

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL April 09, 2025

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 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 and County Attorney Grant Reeves were also present.

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

Commissioner roll call called at 9:00 a.m. with Ron Jarman, Jeff Wilson and Kenny Aulbach present.

Minutes of the March 12, 2025, Regular Session meeting was presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR

- Deputy Prosecutor David Thompson requested approval from the Council to apply for the Prosecutor's Felony Diversion Program Grant in the amount of \$27,085.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for the Prosecutor's Felony Diversion, which serves to divert qualified defendants, facing felony charges, from incarceration and probation while still holding them accountable for their behavior. The funding provides for a portion of the salary for deputy prosecutor managing the program as well as for a portion of the services provided to the diversion participants. Kyle Gardner moved to apply for the Prosecutor's Felony Diversion Program Grant. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation for the Community Crossing Grant in the amount of \$665,883.49. Amy Grocox moved to approve the additional appropriation. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2025 IOCS Problem Solving Courts Grant in the amount of \$14,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to certified problem-solving courts. Charlie Smith advised the Auditor moving forward, departments requesting approvals from the council will need to have someone from that department present to answer any questions. Scott Barnes moved to apply for the 2025 IOCS Problem Solving Courts Grant. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice for Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants in the amount of \$348,287.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grants is to provide support funding to probation departments. Scott Barnes moved to apply for the Community Corrections

& Justice Reinvestment Grants. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the IOCS Pretrial Grants CY 2026 in the amount of \$81,710.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to certified pretrial service agencies. Kyle Gardner moved to apply for the IOCS Pretrial Grants Cy 2026. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with Ordinance 2025-3 An Ordinance Establishing Funds for Recon Drains, Rush County, Indiana for approval. The ordinance creates fund number 4603 for the William Glendenning Drain #511 Fund as well as fund number 4604 for the Eli Murray Drain #646 Fund. Scott Barnes moved to approve Ordinance 2025-3. Seconded by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice presented the Council with Ordinance 2025-4 An Ordinance Establishing the Approved Uses of the Rush County Jail Commissary Fund for approval. The ordinance will allow the sheriff to expend from the commissary fund certain expenditures without requiring permission from the Council. Sheriff Rice advised the language in this ordinance is cleaning up the previous ordinance. After discussion regarding including a max limit in the ordinance, Janet Kile moved to approve Ordinance 2025-4. Seconded by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$49,558.91 in fund 1170 LIT Public Safety County Share for the taser payment. Kyle Gardner moved to advertise for the additional appropriation. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council on vehicles.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that the jail inspection has been completed, and a staffing analysis is needed. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of housing federal inmates as well as ICE detainees. Carl Harcourt feels it is a bad idea to pursue this source of revenue.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council of circuit board damage to the boiler at the jail due to a water leak as well as lightning strike on the north tower.

CLERK

- Clerk Jenny Sammons as secretary of the County Election Board requested the Council's support in designating Rush County as a vote center county and presented the Council with Resolution 2025-6 A Resolution Approving the Designation of Rush County as a Vote Center County for approval. Amy Grocox moved to approve and sign Resolution 2025-6. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISC

- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Council the BRIC grant funds had been withdrawn by the federal government.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Council two (2) additional drainage board members had been approved and would need funds to pay them. Amy

Grocox moved to use County General Council Use Only. Seconded by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Council that since the jail bond audit was cleared, they were proceeding with discussing housing of federal inmates as well as ICE program.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Council an update is needed for Spilman to include longitude and latitude addresses to the dispatch system that would cost \$59,627.07. Commissioner Jarman would like to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$30,000.00 for fund 1222 E911. Commissioner Jarman also advised the Council that INDIGITAL is requiring equipment upgrades for all dispatch equipment which Rushville City and Rush County would split. Rush County’s portion would be approximately \$46,877.41 for the upgrade. Commissioner Jarman would like to include that in the advertisement for the additional appropriation in fund 1222 E911 for a total of \$77,000.00. Scott Barnes moved to advertise for the \$77,000.00 E911 additional appropriation. Seconded by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Council on the purchase of a used generator for the courthouse as well as the completion of the concrete work around the courthouse.
- Discussion was held regarding bonding for the courthouse renovation project and the impact it would have on taxpayers. The Council would like John McCane to speak to Hulsbosch Farms regarding possible abatement/economic development payment and report back. The Council also instructed Auditor Tammy Justice to find out what the county’s bonding capacity is.
- Discussion held regarding the Fraley Wilker Drain.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves updated the Council regarding the Hulbosch Farms bond.

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

The next Regular Scheduled Council meeting will be May 14, 2025.

/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