



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
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County Legislature

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

Friday, July 17, 2026

10:00 AM

Special Meeting

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

Manuel Abarca IV, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

1 ROLL CALL

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

2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Jeanie Lauer, seconded by Jalen Anderson to
approve the journal of the previous meeting held on July 15, 2026. The
motion passed by a voice vote.

4 HEARINGS

None.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

None.

6 PERFECTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

None.

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

None.

9 CONSENT AGENDA

None.

10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

None.

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Jeanie Lauer, seconded by Sean E. Smith, to adopt Resolution #22354.

Megan L. Smith, County Legislator, asked how she can join the closed session. Manuel Abarca IV said per the email sent to legislators phones will not be allowed in the legislative meeting and legislators must be present to participate in the closed session due to the sensitive subject matter. Megan L. Smith asked Whitney Miller, Deputy County Counselor, if the Chairman of the County Legislature has the authority to retrieve phones and not allow legislators to participate unless they are present for the closed session. Ms. Miller said she would need to review the law on this issue.

A motion was made by Megan L. Smith, seconded by Sean E. Smith to hold Resolution #22354 to allow the County Counselor time for due diligence. Chairman Abarca said he will not hear the motion to hold. He said he did not receive notice from Ms. Smith that she would not be in person at the meeting.

Discussion.

Sean E. Smith said he would like to recess and he withdrew his second to the motion to hold Resolution #22354.

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Jalen Anderson to take a 10 minute recess. The motion passed by a voice vote.

The County Legislature reconvened.

Whitney Miller said she reviewed the County Charter, Rules of the Legislature and the Sunshine Law with the assistance of outside counsel and they agree the Chair of the County Legislature does not have the authority to unilaterally change practices used when conducting closed meetings. She said procedural changes could be made with a majority vote of the County Legislature. Therefore, the County Legislature should follow the procedures used in the past until changes are voted on by the body. Due to concerns of privacy, she said each participant of the closed meeting

by phone can attest verbally that no one is listening to the conversation. She then cited Section 610.020 section 3 of the Sunshine Law.

Manuel Abarca IV summarized the three options of the County Legislature: (1) vote to change the rules governing closed meetings (2) postpone the closed session to Monday when all members can be in person or (3) proceed today with the closed session following procedures used in the past.

[22354](#)

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Jeanie Lauer, to adopt Resolution #22354, authorizing the Jackson County Legislature to hold a closed meeting on Friday, July 17, 2026, for the purpose of conducting privileged and confidential communications between itself and the Jackson County Counselor under sections 610.021(1)(3) and (17) 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: 7 - Manuel Abarca IV, Sean E. Smith, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Megan L. Smith, Charlie Franklin and Jeanie Lauer

Absent: 1 - DaRon McGee

Excused: 1 - Venessa Huskey

(ADOPTED)

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

None.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

14 NEW BUSINESS

None.

15 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned until Monday, July 20, 2026 at 3:00 P.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.