

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL May 8, 2024

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Carl Harcourt and Scott Barnes present. Auditor, Tammy Justice and County Attorney Leigh Morning were also present.

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

Minutes of the April 10, 2024, Regular Session meeting was presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Amy Gocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the April 25, 2024, Joint Session meeting was presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for 2024 SHSP Trailer Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide a mobile command center which will provide space for communications as well as function as a remote office space for centralized command with multiple workstations and conference area. Janet Kile moved to approve applying for the 2024 SHSP Trailer Grant. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for 2024 SHSP Routers Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide wireless routers to Law Enforcement vehicles as well as the EMA Truck and Mobile Command Trailer. Discussion was held with Sheriff Allan Rice on if these routers would work in the deputies' vehicles. Sheriff Rice would be ok with the routers if there were no additional monthly charges. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the 2024 SHSP Routers Grant. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK

- Clerk Angie Buckley advised the Council of the resignation of one of her full-time employees. Buckley discussed the possibility of this employee being moved to a temporary part-time position and working two (2) days a week. Buckley would like to keep this employee's pay at \$19.45 per hour due to experience, instead of the part-time wage of \$17.00 per hour. Discussion was held and Scott Barnes recommended the personnel committee and human resources work with all officeholders to come up with a part-time wage scale for each individual office. Denny Corn made a motion to pay this employee \$18.50 per hour temporarily for two (2) days a week. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Scott Barnes left meeting at 9:35 am.

Commissioners roll call was called at 9:39 am with Mark Bacon and Kenny Aulbach present.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with CF-1's for both real estate and personal property on behalf of Darlene and Abe Keim. County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the Council since improvements were not completed by January 1, 2024, the CF-1's cannot be approved yet.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with an amended 2024 Salary Ordinance for approval. Amy Grocox moved to approve the amended 2024 Salary Ordinance. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice reminded the Council that June 22, 2024, is the Council's state called meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer gave a staff update to the Council.
- Dixie Meyer advised the Council the state health commissioner would be visiting on May 22, 2024, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am to talk and answer questions regarding the health 1st funds if anyone would like to attend.
- Dixie Meyer discussed moving the Health Department to Dr. Morrell's office building with the Council.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr provided the Council with a staff update.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Council it is time for health insurance renewal. The Health Insurance committee will meet on May 10, 2024, to go over renewal rates.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Council the Department of Labor is changing the salary rule for exempt employees. This change will affect the following exempt employees as of January 1, 2025: APC Director, HR Director, EMA Director, and the Health Supervisor. Salaries for these positions must be increased otherwise they will be eligible for overtime. Discussion was held regarding the increase. Charlie Smith does not like having to increase the wages for the EMA position which along with the PHEP Grant wage will be more than most Sheriff Deputies wages. Dixie Meyer was called in to answer questions and give a background on the PHEP Grant position. Meyer stated when Marjorie Amos retired, the PHEP Grant position was taken over by the EMA Director due to it being part of that position's preparedness duties.
- Director Jodi Harr advised the Council the Commissioners made a recommendation at their May 6, 2024, meeting to increase county employee wages 2% for 2025. Harr requested the Council make a recommendation for wage increases for elected officials for 2025. Discussion was held. Kyle Gardner made a motion to recommend a 6% wage increase for elected officials and exempt employee's contingent on final budget cuts from state. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that a recommendation was made from this year's jail inspection to have a staffing analysis completed.

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council he had received an email regarding a lawsuit that included Rush County. At this time federal litigation will not be pursued in the case.
- Sheriff Allan Rice discussed with the Council the need for longevity to be budgeted for his employees. Discussion was also held regarding no current program for “on-call” time for detectives.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that deputies were involved in a motorcycle pursuit that spanned through several counties and then ended when the offender crashed and then fled on foot and is currently still at large. Deputies are working with evidence collected to identify and locate the rider. A 2015 Dodge Charger sustained minimal damage during the pursuit.

MISC

- Tina Henderson with Mendenhall & Associates presented the Council with the Community Development Block Grant Planning Grant proposal for approval. This grant is for \$87,000.00 with a \$10,000.00 match to be supplied through the Anderson Township Regional Sewer District. This grant will be for creation of a Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Master Plan. Carl Harcourt moved to approve the Community Development Block Grant Planning Grant Proposal. Seconded by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach updated the Council on the courthouse renovation project.
- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach updated the Council regarding water softener quotes for the courthouse.
- Commissioner Mark Bacon advised the Council how valuable Dusin Case has been. Bacon advised the Council he is not pleased with the service and quality of work by QPH and will probably not be renewing their contract.
- County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the Council a public hearing will need to be set for the LIT Public Safety rate increase. Public Hearing will be held June 12, 2024, at 9:00 am for the LIT Public Safety rate increase.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Harcourt. 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

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:
/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor