IOCS Problem-Solving Court Grant in the amount of \$13,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to assist with training costs for multiple team members and drug testing expenses specifically for the certified Problem-Solving Court, Drug Court. Amy Grocox moved to apply for the 2024 IOCS Problem-Solving Court Grant. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in 8119.30186.00000.0000 Professional Services in the amount of \$30,000.00 and in 8119.30002.00000.0000 Travel and Training in the amount of \$2,000.00. Scott Barnes moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens updated the Council regarding the SIM Mapping Workshop that was put on by NAMI Indiana.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in 1159.20010.00000.0000 Supplies in the amount of \$1,000.00. Amy Grocox moved to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK

- Clerk Angie Buckley requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2023 HAVA Election Security Local Grant in the amount of \$3,692.56 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is for election security and

education. Janet Kile moved to apply for the 2023 HAVA Election Security Local Grant. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORONER

- Coroner Brenda McMahan requested approval from the Council to transfer \$7,000.00 from 1000.40052.00000.0068 Council Use Only to 1000.30047.00000.0068 Autopsies. Denny Corn moved to allow transfer. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to transfer \$5,000.00 from 1176.30168.00000.0533 Liability and Casualty to 1176.20020.00000.0533 Garage and Motor. Amy Grocox moved to allow transfer. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council on a commitment letter to set aside \$285,700.00 from Cumulative Bridge Fund for the 2029 Bridge 125 Replacement Funding. Denny Corn moved to sign the commitment letter. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council on a commitment letter to set aside \$285,700.00 from the Cumulative Bridge Fund for the 2029 Bridge 164 Replacement Funding. Scott Barnes moved to sign the commitment letter. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council on a commitment letter to set aside \$285,700.00 from the Cumulative Bridge Fund for the 2029 Bridge 181 Replacement Funding. Denny Corn moved to sign the commitment letter. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Jerry Sitton advised the Council he received a letter from INDOT approving \$866,000.00 for paving on 900 N. He also advised there is no federal funding for covered bridge run arounds and he will not be applying for that grant.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested the Council approve updated Salary Ordinance 2022-12 for merit board pay. Amy Grocox moved to approve Salary Ordinance 2022-12. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for the 2024 Rush County Calendar. The Council would like a change made to the August 28, 2024, meeting/budget workshop.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to advertise for the 2024 Council Appointments. Scott Barnes moved to advertise for the 2024 Council Appointments. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$25,500.00. Denny Corn moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council the inmate population had gone down over the past several weeks with a total of 51 inmates currently being housed.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council of issues regarding two (2) vehicles. A 2022 Durango sustained damage in a pursuit and mechanical failure in a 2021 Durango.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that Choice Mechanical was on site to fix water leaks in the coroner's office. Sheriff Rice also advised roof repairs were currently being worked on.
- Sheriff Allan Rice requested approval from the Council to use commissary funds for the 2023 Rush County Sheriff's Department Awards Banquet held on December 15, 2023, not to exceed \$3,000.00. Kyle Gardner moved to approve using commissary funds for the 2023 Awards Banquet. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Tony Personett advised the Council that the Human Resource position posting would be open until Friday, November 10, 2023.
- Director Tony Personett advised the Council that he would have the annual nepotism letters for approval at their next meeting in December.

MISC

- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach requested approval from the Council to transfer \$13,822.00 from 1191.10231.00000.0000 Riverboat Vacation Payout to 1191.30152.00000.0000 Riverboat Ride Rush Vehicle Match. Discussion was held regarding the operations and bookkeeping practices of the Senior Center and Ride Rush. Council woman Janet Kile who also sits on the Senior Center Board advised the Council an internal audit was being conducted to get the finances of the Senior Center turned around. Councilman Charlie Smith inquired as to who appoints the Senior Center Director and who owns Ride Rush. Janet Kile advised the Rush County Commissioners sponsor Ride Rush and are liable for funding. Amy Grocox made a motion to approve the \$13,822.00 transfer if a corrective action plan is put into place by January 1, 2024. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Charlie Smith Aye, Amy Grocox Aye and Kyle Gardner Aye. Janet Kile abstained due to being a Senior Center board member. Denny Corn also abstained due to having a family conflict. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach updated the Council regarding the Central District Ambulance Contract being extended for six (6) months.
- Discussion was held regarding the warranty for the jail roof along with bids and specs.
- Abe Keim with Hoosier Pallet LLC requested real estate and personal property abatements from the Council. Keim presented the Council with a Statement of Benefits for Real Estate Improvement in the amount of \$805,000.00 and a Statement of Benefits for Personal Property in the amount of \$800,000.00. County Attorney Leigh Morning presented the Council with Resolution 2023-7 Declaratory Resolution for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area on Application of Hoosier Pallet LLC. Councilman Carl Harcourt voiced his concerns with awarding these abatements stating the council is setting precedence that a farmer in an indigenous business could apply for an abatement on a combine. Scott Barnes moved to sign Resolution 2023-7. Seconded by Kyle Gardner.

Denny Corn Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Charlie Smith Aye and Carl Harcourt Nay. Motion carried.

- Public Hearing on above matter set for December 13, 2023, at 9:00 am.
- Chris May with Rush County Community Foundation spoke to the Council regarding the Dolly Parton Reading Library.

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

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

/Absent/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:

/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor