

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL March 13, 2024

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt present. Auditor, Tammy Justice was also present. County Attorney Leigh Morning was not present.

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

Minutes of the February 14, 2024, Regular Session meeting was presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation for fund 9126 Community Crossing Grant in the amount of \$408,261.75 for paving CR 900 N. Amy Grocox moved to approve the additional appropriation for fund 9126 Community Crossing Grant. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation for fund 1161 Local Public Health Services in the amount of \$6,417.53 in 1161.30186.00000.0000 Professional Services. Denny Corn moved to approve the additional appropriation in fund 1161 Local Public Health Services. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation for fund 1168 Health Maint. Tobacco in the amount of \$40,695.00 in 1168.40000.00000.0000 Equipment. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the additional appropriation in fund 1168 Health Maint. Tobacco. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council to apply for a Naloxone Grant which is an in-kind grant. Amy Grocox moved to apply for the Naloxone Grant. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Director Ashley Stevens requested approval for an additional appropriation in fund 2000 Adult Probation User Fee in the amount of \$4,206.00 in 2000.10200.00000.0000 Social Security. Amy Grocox moved to approve the additional appropriation in fund 2000 Adult Probation User Fee. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Clerk Angie Buckley requested approval for an additional appropriation in fund 9129 HAVA Election Security in the

amount of 3,692.56 in 9129.40000.00000.0000 Equipment. Scott Barnes moved to approve the additional appropriation in fund 9129 HAVA Election Security. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Clerk Angie Buckley requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in fund 1119 Clerk Record Perpetuation in the amount of \$5,000.00 for 1119.20012.00000.0000 Repairs and Supplies. Denny Corn moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr advised the Council the Commissioners had contracted with PHI to provide all Rush County residents with air ambulance memberships and the membership cards have been received.
- Director Jodi Harr updated the Council on the upcoming health fair scheduled for April 3, 2024, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Director Jodi Harr updated the Council regarding the meeting the personnel committee had to go over the requirements that Travelers Insurance is requesting.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that Patrick Scott took the plea deal offered and was sentenced and released to the department of corrections.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that Choice Mechanical would be replacing the water check valve at the jail.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that the skylights in a couple of cell blocks were leaking. Rice advised the leaks were not found until after the roof inspection was done. However, the warranty on the roof does not cover skylights.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that he intends to ask for an additional appropriation in the coming months for the purchase of a K-9 officer.

MISC

- Chariman Charlie Smith advised the Council an appointment to the Henry Henley Public Library needs made. The Library Board is recommending Joe Whitfield. Carl Harcourt moved to appoint Joe Whitfield to the Henry Henley Public Library Board. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Nick Jacquemin with the Rush County Fire Chiefs Association approached the Council regarding a funding proposal to increase the LIT rate three (3) tenths of a percent to go to the volunteer fire departments. Currently Raleigh and Anderson are the only volunteer departments that receive funding from the County for EMS services only. An ordinance must be in place by July 1st for the volunteer fire departments to receive funds in 2025. Discussion was held on how funds would be spent from raising the LIT rate. Many of the volunteer departments would spend the funds upgrading their personal protective equipment. Discussion was held on the benefit of increasing the LIT tax rate over time or increasing to the max of five (5) cents from the beginning. ~~Scott Barnes made a motion to create an ordinance to increase the LIT tax rate by five (5) cents for the volunteer fire departments. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.~~ (Motion to rescind for clarification was made on April 10, 2024)

- Kyle Gardner updated the Council regarding the County’s Comprehensive Plan.
- Denny Corn and Carl Harcourt updated the Council regarding the courthouse renovations.
- Chairman Charlie Smith asked Commissioner Kenny Aulbach if there was an update regarding the Glenwood water issues.

Motion to adjourn was made by Denny Corn. Seconded by Amy Grocox. 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