



Office of
Mary Jo Spino
Clerk of the County Legislature

Jackson County Missouri

JOURNAL

County Legislature

*Theresa Cass Galvin (6th) Chair, Dan Tarwater III (4th) Vice Chair,
Jalen Anderson (1st AL), Crystal Williams (2nd AL), Tony Miller (3rd AL),
Scott Burnett (1st), Ronald E. Finley (2nd), Charlie Franklin (3rd),
Jeanie Lauer (5th)*

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

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

10:00 AM

Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting

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

Theresa Cass Galvin, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

1 ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Ronald E. Finley, Charlie Franklin, Dan Tarwater III, Jeanie Lauer and Theresa Cass Galvin

2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Dan Tarwater III, seconded by Scott Burnett to approve the journal of the previous meeting held on September 28, 2020. 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

Troy Schulte, County Administrator, said today is the deadline for setting the tax rates for 2020. These become the basis for the Jackson County budget for 2021. The original proposal had a roll up of about 4.8 cents in the County's tax levy to offset about a half of a billion in County assessed valuation. That would hold collections whole for 2020 and 2021. We have looked at some alternatives. If we bring the levy back to 2019 levels, that will have about a \$6 million aggregate impact on the County budget. That would have an impact on the County Improvement fund. The costs in that fund are not going down. The staff has developed some options. Mr. Schulte said he

and John Gordon, Treasurer, worked up a creative solution that would result in a 2.3 cent reduction in the levy, but structured differently so the solution would be to take a reduction in the General Fund and slight reduction in the Health Fund and allocate the sales tax revenues, that would result in a modest tax break resulting in keeping the County Improvement Fund full.

Theresa Cass Galvin, Chairman, said to clarify, because next year is not an election year, the impact of a reduction is \$3.4 million. Mr. Schulte said this would be a permanent loss that will have an impact down the road unless the Legislature takes an active step to roll the levy back up for 2022.

Dan Tarwater III, County Legislator, said in 2018 we took the action to remove the voluntary reduction because of facility needs at the courthouse and the jail. That was followed by an assessment process that brought huge increases in property valuations. This turned out unfair for the taxpayer. He asked how much is in the County Improvement Fund. John Gordon said the fund is about \$30 plus million.

Theresa Cass Galvin said the Board of Equalization is still working through appeals. But there are still many people who did not file appeals. The pandemic has caused losses to income. Businesses will still have to pay their taxes. We hate to kick people when they are down.

John Gordon said, the 2019 increased valuations, resulting in a decreased levy. There was a \$3.2 million increase in billings. Because of the tax appeals, revenues have been going out in refunds resulting in a decline in revenues for 2020. The County does have the opportunity to file for a recoupment for 2021 or 2022. The proposed 2.31 cent voluntary reduction will result in billings in the amount of what the County was expecting in 2019 and would not impact the budget for 2019.

Ronald E. Finley, County Legislator, asked what is the rate going back to 2019. John Gordon said the 2019 rate was .6110. Mr. Gordon is proposing .6368. This is a compromise rate, but still an increase. Mr. Gordon said this compromise would offset the new construction revenue and the sales tax adjustment the county would have been permitted in 2020. Mr. Gordon said when sales tax goes down, the County is permitted to increase property taxes to make up for that. This compromise would keep the billings flat for 2019. Mr. Finley asked if there was more money being collected. Mr. Gordon said there is no more money being collected. Under this compromise, Mr. Gordon said he does not believe there would need to be a change to the budget.

Mr. Schulte said the declining revenues would be offset by a freeze to hiring within the County and the courts. That has generated enough revenue to

offset the decline in sales tax. We have the 2020 budget still remaining in balance because they are not allowing the salary saving to be spent on other items. We are assuming the property tax revenue would come in at budget. There is probably enough money, but there may be a draw on reserves. The Administration believes they have a plan in place for 2020, but the challenge is how to do this for 2021.

Theresa Cass Galvin said we have a reduction in sales tax, the people of Jackson County are seeing a reduction in their income. We appreciate the effort to find a compromise.

Jeanie Lauer, County Legislator, said there are many moving parts with the changes to the valuations and appeals. She said she is not comfortable trying to fix a long-term problem without any actual numbers showing where we are at. The County will need to start living within its means. She said she supports a roll back to the 2019 numbers.

Jay Haden, Chief Deputy County Counselor, said the Legislature would need to have a motion to amend Ordinance #5408 with the Floor Amendment dated September 28, 2020.

Jalen Anderson, County Legislator, asked about the hit to the Health Levy with the current proposal. Mr. Gordon said the Health Levy would be at .1877. Mr. Anderson asked what programs these funds support. Mr. Gordon said the Health Fund monies are used for support to the Truman Medical Centers, the Jackson County Health Department, and to pay the debt on the Animal Shelter. Mr. Anderson said he agrees with Legislator Lauer. He said the County does not want to put any constraint on Truman Medical Center or the Health Department. But we have problems with our assessment. If 2021 looks like 2020, the County may not be able to balance the budget. The County does not have a huge budget. But we are not sure how people will be affected this year. The County is facing something it never has before.

Dan Tarwater III said he appreciated everyone's efforts on this ordinance. Theresa Cass Galvin concurred.

[5408](#)

A motion was made by Jeanie Lauer, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to approve the Floor Amendment for Ordinance #5408 dated September 28, 2020, to delete the number "0.2562" after "General" and insert the number "0.2123", to delete the number "0.1254" after "Park" and insert the number "0.1204" to delete the number "0.6599" and insert the number "0.6110" after the word "TOTAL" all on page 3. The motion passed by voice vote.

[5408](#) A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Dan Tarwater III, to perfect Ordinance #5408 as amended. The motion passed by voice vote.
(PERFECTED)

[5408](#) A motion was made by Dan Tarwater III, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to adopt Ordinance #5408 setting the 2020 Jackson County, Missouri, tax levy. The motion passed by a roll call vote:
Yes: 9 - Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Ronald E. Finley, Charlie Franklin, Dan Tarwater III, Jeanie Lauer and Theresa Cass Galvin
(ADOPTED)

[5412](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$28,989.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2020 Health Fund and authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to issue a check in the amount of \$28,989.00 to the Mid-America Regional Council, relating to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.
(Budget Committee - 1st. Perfection)

A motion was made by Dan Tarwater III, seconded by Scott Burnett, to waive the reading of Ordinance #5414. The motion passed by a voice vote.

[5414](#) AN ORDINANCE transferring \$2,721,465.00 within and appropriating \$13,757,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2020 County Improvement Fund, transferring \$1,400,000.00 within the 2020 Assessment Fund, and awarding a contract on Requests for Proposals Nos. 69-19, 1-20, and 2-20, for the furnishing of maintenance of assessment data, a computerized mass appraisal system, and reassessment services, all for use by the Assessment Department, to Tyler Technologies of Moraine, OH, at an actual cost to the County not to exceed \$17,878,465.00.
(Legislature As A Whole - 1st. Perfection)

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

[5409](#) Consent Agenda.

[5410](#) Consent Agenda.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Dan Tarwater III, seconded by Charlie Franklin, to waive the reading of Resolutions #20502, #20504, #20505, #20506, #20506, and #20510. The motion passed by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Charlie Franklin, seconded by Dan Tarwater III, to discharge Resolution #20502 from the Finance and Audit Committee. The motion passed by a voice vote.

[20502](#) Finance and Audit Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[20504](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the County Executive to execute a one-year extension to the U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program Grant, at no cost to the County.
(Finance and Audit Committee - 1st. Meeting)

[20505](#) A RESOLUTION transferring \$24,705.00 within the 2020 General Fund to cover the costs to purchase 35 new chemical protective masks and matching cannisters.
(Budget Committee - 1st. Meeting)

[20506](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the County Counselor to execute a Legal Services Agreement with Associates in Dispute Resolution, LLC, of Kansas City, MO, at a total cost to the County not to exceed \$15,000.00.
(Finance and Audit Committee - 1st. Meeting)

[20507](#) A RESOLUTION transferring \$81,551.00 within the 2020 Anti-Crime Sales Tax Fund to cover the cost of the salary for a new position within the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
(Anti-Crime Committee - 1st. Meeting)

[20510](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a twelve-month term and supply for the furnishing of surplus liquidation and/or auction service and related services for use by the Sheriff's Office to Property Room.com, of Frederick, Maryland, under the terms and conditions of the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Contract No. 041316-PRC, an existing government contract, at no cost to the County.
(Justice and Law Enforcement Committee - 1st. Meeting)

9 CONSENT AGENDA

[5409](#) AN ORDINANCE repealing subsection 1503.10 and sections 1525., 1532., and 1533., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to the County Employees' Pension Plan and enacting, in lieu thereof, one new subsection and three new sections relating to the same subject.

(ADOPTED)

[5410](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$117,852.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2020 County Improvement Fund for the replacement of furniture recently damaged by flooding events in Jackson County Circuit Court.

(ADOPTED)

[20502](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the award of contracts for underwriting services relating to debt financing to Morgan Stanley of New York, NY, Bank of America Securities, Inc., of St. Louis, MO, Piper Sandler of Leawood, KS, Hilltop Securities, Inc., of St. Louis, MO, and Valdes and Moreno, Inc., of Kansas City, MO, under the terms and conditions of Request for Qualifications No. 34-20.

(ADOPTED)

Ordinances #5409, #5410, and Resolution #20502 were sent to the Consent Agenda for adoption.

A motion was made by Dan Tarwater III, seconded by Scott Burnett, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 9 - Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Ronald E. Finley, Charlie Franklin, Dan Tarwater III, Jeanie Lauer and Theresa Cass Galvin

10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

None.

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[20511](#) A motion was made by Charlie Franklin, seconded by Dan Tarwater III, to adopt Resolution #20511, appointing Jaime Guillen to the position of Chief Compliance Review Officer pursuant to section 629.1 of the Jackson County Code. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 9 - Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Ronald E. Finley, Charlie Franklin, Dan Tarwater III, Jeanie Lauer and Theresa Cass Galvin

(ADOPTED)

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

None.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

14 NEW BUSINESS

Dan Tarwater III wished Barb Casamento a happy birthday.

Theresa Cass Galvin announced that noon on Sunday is Walktober to be held at the Rock Island Trail. Everyone is welcome.

Jeanie Lauer inquired about the process for issuing CARES Act funds to the agencies that have had requests approved. Troy Schulte said the agencies must send in their budgets and get their contract in place as quickly as possible. Jay Haden, Chief Deputy County Counselor, said all contracts have been approved.

Dan Tarwater III assumed the duties of Chairman. He requested an update on the status of the CARES funds by Monday, October 5, 2020.

15 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Scott Burnett, seconded by Tony Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned until Monday, October 5, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.