



Office of
Mary Jo Spino
Clerk of the County Legislature

Jackson County Missouri

JOURNAL

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

County Legislature

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

Monday, September 8, 2025

3:00 PM

Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting

**Eastern Jackson County Courthouse, 308 W. Kansas, Independence, Missouri, Ground
Floor, Legislative Chambers**

Donna Peyton, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

1 ROLL CALL

Present 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV,
Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith
Excused 1 - Megan L. Smith

2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey to
approve the journal of the previous meeting held on August 25, 2025. The
motion passed by a voice vote.

4 HEARINGS

None.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Caleb Clifford, Chief of Staff said there were no reports.

Frank White Jr., County Executive, was not present.

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, asked why the County Executive
chose not to inform all members of the Legislature regarding ARPA
opportunities put out in an RFP process by his office. Caleb Clifford, Chief
of Staff, said it was because of the ongoing litigation regarding the 2025
budget not yet settled with four members of the legislature. Legislator
Abarca asked Bryan Covinsky, County Counselor, what law prohibits the
County Executive from speaking to the four members about other matters.

Mr. Covinsky reiterated what was stated by Mr. Clifford, and when asked directly for an opinion from his office, Mr. Covinsky said he would be happy to look into the matter and provide one.

Legislator Abarca asked about the timing of the RFP notices sent out. He wanted to know why they were not sent out as soon as the 2025 budget was adopted. Mr. Clifford stated it was to put a process in place and now the time was urgent. Legislator Abarca disagreed and said he believed the timing was calculated to coincide with the upcoming recall election and it is an opportunity for the County Executive to try and save himself.

6 PERFECTON OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

[5967](#)

AN ORDINANCE repealing subsections 7401.2., 7405.4., and 7406.5., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to protections against retaliation for complaints, cooperating with complaint investigations, and amending the discretionary authority to decline a complaint and enacting, in lieu thereof, three new subsections relating to the same subject.

(Legislature As A Whole - 18th Perfection)

[5990](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to approve the Floor Amendment dated September 8, 2025 for Ordinance #5990, to insert the paragraphs "BE IT ORDAINED that this cap shall be limited to commercial properties valued at no more than five-million dollars of market value in 2023; and, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall hereby direct the County Executive, County Assessor, or other appropriate officials to make said adjustments to the 2025 commercial market values." and to insert the word "FURTHER" after the words "BE IT" in the fourth paragraph on page 2. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey and Sean E. Smith

No: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

Abstain: 1 - Charlie Franklin

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[5990](#)

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to perfect as amended Ordinance #5990, establishing a commercial property assessment rate cap in Jackson County, Missouri. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey and Sean E. Smith

No: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

Abstain: 1 - Charlie Franklin

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(PERFECTED)

[5996](#)

AN ORDINANCE enacting sections of the Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to the establishment of fair property tax payment practices and protections during appeals, providing for payment programs, appeal-based payment extensions, and time limits on appeals resolution.

(Finance and Audit Committee - 6th. Perfection)

The Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee made no recommendation on Ordinance #5997.

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Sean E. Smith, to hold Ordinance #5997. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Ordinance #5997 will be assigned to Legislature As A Whole.

[6001](#)

AN ORDINANCE enacting sections 7800., 7801., 7802., 7803., 7804., and 7805., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to the establishment of the Senior Citizens' Services Fund, with an effective date.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 4th. Perfection)

[6004](#)

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to perfect Ordinance #6004, awarding a contract for construction service to connect the Rock Island Trail and Little Blue Trace Trail under Federal Project No. TAP 3453(404) to MegaKC Corporation Kansas City, MO, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 24-098 at a cost to the County not to exceed \$2,870,540.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Jalen Anderson, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

Abstain: 2 - Donna Peyton and Manuel Abarca IV

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(PERFECTED)

Discussion.

Michele Newman, Director of Parks + Rec and Richard Allen, Senior Planner and Program Manager with Parks + Rec, distributed a handout to legislators and were present to answer any questions regarding Ordinance #6004.

[6006](#)

AN ORDINANCE enacting section 1598., of the Jackson County Code, 1984, related to revoking pension and benefit eligibility for any recalled County elected official and their direct non-merit reports, and for other purposes.

(Legislature As A Whole - 3rd. Perfection)

[6007](#)

AN ORDINANCE enacting section 5542., of Jackson County Code, 1984, related to the use of unlicensed gambling devices with severability clause.

(Legislature As A Whole - 3rd. Perfection)

[6009](#)

AN ORDINANCE amending the zoning districts established pursuant to the Unified Development Code by rezoning a certain 117.00± acre tract from District AG (Agricultural) to District RU (Residential Urban).

(Land Use Committee - 2nd. Perfection)

[6010](#)

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the County Executive to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Kansas City, Missouri and MoDOT, for replacement of Rock Island Bridge at 350 highway, at no cost to the County.

(Land Use Committee - 2nd. Perfection)

[6011](#) 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.
(Budget Committee - 1st. Perfection)

[6012](#) A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Sean E. Smith to perfect Ordinance #6012. The motion passed by a voice vote.
(PERFECTED)

[6012](#) A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Jeanie Lauer, to approve Ordinance #6012, appropriating \$108,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 Grant Fund, in acceptance of a grant received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of the Kansas City Monuments Coalition, for use by the Jackson County Parks + Rec Department for improvements to the Fort Osage National Historic Landmark. The motion passed by a roll call vote:
Yes: 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith
Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith
(APPROVED)

[6013](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$18,500.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 Grant Fund in acceptance of the National Environmental Health Association Food and Drug Administration grant awarded by the Federal Drug Administration.
(Health and Environment Committee - 1st. Perfection)
The Health and Environment Committee will have a public hearing on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. in the Kansas City Legislative Assembly Area.

[6014](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$10,315.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 Grant Fund, in acceptance of a grant from the Local Records Preservation Grant - Missouri Secretary State, through the Local Records Preservation program, for use by the Jackson County Recorder of Deeds for local records preservation.
(Budget Committee - 1st. Perfection)

[6015](#)

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Sean E. Smith, to perfect Ordinance #6015, appropriating \$104,928.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 Grant Fund, in acceptance of a grant received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of the Kansas City Monuments Coalition, for use by the Jackson County Parks + Rec Department for restoration and preservation improvements to Missouri Town Living History Museum. The motion passed by a voice vote.

(PERFECTED)

[6015](#)

Jalen Anderson moved the passage of Ordinance #6015 as perfected, appropriating \$104,928.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 Grant Fund, in acceptance of a grant received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of the Kansas City Monuments Coalition, for use by the Jackson County Parks + Rec Department for restoration and preservation improvements to Missouri Town Living History Museum. Seconded by Jeanie Lauer.

Yes: 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[6016](#)

AN ORDINANCE prohibiting County employees from knowingly making false material statements to the County Legislature by amending Chapter 74 and incorporating such prohibition into the Jackson County Code of Conduct.

(Rules Committee - 1st. Perfection)

[6017](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey to perfect Ordinance #6017. The motion passed by a voice vote.

(PERFECTED)

[6017](#)

A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to adopt Ordinance #6017, authorizing the Jackson County Counselor's Office to pursue litigation or other legal strategies on behalf of the Jackson County Legislature in the event that redistricting of the 5th Congressional District occurs, for the purpose of opposing such redistricting. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey and Charlie Franklin

No: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

Abstain: 1 - Sean E. Smith

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

[21992](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a twelve-month term and supply contract, with two twelve-month options to extend, for the furnishing of broker and consulting services for the County's employee group health, life, and dental insurances for use countywide to CBIZ Benefits & Insurance, Inc. of Kansas City, MO, under terms and conditions of Request for Proposals No. 25-019, at a cost to the County not to exceed \$250,000.00.

(Finance and Audit Committee - 2nd. Meeting)

[21994](#) Justice and Law Enforcement Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[21995](#) A motion was made by Charlie Franklin, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to approve the Budget Committee Amendment dated September 8, 2025 for Resolution #21995, to delete the first paragraph "WHEREAS, the Legislature has a continuing need for a consultant to assess policy and communication services; and," and to insert the following paragraphs: "WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Legislature had determined that the Legislature has a need for a communications and policy consultant for effective public communications and community engagement; and, WHEREAS, this contract is requested for authorization under the Legislature's authority as stated in Article II, Section 16.13 of the county charter and Chapter 10, Section 1000 of the purchasing code; and, WHEREAS, the consultant will work at the direction of the Chairman of the Legislature, the consultant will be responsible for developing a comprehensive community engagement plan and providing support to the Legislature to utilize Indigov constituent communication software, along with other tasks assigned by the Chairman of the Legislature; and," all on page one. The motion passed by a voice vote.

(ADOPTED)

[21995](#)

A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to adopt Resolution #21995, authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to execute a Consulting Agreement with Heartland Communications, LLC, of Kansas City, MO, to provide communication and policy services to the Legislature, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[22003](#)

A RESOLUTION declaring certain County-owned boats as surplus property and authorizing their disposal pursuant to Chapter 11 of Jackson County Code, 1984.

(Land Use Committee - 2nd. Meeting)

[22013](#)

A RESOLUTION awarding a six-year term and supply contract for the furnishing of planting and harvesting of hay and crops for use by the Parks + Rec Agricultural Program to T. Bruce Mershon of Buckner, MO, under the terms and conditions of Request for Proposal No. 25-020.

(Land Use Committee - 1st. Meeting)

[22014](#)

A RESOLUTION awarding a twelve-month term and supply contract, with one twelve-month option to extend for the furnishing of disaster recovery services for use countywide to 21st Enterprise, LLC aka ServPro of Lee's Summit, Missouri, under the terms and conditions of the Junior College District of Metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri (MCC) Contract No. 19-7242-C3R2.

(Budget Committee - 1st. Meeting)

[22015](#)

Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[22016](#)

Justice and Law Enforcement Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[22018](#)

A RESOLUTION declaring a certain County-owned vehicle as surplus property and authorizing its disposal pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Jackson County Code.

(Finance and Audit Committee - 1st. Meeting)

9 CONSENT AGENDA

[21994](#) A RESOLUTION declaring certain County-owned vehicles as surplus property and authorizing their disposal pursuant to Chapter 11 of Jackson County Code, 1984.

(ADOPTED)

[22015](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a twelve-month term and supply contract, with one twelve-month option to extend, for the furnishing of liquid asphalt for use by the Public Works Department to Vance Brothers, Inc., of Kansas City, MO, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 25-002.

(ADOPTED)

[22016](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a contract for the purchase of sixteen new vehicles for use by the Sheriff's Office to Corwin Motors of Springfield, LLC, of Springfield, MO, under the terms and conditions of State of Missouri Contract No. MC250182004, an existing competitively bid government contract, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$688,448.00.

(ADOPTED)

Resolutions #21994, #22015 and #22016 were moved to the Consent Agenda for adoption.

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

None.

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[22020](#) Transferring \$95,490.00 within the 2025 General Fund to cover the purchase of bunk beds and linens for use by the Jackson County Detention Center.

(Assigned to the Justice and Law Enforcement Committee.)

[22021](#)

Awarding a thirty-nine-month term and supply contract, with three twelve-month options to extend, for the furnishing of HVAC parts and services for use by the Facilities Management Division of the Public Works Department to Johnson Controls, Inc. of Lenexa, KS, under the terms and conditions of the Sourcewell Contract No. 080824-JHN, an existing, competitively bid government contract.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

[22022](#)

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to adopt Resolution #22022, authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to issue a check in the amount of \$129,120.00 for the purchase of portable and vehicle radios for use by the Greenwood Police Department. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Sean E. Smith

No: 2 - Jalen Anderson and Jeanie Lauer

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

Discussion.

[22023](#)

Awarding a twenty-four-month term and supply contract, with five twelve-month options to extend, for the furnishing of HVAC products, installation, and service for use by the Facilities Management Division of Public Works Department to Trane US Inc., of Davidson, NC, under the terms and conditions set forth in Racine County, Wisconsin/OMNIA Partners Contract No. 3341, an existing government contract.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

[22024](#)

Awarding a twelve-month term and supply contract, with two twelve-month options to extend, for the furnishing of unmanned aircraft systems, supplies, and equipment for use by various County departments to Vehicle Technologies, LLC, of Fayetteville, AR, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 25-031.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

[22025](#)

Authorizing the County Executive to execute two permanent utility easements in favor of the City of Kansas City Water Department.

(Assigned to the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee.)

[22026](#)

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adopt Resolution #22026, authorizing the County Executive to execute a Cooperative Agreement with a certain outside agency that provides public health related and other public services to citizens of Jackson County, at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$24,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Manuel Abarca IV

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[22027](#)

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by DaRon McGee, to adopt Resolution #22027, transferring \$48,443.00 within the 2025 General Fund to cover the costs of salary adjustments for legislative aides. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Manuel Abarca IV

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[22028](#)

Awarding a contract for the purchase of a John Deere tractor and John Deere Flex Wing Rotary mower for use by the Public Works Department to Lawn and Leisure of Lee's Summit, MO under the terms and conditions of Sourcewell Contract No. 112624-DAC, an existing, competitively bid government contract, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$82,694.00.

(Assigned to the Public Works Committee.)

[22029](#)

Declaring certain County-owned equipment as surplus property and authorizing its disposal pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Jackson County Code.

(Assigned to the Justice and Law Enforcement Committee.)

[22030](#)

Awarding a contract for the purchase of a mobile communications command vehicle for use by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office to Farber Specialty Vehicles, Inc. of Reynoldsburg, OH, under the terms and conditions of Henrico County, Virginia Contract No. 2578A, an existing competitively bid government contract, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$720,420.00.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

[22031](#)

Awarding a contract for the purchase of three trailers for use by the Parks + Rec Department to Rockland Cargo Equipment of Conyers, GA under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 25-032, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$37,677.00.

(Assigned to the Land Use Committee.)

[22032](#)

Authorizing Jackson County to execute a License with KC Bier Company of Kansas City, MO for an event named KC Oktoberfest to be held at Crown Center Square.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

Discussion.

Sean E. Smith, County Legislator, said a public hearing is required for Resolution #22032. The paperwork for this application was submitted to the Administration in June but just being introduced today. In order to meet the statutory requirements a special meeting of the legislature is necessary in order to have a timely public hearing.

The County Legislature will have a public hearing on Resolution #22032 on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kansas City Legislative Assembly Area.

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

None.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Peyton was informed by DaRon McGee, County Legislator, that Megan L. Smith asked to be excused. With no objection, Megan L. Smith will be excused for the September 8, 2025 legislative meeting.

14 NEW BUSINESS

DaRon McGee announced that the County Legislature will have a special meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kansas City Legislative Assembly Area for the purpose of conducting a public hearing and discussing Resolution #22032.

Manuel Abarca IV asked if Chairman McGee would also consider taking up the courtesy resolution for Hispanic Heritage Month. DaRon McGee agreed that courtesy resolutions can also be taken up at the special meeting.

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to cancel the legislative meeting scheduled to be held on September 15, 2025

in Kansas City, Missouri. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

No: 2 - Jalen Anderson and Donna Peyton

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Jeanie Lauer, to cancel the legislative meeting scheduled to be held on September 29, 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 8 - Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

Excused: 1 - Megan L. Smith

Manuel Abarca IV asked the Administration if they had any staff changes to report.

Caleb Clifford responded the Public Information Officer is no longer employed with Jackson County, MO.

Mr. Abarca asked if Mr. Crutsinger was retiring. Mr. Clifford said he was not aware.

15 **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Jeanie Lauer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned until Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area. This is a special meeting to discuss Resolution #22032 and any courtesy resolutions introduced.