



Office of
Mary Jo Spino
Clerk of the County Legislature

Jackson County Missouri

JOURNAL

County Legislature

*Jeanie Lauer (5th) Chairman,
Megan L. Marshall (3rd AL) Vice Chairman,
Jalen Anderson (1st AL), Donna Peyton (2nd AL), Manuel Abarca IV (1st),
Venessa Huskey (2nd), Charlie Franklin (3rd), DaRon McGee (4th),
Sean E. Smith (6th)*

Jackson County Courthouse
415 E.12th Street, 2nd floor
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
(816)881-3242

Monday, January 22, 2024

3:00 PM

Second Regular Meeting

K.C. Legislative Assembly Area, Kansas City, Missouri

Jeanie Lauer, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

1 ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee and Sean E. Smith

2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV to approve the journal of the previous meeting held on January 08, 2024. The motion passed by a voice vote.

4 HEARINGS

None.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Frank White, Jr., County Executive, had no report.

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, asked for a follow up regarding the Board of Equalization challenges and the lawsuits filed by some cities within the County. Mr. White said this is a litigation matter to be discussed in a closed session. Mr. Abarca asked for an update on the implementation of SB190. Mr. White said the Administration has met to discuss its next steps. The Administration intends to add staff to assist with the implementation of SB190. Mr. White said the Missouri legislature had a flawed process when it approved SB190. The County will need to work through this process.

6 PERFECTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE[5823](#)

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Megan L. Marshall, to reassign Ordinance #5823 to the Finance and Audit Committee. The motion passed by voice vote.

(APPROVED)

[5823](#)

AN ORDINANCE repealing sections 9103. and 9104., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to the Board of Equalization, and enacting, in lieu thereof, two new sections relating to the same subject, with an effective date.
(Finance and Audit Committee - 3rd. Perfection)

[5824](#)

AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$22,000,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the General Fund and authorizing the construction of two floors of office space in the Health Sciences building for use by University Health.
(Budget Committee - 3rd. Perfection)

[5826](#)

Submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on April 2, 2024, a question authorizing Jackson County to impose a countywide parks sales tax of three-sixteenths of one percent for a period of twenty-five years for the purpose of retaining the Kansas City Chiefs sports team in Jackson County, Missouri.

(WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR ABARCA. CONCURRED BY
LEGISLATORS McGEE AND SMITH)

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE[21508](#)

Finance and Audit Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

9 CONSENT AGENDA[21508](#)

A RESOLUTION expressing support for payment of prevailing wages for all workers involved in the Jackson County Detention Center Construction Project located in Kansas City, Missouri.

(ADOPTED)

Resolution #21508 was moved to the Consent Agenda for adoption.

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Megan L. Marshall, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 9 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee and Sean E. Smith

10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

None.

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[21509](#)

Authorizing an extension to the contract for rebranding services with TICO Productions of Kansas City, Missouri, for use by COMBAT staff at no additional cost to the County.

(Assigned to the Anti-Crime Committee.)

[21510](#)

Authorizing the County Executive to execute an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the City of Independence, Missouri, for the use of certain County property for a civic event, at no cost to the County.

(Assigned to the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee.)

[21511](#)

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Megan L. Marshall, to adopt Resolution #21511, authorizing the Jackson County Legislature to hold a closed meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024, for the purpose of conducting privileged and confidential communications between itself and the Jackson County Counselor under section 610.021(1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and closing all records prepared for discussion at said meeting. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 9 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee and Sean E. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[21512](#)

Authorizing the County Executive to execute two amendments to the contract with J.E. Dunn-Axiom of Kansas City, MO, for the construction of the new Jackson County Detention Center to cover Component Packages 2B and 2C related to the furnishing of services, labor, and materials for the footing, foundation, and structural portions of the of the new Detention Center Project, at a cost to the County not to exceed \$193,996,230.00.

(Assigned to the Public Works Committee.)

[21513](#)

Expressing the intent of the Legislature to work with the County Executive to develop a plan to commit federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds.

(Assigned to the Budget Committee.)

[21514](#)

Awarding a contract for the maintenance of software for use by the Office of the Clerk of the County Legislature to Granicus of St. Paul, MN, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$42,399.00 for 2024, as a sole source purchase.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

None.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion was made by DaRon McGee, seconded by Donna Peyton, to override the veto of Ordinance #5822, submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on April 2, 2024, a question authorizing Jackson County to impose a countywide sales tax of three-eighths of one percent for a period of forty years for the purpose of retaining the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs sports teams in Jackson County, Missouri.

Discussion.

Jalen Anderson, County Legislator, recognized Mike White, attorney for the Sports Complex Authority, and Shawn Foster, Chairman of the Sports Complex Authority, who were in attendance. Mr. Anderson said he appreciates everyone's hard work toward an agreement on the Letter of Intent. These efforts were productive for the Jackson County community. Mr. Anderson stated he is pro-labor, and he is proud that the teams are committed to supporting labor. He is pleased that through the community benefits agreement the community coalition is meeting with the teams and working with Gwendolyn Grant toward common goals.

Donna Peyton, County Legislator, expressed her thanks to Legislator Anderson for his comments. She appreciates the overwhelming support she has received regarding this ordinance. She appreciates the hard work of her fellow Legislators who worked to make a decision based on their beliefs. She appreciates the efforts of the County Executive, who is committed to proceeding in good faith to work with the teams. Ms. Peyton said it is her hope that taxpayers will exercise their right to cast a vote in making the decision on this sales tax measure.

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, said he agreed with the sentiments expressed. He appreciates the efforts of the County Executive for driving the concept of a better deal for Jackson County residents. He thanked the teams for working overnight and over the weekend toward an agreement on

the Letter of Intent. He thanked Herb Hardwick and Alison Bergman for their commitment to representing the County in these negotiations to make sure to get a better deal for all.

Megan L. Marshall, County Legislator, read a statement regarding her vote to sustain the veto of Ordinance #5822.

"First off, I'd be remiss if I didn't speak to the level of engagement this issue has garnered from nearly every sector of our county. I have received hundreds of emails, numerous phone calls, and recently learned a public opinion poll was taken last month to determine the public's appetite for re-electing public officials who do not support placing this issue on the ballot. As elected officials we all want to be admired and accepted. But I don't take public opinion polls to make my decisions, I decide based on facts and information. While I can appreciate the commitment so many share for our sports teams and the genuine love people have in their hearts for the Royals and the Chiefs, I can't help but dream about the generational impact we could all experience on serious, long-standing issues like socioeconomic and academic inequities, rising crime, gun violence, and homelessness. If billionaires, the business community, chambers of commerce, civil rights organizations, non-profit organizations, civic organizations, organized labor, and city, county and state governments all worked together in the same type of long term, persistent manner that we have seen to ensure the Royals and Chiefs receive new stadiums and entertainment districts. I challenge all of these interests to double down on their involvement in addressing these pressing community concerns. But I digress...Our sports teams have agreed to a Letter of Intent. Which is nothing more than a promise. It is NOT legally binding. Which means nearly everything in that letter can be abandoned at any time without legal recourse. I can appreciate promises. I can also appreciate good intentions and good faith. I have no information that either sports team does not intend to do what the Letter of Intent outlines. I assume no ill-will in that regard. But it is concerning to me when billionaires make promises that they're not willing to be legally bound by, while asking poor people for billions in tax dollars that residents will be forced to pay for the next 40 years. That doesn't seem right to me. It seems inequitable. It feels like an injustice. While I can appreciate a promise, my role as a lawmaker is not to divine the hearts of billionaires, it's to assess facts and information. And use that information to inform the public and protect the public with policy and law. To place \$2 BILLION dollars in taxes on the ballot without legally binding agreements from both teams, which would ensure, if the ballot measure passes, taxpayers actually receive what they voted for, goes beyond mere good faith - it is irresponsible. We need only look across the state to St. Louis for an example of what can happen when governments blindly trust professional sports teams, and convince taxpayers to do the same, then provide tax dollars to build new stadiums, but end up paying for a stadium with no sports team. County, city and state funding is needed to make the Royals and Chiefs

dreams come true. Because neither team has publicly committed to using their own money for these projects. Many of the people in this room are prepared to sell a tax to the people of Jackson County without any assurances from the City of Kansas City or the State of Missouri that their end of the deal is forthcoming. Inevitably, there will be uninformed voters, as in every election, going to the polls in April fully believing that voting 'YES' means these projects are a sure thing. But right now, we know, even if this ballot measure passes, these projects are anything but a sure thing. I can appreciate good intentions, but I cannot participate in misinforming taxpayers. This is where handshake deals and good intentions fall short. The people of Jackson County deserve more than a pound and a bro hug, they deserve legal assurances and legal commitments from those who want to spend billions of dollars of THEIR hard-earned money for the next 40 years. To be clear, I support major sports teams, particularly those in mid-sized markets like Kansas City. But more than entertainment, home runs and touchdown celebrations, I support regular people. People who can't afford to pay for \$15 beers and \$12 hot dogs - and thousands of dollars for season tickets. People who will never go to a game nor ever be allowed to sit in a stadium suite. People who sweep the floors, sell the beer, and clean the toilets - all in between quick peeks at games they'll never be able to take their little boy or girl to. I want legal commitments not intentions and empty promises. I want legal guarantees of livable wages, affordable housing, Black and minority participation in these construction projects, and union labor to build. I want a real deal to sell to the public. This Letter of Intent falls far short of that. I appreciate a promise. I sincerely hope both sports teams fulfill those intentions. But taxpayers suffering from rising property taxes, national inflation, and stagnant wages deserve legal commitments. That is why I'll be voting to sustain the County Executive's veto. Thank you."

Jeanie Lauer, County Legislator, thanked everyone for their comments. She said this is not the end of the process. This puts the initiative on the ballot. The voters have their job to do. The County still must have a lease agreement finished. There is still work to do and discussions to be had. Ms. Lauer said she had many contacts from residents in her district that voted significantly against the use tax. Now the stadium tax is coming through and she was overwhelmed with comments and emails stating, "Do not place another tax on the ballot." These residents love the teams. Ms. Lauer said she loves the teams. But everything moving forward must be done to finalize the work that has been left undone so we can give the citizens a full picture of what this tax is for.

The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 7 - Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee, and Sean E. Smith

No: 2 - Megan L. Marshall and Jeanie Lauer

Additional statements released by Legislators are attached to the online record for Ordinance #5822, located at <https://jacksonco.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6452571&GUID=6E9BF88E-3DAB-4204-B508-C0124C644C32&Options>

14 NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Megan L. Marshall, seconded by Sean E. Smith, to hold Legislative meetings for 2024 at the Downtown Legislative Assembly Area in Kansas City until appropriate equipment can be installed at the Legislative Assembly Area located at the Eastern Jackson County Courthouse in Independence. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Closed meeting per Resolution #21511.

The meeting went into recess. The meeting reconvened.

15 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned until Monday, January 29, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.