

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL January 14, 2026

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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 at 9:00 a.m. with Jeff Wilson and Kenny Aulbach and Ron Jarman present.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

- Amy Grocox made a motion to nominate Charles Smith as Council Chair for the year 2026. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Charles Smith accepted the nomination. All were in favor. Motion carried. Carl Harcourt moved to close the nominations. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Denny Corn made a motion to nominate Scott Barnes as Council Vice-Chair for the year 2026. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Scott Barnes accepted the nomination. All were in favor. Motion carried. Carl Harcourt moved to close the nominations. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE

- Lisa Carpenter requested approval from the Council for Ordinance 2026-2 An Ordinance of the Rush County Council Approving the Issuance of Bonds by the Solid Waste Management District of Rush County, Approving the Appropriation of the Proceeds Thereof, and Other Matters Connected Therewith. Amy Grocox moved to approve Ordinance 2026-2. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of December 10, 2025, Regular Session Meeting was presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ron Jarman stepped away from the meeting at 9:43 a.m. and returned at 9:47 a.m.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$7,925.00 in fund 1170 LIT Public Safety from 1170.30024.00000.0000 Vehicle Maintenance to 1170.20027.00000.0000 Taser Replacement. Amy Grocox moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$2,211.00 in fund 1000 County General from 1000.31313.00000.0012 Rent/Storage to 1000.40010.00000.0012 Computer/Comp Equipment. Amy

Grocox moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for the 2025 encumbrances in the amount of \$562,220.42 which are as follows: County General \$32,914.18, Edit Capital Projects \$32,500.00, LIT Special Purpose \$26,447.43, Cumulative Bridge \$160,330.70, Firearms Training \$2,456.32, Local Road & Street \$173,716.00, LIT Public Safety County Share \$55,331.86, Highway \$50,635.00, K-9 Contribution Fund \$3,028.71, Community Crossing Grant Hwy \$24,860.22. Scott Barnes moved to approve the encumbrances. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested the Council ratify Charlie Smith's signature on the Rush County SEED Grant Proposal. This grant is in the amount of \$30,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant will be to update the Rush County 911 Dispatch GIS layers. Janet Kile moved to ratify Charlie Smith's signature. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to amend the 2025 salary ordinance to reflect the correct salary for the sheriff. Amy Grocox moved to approve the amended 2025 salary ordinance. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to amend the 2026 salary ordinance to reflect the rank per pay for sheriff deputies as well as correction officers, health department's rank per pay as well as longevity. Amy Grocox moved to approve the amended 2026 salary ordinance. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice notified the Council that September 8, 2026, Regular Council Meeting would be changed to September 2, 2026.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested the Council not share board minutes with the public until they have been approved by that specific board.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council the City of Rushville has requested a storm water fee be added to the property tax bills. Discussion was had.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council on the annual 2025 awards banquet.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council regarding housing of federal inmates. Rice advised he had negotiated a rate of \$91.00 per day for housing those inmates. Rice stated he has not received a contract from the marshals yet.
- Councilman Charlie Smith discussed the two (2) lawsuits involving Rush County with the sheriff.

COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Council on the courthouse renovation project and advised the architecture fees for KRM had been reduced by \$90,000.00.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Council on the concrete and landscaping work around the courthouse, stating the work should be completed by June.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr read a letter of resignation/retirement from Surveyor Marvin Rees to the Council. Rees's tenure will end March 27, 2026, after 25 years of service to Rush County. Charlie Smith thanked Rees for his service to the citizens of Rush County and to enjoy retirement.
- Director Jodi Harr requested the Council start thinking about the tax cuts and what's to come in the next several years.

MISC

- Rushville City Mayor Mike Pavey addressed the Council regarding the Food and Beverage Bill.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves updated the Council on the BOT process.
- Mary Richardson addressed the Council regarding HB 1509.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves updated the Council on the transfer station and courthouse bonds.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves reminded the Council if they wish to tweak any taxes like excise tax etc., they should start early to meet the fall deadlines.
- Charlie Smith asked the council members if they wished to increase the wheel tax. No motion was made.
- Kyle Gardner passed out and discussed with the Council economic development payment proposal.

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

The next Council meeting will be a Regular Council meeting on February 11, 2026.

/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