

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL December 10, 2025

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 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.

Commissioners roll call at 9:00 a.m. with Jeff Wilson and Kenny Aulbach present.

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

Minutes of the Joint Executive Session on November 12, 2025, were presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

- Keitha Miller requested approval from the Council to apply for the Title IV-E Funding Grant for the 2026 calendar year. The purpose of the grant is to provide the Rush County Public Defender's Office with partial reimbursement for representation of parents in Child in Need of Services Cases wherein the children of the represented parents are candidates for foster care placement. Amy Grocox moved to apply for the Title IV-E Funding Grant. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$625,000.00 in fund 8134 CFDA #14.228 Owner Occupied. Denny Corn moved to approve the additional appropriation. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for the 2026-1 Salary Ordinance. Carl Harcourt moved to approve the 2026-1 Salary Ordinance. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for Resolution 2025-14, A Resolution of the Rush County Council to Transfer Dormant Grant Fund Balances into County General. Janet Kile moved to approve Resolution 2025-14. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that local excise fees have not been changed since 2011. The Council has decided to investigate these rates next spring.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to allow the auditor the ability to sign transfers between series until year end and ratify at the January council meeting. Amy Grocox moved to allow the Auditor to sign transfers between series. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to allow the auditor the ability to encumber with invoices until year end. Justice advised that FSG suggested no encumbering, however Clerk Jenny Sammons will be requesting a large encumbrance out of county general for the election budget. Carl Harcourt moved to allow the Auditor to encumber. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2026 APPOINTMENTS

- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that she had received letters of interest from Dan Shanahan for the Alcoholic Beverage Board, and Kip Burkett for the Hospital Board. Kyle Gardner moved to retain Dan Shanahan on the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried. Amy Grocox moved to retain Kip Burkett on the Hospital Board. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Charlie Smith read the list of council members who sit on certain boards and asked if anyone would like to change seats on those boards. Scott Barnes indicated he would like to sit on the ECDC Board. Denny Corn nominated Scott Barnes to sit on the ECDC Board. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice presented the Council with the quarterly jail commissary and inmate trust reports.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that they had approved an ordinance earlier in the year on how jail commissary funds could be used as well as gift cards. Rice stated that SBOA suggested the sheriff's office present a letter to their councils making them aware of gift card use. Rice presented the Council with a letter regarding gift card use with the jail commissary funds for approval. Amy Grocox moved to approve the letter. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council there will be an online firearm auction on December 18th through December 21st, 2025. The auction will be managed by Harmeyer Auctions. All generated revenue from the auction will be put into the Firearms Fund.

COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Kenny Aulbach updated the Council on some issues discussed at the recent commissioner conference.

MISC

- Kyle Gardner addressed the Council and suggested working with the commissioners to come up with a plan for funds generated from current and future economic development payments.
- Scott Barnes requested an update from the Commissioners regarding the courthouse renovation project. Charlie Smith requested a timeline for financing.
- Charlie Smith offered Commissioner Jeff Wilson the Council's condolences on the recent passing of his father.
- Auditor Assistant Heather Carlton thanked the Council for the donations they gave for the courthouse Christmas breakfast.

Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Grocox. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be a Regular Council meeting on January 14, 2026.

/Charlie 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