



Jackson County Missouri

Jackson County Courthouse
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Kansas City, Missouri 64106
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Meeting Minutes Public Works Committee

*Manuel Abarca IV (1st) Chairman,
Venessa Huskey (2nd), Sean E. Smith (6th),
Donna Peyton (2nd AL)*

Monday, September 8, 2025

10:30 AM

Eastern Jackson County Courthouse
Independence, Missouri

Present 4 - Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Sean E. Smith and Donna Peyton

ORDINANCES IN COMMITTEE

None.

RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

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.

Attachments: [22015 Adopted](#)

A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Donna Peyton, to recommend do pass Resolution #22015. The motion passed by voice vote.

Agenda Items

Brian Gaddie, Director of Public Works, has been invited to discuss salary scales, general construction strategies, and compliance in an ongoing discussion. The Public Works Committee requests a weekly report of open projects, recently closed projects and upcoming contracts.

Michele Newman, Director of Parks and Recreation, has been invited to discuss salary scales, general construction strategies, compliance and various county programs including Christmas In The Park in an ongoing discussion.

County Administration has been invited to give a general update on the county Detention Center. The Public Works Committee requests a weekly compliance report for the county's detention center.

Director of Public Works, Brian Gaddie, summarized all current open contracts into three categories; Current Contracts, Term & Supply Contracts and General Construction contracts. The Public Works Committee requested an electronic copy of the report related to the Term & Supply contracts.

Brian Gaddie summarized the processes for contract terms and county grants related to the Public Works Department.

Brian Gaddie summarized the implementation of the Evergreen Study in relation to the Public Works Department, including a general timeline and noted that several substantial changes were made. The Public Woks Committee requested a list of all salary changes implemented from the Evergreen Study. Caleb Clifford agreed.

Brian Gaddie summarized general construction strategies and deferred maintenance plans. Brian Gaddie and Legislator Sean Smith discussed various road ratings and road classification standards.

Brian Gaddie summarized compliance processes including compliance review steps completed before the department is involved as well as Public Work's ongoing communication with vendors. Legislator Abarca requested a weekly compliance report.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Michelle Newman, and the department's Deputy Director Tina Spallo presented to the committee. Michelle Newman summarized the current open projects that the department is involved in, all expiring within Fiscal Year 2026. Tina Spallo clarified that these were mostly contract extensions. Legislator Abarca requested a copy of the Work Day report be made available to the committee.

Michelle Newman explained the processes of rewards, deferred maintenance needs and the department's involvement with compliance.

Michelle Newman reported that Parks and Recreation was informed of salary changes and updated job descriptions from the Human Resources Department but was not directly involved in the implementation and referred to the Finance Department.

Michelle Newman discussed general construction strategies and referred to the current Master Plan and Assessment Study that will guide current and future priorities.

Tina Spallo summarized current open projects and provided a schedule of upcoming projects and continued maintenance. Legislator Smith inquired about the bridge project for the Rock Island Trail connected to Little Blue Trace. Michelle Newman clarified that this project was currently out for bid, but capital projects for 2026 have not been finalized or prioritized. She reported the project is estimated to cost the county \$900,000.00 and will be noted in the 2026 budget requests.

Michelle Newman explained the processes for set up, continued maintenance and annual planning of Christmas In The Park. Employee schedules and staff shifts vary, including for time periods such as Christmas In The Park. Legislator Abarca inquired who was contracted to for the sheet metal and carpentry work for the project and Michelle Newman replied that it was taken care of internally.

Legislator Donna Peyton publicly thanked the department for the ongoing maintenance of The Freedom Wall Park before their presentation was concluded.

Brian Gaddie introduced Dan Musser and Colleen White from JCDC for an update on the county's new detention center project. Colleen White reported that the project was coming in under the approved budget and scheduled for 'Substantial Completion' on December 11th, 2025. The project is scheduled to close in February of 2026. Legislator Smith inquired when the facility would be functioning with inmates. Colleen White explained that a transitional activation staff would be on site from February of 2026

through the second quarter of 2026 before inmates would be transferred. Legislator Abarca confirmed with the County Counselor's office that legislation related to contract extensions on the project should be on the agenda before the end of the month.