

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL May 13, 2026

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting which was a joint special meeting with the County Commissioners on Wednesday, May 13, 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.

Councilman Charlie Smith called the Public Hearing for the Additional Appropriation of \$12,500,000.00 for the Courthouse Renovation Project to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting was properly advertised.

Hearing no comment from the public, Carl Harcourt made a motion to close the public hearing. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Charlie Smith called the Public Hearing to order at 9:02 a.m. To consider the adoption of a resolution making a preliminary determination to enter into a lease agreement to finance and construct the design, renovation and improvement and equipping of the county courthouse and other facilities of the county (collectively, "The Courthouse Renovation Project") including the incidental expenses necessary to be incurred in connection with the Courthouse Renovation Project.

Hearing no comment from the public, Denny Corn moved to close the public hearing. Second, by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT

- County Attorney Grant Reeves, along with bond counsel Jim Shanahan (via phone) discussed the renovation project. Council members as well as Commissioners formed the Courthouse Building Corp with the following recommended names: Kevin Disboro, Mark Spurlin, Gerald Mohr, Jenny Sammons, Ron Jarman and Charlie Smith as an alternate.
- Greg Guerrettaz with Financial Solutions Group, Inc (FSG) presented the Council with the financial analysis report for the lease rental bonds of 2026 for the courthouse renovation project. Guerrettaz discussed the pros and cons of taking out a 15-year bond compared to a 20-year bond. After much discussion, Amy Grocox moved to proceed with a 15-year bond. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council and Commissioners with a proposal for Financial Solutions Group, Inc. (FSG) to perform certain professional services in connection with the proposed Courthouse Lease Rental Bonds, Series 2026 not to exceed \$40,000.00. Amy Grocox made a recommendation to the Commissioners to hire FSG for their professional services in connection with the proposed Courthouse Lease Rental Bonds, Series 2026. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Kenny Aulbach moved to approve and sign the proposed agreement with FSG to perform certain professional services in connection with the proposed Courthouse Lease Rental Bonds, Series 2026. Second, by Jeff Wilson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding the sustainability analysis provided by FSG. The Council is requesting FSG be present at the July meeting.

MUNICIPAL UNIT STRATEGIC TASKFORCE (MUST)

- Greg Guerrettaz with FSG gave an update on MUST at the request of Councilman Charlie Smith.
- Greg Guerrettaz with FSG presented the Commissioners and Council with a quote to consider their assistance in facilitating and moderating MUST meetings, providing guidance and analysis on local income tax distribution strategies, assist in drafting and reviewing local income tax distribution agreements as well as support for Rush County with documentation and submission processes required by the DLGF. Jeff Wilson moved to approve and sign the quote. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes of April 8, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was presented. Amy Grocox made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- Kendra Waterman requested approval from the Council to apply for the Section 5311 Rural Transit Grant in the amount of \$313,997.00 with a county match of \$10,000.00, which is what the county contributes yearly to the center. Amy Grocox moved to approve applying for the grant. Second, by Denny Corn. Janet Kile abstained due to being on the Senior Citizens Board. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Amy DeJager requested approval from the Council to transfer \$1,900.00 in fund 1206 IN Local Health Dept. Trust from 1206.20090.00000.0000 Clinical Supplies to 1206.40068.00000.0000 Refrigerator/Freezer for the purchase of a generator. Amy Grocox moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Janet Kile. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval of the Council for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$700,000.00 in fund 1138 Cum Cap. \$400,000.00 into 1138.30244.00000.0000 Renovations 504 W. 3rd St. and \$300,000.00 into 1138.40106.00000.0000 Courthouse Renovations. Amy Grocox moved to approve the additional appropriation. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Scott Barnes abstained due to working on the 504 W. 3rd St. project. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$100,976.64 from fund 1138 Cum Cap to fund 4801 Courthouse Bond Proceeds. This is to pay back the fund from invoices received by KRM in 2025. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding the 2027 raise recommendation. Jeff Wilson made a motion to recommend to the Council the 27th pay bi-weekly amount

for 2026 would be the employee's raise for 2027. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Director Jodi Harr updated the Council on employee health insurance renewal. Harr advised there should be no change in price for employees. Harr also advised they were looking into a new stop loss carrier and she would fill them in once more information was available.

CLERK

- Clerk Jenny Sammons updated the Council on the recent election advising she had received positive feedback on the vote centers.

SHERIFF

- Sheriff Allan Rice requested the Council consider adding a full-time transport officer to his staff. Rice stated the full-time transport officer is needed for transporting federal inmates. Rice would like to utilize some of the funds being received for housing federal inmates to fund the new transport position. Council advised Sheriff Rice that the Commissioners would need to act on creating a new position at their May 15, 2026, meeting and then they would act on funding the position.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council on the deputy hiring pool as well as the possible turnover within the sheriff merit deputies for 2026.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that he is working with County Attorney Grant Reeves on a form for newly hired deputies to sign at time of hire regarding reimbursement of training funds if that deputy leaves to go to another agency within a 3-year period.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that he has three (3) deputies that work 8-hour shifts. Currently they do not receive overtime pay until they reach 86 hours in a two-week period. Sheriff Rice would like the policy to be changed to allow road deputies to start earning overtime after 80 hours.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that his contract did not take into consideration the 27th pay for 2026, however he had included it in his budget. Rice asked if the Council would consider paying him that 27th pay. Kyle Gardner moved to pay Sheriff Rice the 27th pay since it was budgeted. Second, by Scott Barnes. Amy Grocox objected. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding whether Sheriff Rice thought the implementation of the Matrix would entice some of the deputies to stay.

MISC

- The Council noted that the August 12, 2026, meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.
- The Council noted that on June 13, 2026, their annual conference will be held, and it was recommended as many members attend to hear about the new legislation on MUST.

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

Commissioner motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Wilson. Second, by Kenny Aulbach. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be a Regular Meeting on June 10, 2026.

/Charlie Smith/
Charles Smith, Chairman

/Scott Barnes/
Scott Barnes

/Denny Corn/
Denny Corn

/Janet Kile/
Janet Kile

/Absent/
Kyle Gardner

/Carl Harcourt/
Carl Harcourt

/Amy Grocox/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:
/Tammy Justice/
 Tammy Justice, Auditor

Ron Jarman

Kenny Aulbach

Jeffery Wilson

ATTEST:

Tammy Justice, Auditor