

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL October 8, 2025

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Grant Reeves were also present. Amy Grocox and Janet Kile were present by phone.

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

Commissioners roll call at 9:00 a.m. with Ron Jarman, and Jeff Wilson present. Kenny Aulbach joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes of September 10, 2025, Regular Session Meeting was presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Amy Grocox abstained. Motion carried.

2026 BUDGETS

- The second reading of the Rush County 2026 Budget was held with the following totals: Casino/Riverboat \$105,000.00, Rainy Day \$50,000.00, County General \$10,045,004.00, Reassessment \$173,465.00, Debt Payment \$241,580.00. Highway \$4,416,686.00, Local Road & Street \$1,279,600.00, Cumulative Bridge \$363,000.00, Health \$502,301.00, Emergency Telephone System \$1,086,460.00, Cum Capital Investment \$733,688.00, Economic Development \$782,908.00, Redevelopment Capital \$7,700.00. For a total of \$19,787,392.00. Surveyors Cornerstone \$15,000.00, Recorder Records \$146,213.00, Sheriffs Accident \$8,500.00, Firearms Training \$15,000.00, Law Enforcement Cont. Education \$7,500.00, Adult Prob User Fee \$21,000.00, Pre Trial Diversion \$60,948.00, Community Corrections Work \$220,489.00, Misdemeanant Fund \$18,500.00, Lepc/Haz mat \$14,200.00, Clerk Record Perpetuation \$13,500.00, Health Maint Tobacco Supplement \$21,000.00, Plat Book \$17,700.00, IV-D Incentive 99/Co \$8,500.00, IV-D Incentive 99/Pros. \$16,105.00, GIS Electronic Map Generation \$3,525.00, Sales Disc. Training \$6,000.00, LCC Alcohol & Drugs \$30,000.00, Supplemental Public Defender \$23,000.00, Jury Fee Fund \$25,400.00, Public Safety \$243,500.00, K-9 Contribution Fund \$12,000.00, IN Local Health Dept Trust \$36,725.00, Law Enforcement Forfeiture \$6,000.00, Co. Elected Officials Training \$6,000.00, RC Comm Corr Transition Program \$15,000.00, RC Comm Corr Doc Grant Fund \$166,702.00, Juvenile Probation \$3,300.00, Correctional Facility Fund \$3,683,834.00, County ID Security \$5,000.00, 9114 RCCC Drug Court \$99,875.00, Covered Bridge \$8,000.00, 1237 Opioid Restricted \$182,709.00, 1238 Opioid Unrestricted \$74,695.00, 9112 Problem Solving Court Grant \$11,000.00, IV-D Incentive 99/Clerk \$5,000.00, Co Medical Care for Inmates \$6,000.00, Fund 1161 Local Public Health Services \$108,502.00. For a total of \$5,365,922.00. Grand total for the 2026 budget of \$25,153,314.00. Carl Harcourt moved to approve the 2026 Rush County Budget. Second, by Kyle Gardner. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Charle Smith Aye. Motion carried
- The second reading of the Rush County Solid Waste 2026 Budget was held. Adopted budget of \$156,794.00. Adopted Tax Levy of \$166,951.00.

Adopted Tax Rate of 0.0133. Denny Corn moved to the 2026 Solid Waste Budget. Seconded by Carl Harcourt. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

POSEY TOWNSHIP BUDGET 2026

- 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 not present but had presented the budget at the September 10, 2025, meeting. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the Posey Township Budget for 2026. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Amy Grocox and Janet Kile did not meet the technical requirements of voting remotely and will not sign the resolution. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR

- Prosecutor Phil Caviness requested permission from the Council to hire a part-time Prosecutor/IV-D child support clerical position as well as approve the job description for the position. Scott Barnes moved to allow hiring the part-time Prosecutor/IV-D child support clerical position as well as the job description. Second, by Denny Corn. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Major Doug Keith requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation of \$12,000.00 in Fund 1170 LIT Public Safety County Share. Kyle Gardner moved to approve advertising for the additional appropriation. Second, by Scott Barnes. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council to transfer \$15,000.00 in fund 1168 Health Maintenance Tobacco from 1168.40000.00000.0000 Misc. Equipment to 1168.20040.00000.0000 Fuel. Scott Barnes moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to apply for CCMG 2025 Hot Mix 5 Mile of Street in Rural Communities, Arlington, Mays, Manilla, Milroy in the amount of \$1,250,000.00 with a county match of \$250,000.00. The purpose of the grant is to hot mix several streets in rural communities. Kyle Gardner moved to apply for the grant. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$21,645.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is for salary reimbursement. Scott Barnes moved to apply for the grant. Second, by Denny Corn. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton presented the Council with a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement filed by Scott Barnes. Denny Corn moved to accept the conflict-of-interest form. Second, by Kyle Gardner. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Abstain, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton presented the Council with the 2026 Rush County Calendar for approval. Janet Kile questioned the commissioners as to why they approved adding an extra holiday. Commissioner Ron Jarman stated the motion that was made was “as presented”. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the 2026 Rush County Calendar as presented. Second, by Denny Corn. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Nay, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Nay, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton requested approval from the Council to transfer \$5,400.00 in fund 1138 Cum Cap from 1138.30020.00000.0000 Repairs and Maintenance to 1138.10062.00000.0000 Administrator. Carl Harcourt moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton asked the Council to approve Ordinance 2025-5 An Ordinance of the Rush County Commissioners and Rush County Council Establishing a Fee for Use of GIS Data and Creating an Electronic Map Generation Fund. Scott Barnes moved to approve and sign Ordinance 2025-5. Second, by Kyle Gardner. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton presented the Council with the Policy Update regarding Appointed Board Member Disclosure Requirements that went into effect July 1, 2025.

COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Council there would be a bond increase for the transfer station that the Solid Waste Board is constructing, which would be a \$24,000.00 increase in payment. Jarman requested approval from the Council to proceed with the increased bond amount. Scott Barnes moved to approve the increased bond amount. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

MISC

- Aryn Hansen with Bellflower along with Jason Semler from Baker Tilly updated the Council regarding the solar economic development payment.

Hansen advised that the current agreement allows for an amended agreement if there is a significant increase in payment. Semler advised that Rick Hall has prepared an amended EDA that will allow for an additional One Million in payments to the county. Hansen presented the amended EDA to the Council for approval. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the amended EDA. Second, by Denny Corn. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

- Community Corrections Director Ashley Stevens was present to answer any potential questions regarding her budget.
- Councilman Kyle Gardner discussed the possibility of investing the money in the solar fund with Trust Indiana. After a brief discussion, Kyle Gardner made a motion to invest all solar funds with Trust Indiana. Second, by Scott Barnes. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Harcourt. Second, by Denny Corn. Roll Call Denny Corn Aye, Kyle Gardner Aye, Scott Barnes Aye, Carl Harcourt Aye, Janet Kile Aye, Amy Grocox Aye, Charlie Smith Aye. Motion carried

The next Council meeting will be a Regular Council meeting on November 12, 2025.

<u>/Charles Smith/</u> Charles Smith, Chairman	<u>/Scott Barnes/</u> Scott Barnes	<u>/Denny Corn/</u> Denny Corn
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<u>/Janet Kile/</u> Janet Kile	<u>/Kyle Gardner/</u> Kyle Gardner	<u>/Absent/</u> Carl Harcourt
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/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:
/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor