

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL July 8, 2026

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner, Scott Barnes and Carl Harcourt present. Auditor Tammy Justice and County Attorney Grant Reeves were also present. Amy Grocox was not 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 June 8, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was presented. Denny Corn made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Carl Harcourt. Kyle Gardner abstained. Motion carried.

PROSECUTOR

- Prosecutor Phil Caviness advised the Council that Superior Court Judge elect David Thompson would not be assigned any new cases due to conflict of interest and that he would like to hire a replacement for Thompson and start training in November. Caviness requested an increase in the pretrial budget of \$20,000.00 to cover the training period. Scott Barnes moved to approve the funding. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

- Public Defender Bryan Barrett requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$4,000.00 in fund 1200 Supplemental Public Defender for the purchase of a new copier. Janet Kile moved to allow the additional appropriation. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

- Director Ashley Stevens requested approval from the Council to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$15,000.00 in fund 1000 County General to cover juvenile detention costs. Charlie Smith advised the council that the council use only line could be used for these costs instead of requesting an additional. Scott Barnes moved to utilize the council use only line to pay the juvenile detention bills. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EMA

- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2026 SHSP Radio grant in the amount of up to \$150,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to help bridge communication gaps by providing reliable multi frequency communication, enabling more coordinated and effective multi-agency responses to a wide range of incidents from everyday emergencies to large-scale disasters. Kyle Gardner moved to apply for the 2026 SHSP Radio grant. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for the 2026 SHSP Trailer grant in the amount of up to \$150,000.00 with no county match. The purpose of the grant is to provide a mobile command center to ensure that service and order is maintained by serving as a communication hub during emergency situations. Scott Barnes moved to apply for the 2026 SHSP Trailer grant. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried
- Director Chuck Kemker requested approval from the Council to apply for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 with a 25% county match. The purpose of the grant is to update the multi-hazard mitigation plan, which must be updated every five (5) years. Kemker noted that the county match of \$9,000.00 has been included in his 2027 budget request. Scott Barnes moved to apply for the MHMP grant. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$17,516.75 in fund 1161 Local Public Health Services to purchase new cabinets and other furniture /equipment at the annex building. Denny Corn moved to allow the additional appropriation. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Dixie Meyer requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$7,172.50 in fund 8113 PHEP Grant for the Health Department Emergency Preparedness support and functions other than salary. Janet Kile moved to allow the additional appropriation. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Clerk Jenny Sammons requested approval from the Council for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,200.00 in fund 1119 Clerk Record Perpetuation for support staff on election day. Janet Kile moved to allow the additional appropriation. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$60,000.00 in fund 1138 Cum Cap Development from 1138.30020.00000.0000 Repairs & Maintenance to 1138.40106.00000.0000 Courthouse Renovations, \$55,000.00 from 1138.31306.00000.0000 Technology and Software to 1138.40106.00000.0000 Courthouse Renovations for a total of \$115,000.00. Scott Barnes moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$9,250.00 in Fund 1000 County General from 1000.30008.00000.0012 Contracts to 1000.10050.00000.0012 Veterans Service Officer. Kyle Gardner moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Ron Jarman updated the Council regarding the status of the annex building, the courthouse renovation project as well as the Milroy run around.
- Ron Jarman advised the Council that he had been approached by IT Director Randy Herbert regarding an employee of Spillman asking Chris Plough to apply for a job at Spillman. Jarman had a meeting with Plough and

requested the Sheriff add an additional \$8,000.00 to Plough's salary for 2027.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for Resolution No. 2026-6, A Resolution Establishing Fund #1240 – Building and Construction Related Fees Fund for Rush County, Indiana. Carl Harcourt moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-6. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for Resolution 2026-5, A Resolution Establishing Fund #1242 Lane Mile Direct Distribution Fund for Rush County, Indiana. Denny Corn moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-5. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice advised the Council that she had received letters from Anderson Township VFD, Carthage VFD, Glenwood VFD, Manilla VFD, Posey Township VFD, Raleigh Fire Department Inc. VFD and Rushville VFD for the LIT. The Council set a public hearing for August 12, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

MUST

- Charlie Smith advised the Council that they needed to appoint a council representative for MUST. Janet Kile moved to appoint Charlie Smith as a voting member. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

EXTENSION

- Carly Holland discussed with the Council the value of Purdue Extension as well as the community impact for the 2025-2026 year. Holland advised the Council that Purdue would be asking for contractual increases in the next year. Holland introduced Becky Marvel who discussed the regional transformation of the extension office and what services will look like with this transformation.

SHERIFF

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Sheriff Allan Rice requested approval from the Council to transfer \$27,000.00 in Fund 1114 LIT Special Purpose from 1114.40031.00000.0000 Capital Outlays to 1114.10277.00000.0000 Transport Officer. Denny Corn moved to approve the transfer. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Sheriff Allan Rice advised the Council that there are 51 inmates currently being housed in the jail, of which 19 are federal inmates. Rice discussed issues with federal court, and the time delays the transportation officers are experiencing.
- Sheriff Allan Rice updated the Council regarding issues with the sally port door and the air conditioning within the building.

MISC

- Tina Henderson, with Mendenhall and Associates, for Anderson Township Regional Sewer District requested approval from the Council to apply for the Community Development Block Grant Planning Grant in the amount of \$750,000.00 with no county match. The request is seeking Rush County to serve as the lead applicant to the CDBG for construction improvements to

the water utility. Scott Barnes moved to approve applying for the CDBG Grant. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Kyle Gardner discussed with the Council the MUST meeting and potential budgeting issues for the City of Rushville as well as J.D. Prescott’s property tax elimination proposal.

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

The next Regular Council Meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be an all-day meeting for budgets on August 12, 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

/Abstain/
Amy Grocox

ATTEST:
/Tammy Justice/
Tammy Justice, Auditor