

REGULAR MEETING RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL August 12, 2026

The Rush County Council met for the regular Rush County Council meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. with County Council Members Charlie Smith, Denny Corn, Amy Grocox, Janet Kile, Kyle Gardner and Carl Harcourt present. Auditor Tammy Justice was also present. County Attorney Grant Reeves joined the meeting at 8:04 a.m. and Councilman Scott Barnes joined at 8:12 a.m.

Councilman Charlie Smith called the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Income Tax Resolution to order at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was properly advertised. Hearing no comment from the public, Carl Harcourt moved to close the public hearing. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner roll call at 8:01 a.m. with Jeff Wilson and Ron Jarman present. Kenny Aulbach joined the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Minutes of July 8, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was presented. Janet Kile made the motion to approve the minutes. Second, by Denny Corn. Amy Grocox abstained. Motion carried.

LIT

- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with Resolution 2026-7, Resolution Modifying Local Income Tax Rates for Rush County for approval. Amy Grocox moved to approve Resolution 2026-7. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

- Auditor Tammy Justice for Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested approval from the Council to transfer \$70,000.00 in fund 1169 Local Rd & Street from 1169.40021.00000.0000 Summer Construction to 1169.30130.00000.0000 Equipment Repair. Amy Grocox moved to allow the transfer. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

- Dave Malson, member of the public defender board advised the Council that the State of Indiana has recommended that chief public defenders receive a \$2,500.00 bonus for 2026. Malson advised the Council that they would pay the \$2,500.00 bonus out of the supplemental public defender budget and would like it to be paid out before September 1, 2026. Amy Grocox moved to allow the \$2,500.00 bonus with the stipulation of it being paid out before January 1, 2027, not September 1, 2026. Second, by Kyle Gardner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for Resolution 2026-8, A Resolution Establishing Fund #2100 Supplemental Adult Probation Services Fund for Rush County, Indiana. Kyle Gardner moved to approve Resolution 2026-8. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Auditor Tammy Justice requested approval from the Council for Resolution 2026-9, A Resolution Establishing Fund #2150 Supplemental Juvenile Probation Services Fund for Rush County, Indiana. Amy Grocox moved to approve Resolution 2026-9. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Auditor Tammy Justice presented the Council with the Budget Year 2027 Calculation of Estimated Maximum Levy as well as the DLGF's Estimated Property Tax Credit Apportionment Worksheet.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- Charlie Smith discussed with the Council that 8.2 million of the bonds for the courthouse renovation project had been sold. The remaining amount would be marketed off by Raymond James.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman advised the Council that the commissioners had approved the GM Development LLC contract at their previous meeting.
- Commissioner Ron Jarman updated the Council regarding moving offices to the old John Deere Building.

2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The 2027 budget workshop began at 8:30 a.m. with the following offices presenting their proposed budgets. Auditor, Human Resources, Superior Court, Clerk, Circuit Court, Prosecutor, Treasurer, Public Defender, Surveyor, Highway, Health Department, IT, Commissioners, Sheriff, Court Services, Area Plan, EMA, Extension, Solid Waste, Assessor and Coroner.

The Council took a 15-minute recess from 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Janet Kile returned from break at 10:20 a.m. Another recess in the workshop was taken from 10:52 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. the workshop was recessed for lunch and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

The following motions and changes to the 2027 budget were made: Amy Grocox moved to reduce Area Planning's County General budget by \$25,000.00 in Executive Director line. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried. Amy Grocox moved to cut the Assessor's County General budget by \$6,000.00 in Employee Training. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Scott Barnes moved to reduce the Auditor's County General budget by \$3,265.00 in Part-Time. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried. Scott Barnes moved to reduce the Auditor's 1181 Plat Book budget by \$10,000.00 in Repairs and Maintenance. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Amy Grocox moved to cut the Circuit Court's County General budget by \$408.00 in both the Administrator and Reporter lines. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Amy Grocox moved to cut the Clerk's County General salaries back to the 2026 amounts. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried. Amy Grocox moved to cut the Commissioners County General budget by \$10,000.00 in the ECDC Admin Assistant line. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Scott Barnes moved to change the Commissioners EDIT budget by reducing the Courthouse Renovation line from \$500,000.00 to \$450,000.00 and adding a new line for Coroner Equipment in the amount of \$50,000.00. Second, by Amy Grocox. All were in favor. Motion carried. Denny Corn made a recommendation to offer the Extension a \$25,000.00 increase in contracts. No second was made. Amy Grocox moved to offer the Extension office an additional \$21,250.00 in the

Contract line making that a total of \$74,750 instead of \$96,000.00. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Dixie Meyer from the Health Department was asked to move some expenses out of the 1159 fund to the 1161 fund. Meyer resubmitted the following changes: 1159 Fund, Vital Records Clerk in the amount of \$39,933.00 was removed, Social Security was changed from \$26,000.00 to \$21,800.00 and \$55,906.00 for Nurse was moved to fund 1161. 1161 Fund, Social Security was increased to \$10,000.00, PERF was increased to \$14,000.00 and a Nurse line was added in the amount of \$55,906.00. Amy Grocox moved to accept all the changes for fund 1159 and 1161. Second, by Carl Harcourt. All were in favor. Motion carried. Public Defender is changing the County General budget for both Paralegals to reflect the 2026 salary amounts of \$42,903.00. Sheriff Allan Rice requested the Rank Pay in the Sheriff County General budget be adjusted to \$19,006.00 and the Sheriff Retirement line be adjusted to \$360,488.00. Amy Grocox moved to accept the matrix pay for all the sheriff's budgets contingent upon the federal inmate program. Second, by Denny Corn. Kyle Gardner opposed. Motion carried. Amy Grocox moved to reduce Soil & Water's County General Budget Admin Assistant line from \$18,000.00 to \$5,500.00. Second, by Denny Corn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

At 2:12 p.m. the Council took a short recess and reconvened at 2:26 p.m. for a virtual meeting with FSG on the topics of LIT and the final numbers for selling the bonds for the courthouse renovation project.

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

The next Regular Council Meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

/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