

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL April 8, 2026

The Rush County Council met for the Regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 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, Kenny Aulbach and Ron Jarman present.

Minutes of the March 12, 2026, Regular/Joint Session Meeting was presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in fund 9126 Community Crossing Grant in the amount of \$355,850.52 for the CCMG Paving Project. Carl Harcourt moved to approve the additional appropriation. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SOIL & WATER

- Director Joyce Miller requested approval from the Council to transfer \$5,500.00 in County General from 1000.10267.00000.0750 Administrative Assistant to 1000.30186.00000.0750 Professional Service to help with the expense of a temporary assistant. Denny Corn moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SURVEYOR

- Surveyor Ryan Miller requested approval from the Council to transfer \$4,000.00 in County General from 1000.10018.00000.0006 Part-Time to 1000.40000.00000.0006 Equipment for the purchase of a drone. Scott Barnes moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to transfer \$2,169.00 from fund 8119 Justice Partner's Grant to fund 1122 User Fee Fund. Stevens also requested to transfer \$2,718.00 from fund 8119 Justice Partner's Grant to fund 1123 CTP Fund. Amy Grocox moved to allow both transfers. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants – Community Corrections Grant in the amount of \$266,577.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to increase public safety through recidivism reduction by supporting cost efficient supervision, treatment, and programs as an alternative to incarceration. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants – Drug Court Grant in the amount of \$99,875.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to probation departments, court recidivism reduction programs, prosecutor diversion programs, and jails with mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for those that target moderate and high-risk Level 6 felony offenders and provide evidence-based programming. Denny Corn moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the IOCS Pretrial Grants CY 2027 in the amount of \$113,031.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to certified pretrial service agencies or those in the planning stages pursuant to IC 35-33-8 and the Pretrial Service Rules. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant Pre-Trial Grant in the amount of \$113,031.00 with no county match. The purpose of the is to provide financial assistance to certified pretrial service agencies or those in the planning stages pursuant to IC 35-33-8 and the Pretrial Service Rules. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2027 IOCS Problem Solving Courts Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to certified problem-solving courts established pursuant to IC 33-23-16 and the Indiana Problem-Solving Court Rules and as adopted by the Judicial Conference of Indiana. Kyle Gardner moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested the Council approve the Uniform Conflict of Interest form presented to the County by Scott Barnes for construction services and building materials for the annex building. Scott Barnes advised the council that GM Development was adamant that Barnes's company be the contractor for the project. Denny Corn stated that he does not think it is appropriate and doesn't want this to become an ongoing issue. County Attorney Grant Reeves reiterated that Barnes's company is not working for the county, they are working for the developer and that Barnes is just trying to cover his bases. After much discussion Carl Harcourt moved to approve the uniform conflict of interest form. Second, by Kyle Gardner. Scott Barnes abstained from voting. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that Veterans Service Officer Dannon Todd is now required to be a county employee and requested the Council approval of a job description for that position. Amy Grocox moved to approve the job description. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

- Ron Jarman requested the approval from the Council to advertise for an Additional Appropriation in fund 1138 Cum Cap in the amount of \$400,000.00 in 1138.30244.00000.0000 Renovations 504 W. 3rd Street as

well as \$300,000.00 in 1138.40106.00000.0000 Courthouse Renovations for a total of \$700,000.00. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the advertising of the additional appropriation. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Ron Jarman requested approval from the Council to transfer \$109,116.00 in 1138 Cum Cap from 1138.300200.00000.0000 Repair & Maintenance to 1138.40106.00000.0000 Courthouse Renovations for architecture services. Amy Grocox moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman updated the Council regarding the annex building, courthouse landscaping renovation as well as possible plans for mobile offices once the courthouse renovation project starts.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- County Attorney Grant Reeves discussed with the Council the upcoming courthouse bonding and budget process. Bond counsel Jimmy Shannahan joined by phone and spoke more about the process and was available for any questions. The bond amount is currently at 12.5 million dollars with the hope of bonding in June or July of 2026. A building corporation of three (3) and up to five (5) individuals will need to be established.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves presented the Council with Resolution 2026-3, A Resolution of the County Council of Rush County, Indiana, Making a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Project Expenditures for approval. Carl Harcourt moved to approve Resolution 2026-3. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- County Attorney Grant Reeves presented the Council with Ordinance 2026-4, An Ordinance of the County Council of Rush County, Indiana, Making Determinations Related to the Courthouse Renovation Project, Approving the Form of Lease, Approving the Issuance of Bonds and Related Matters for approval. Denny Corn moved to approve Ordinance 2026-4. Second, by Scott Barnes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING CORPORATION

- Discussion was held regarding nominations for the formation of the courthouse building corporation. Scott Barnes nominated Clerk Jenny Sammons to sit on the corporation. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. The other nominations were tabled until the May council meeting.

TREASURER

- Treasurer Susan Spaeth addressed both the Council and Commissioners requesting they keep her updated regarding renovations and where tax collections will be taking place during renovations.

CLERK

- Clerk Jenny Sammons advised the Council that early voting is underway.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that the jail inspections will be conducted April 16, 2026.

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

The next Council meeting will be a Regular Meeting on May 13, 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