



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, March 25, 2024

3:00 PM

Tenth 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 Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Sean E. Smith to approve the journal of the previous meeting held on March 18, 2024. The motion passed by a voice vote.

4 HEARINGS

Fred Dreiling with Fred Dreiling LLC, the County Legislature's Chief Lobbyist, gave an update on the political climate and current issues with the Missouri General Assembly impacting Jackson County. A copy of Mr. Dreiling's presentation is available under the Meeting Details for the March 25, 2024, Legislative Meeting located at

[<https://jacksonco.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1187611&GUID=E36EC3F9-170A-40FF-864B-6AD793BF9E9A&>](https://jacksonco.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1187611&GUID=E36EC3F9-170A-40FF-864B-6AD793BF9E9A&)

Charlie Franklin, County Legislator, said the Legislature has many resolutions in the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee directing the Chief Lobbyist to act in support of certain issues. He asked Mr. Dreiling, in his opinion, what does adopting these directives do for the lobbyist. Mr. Dreiling said he works for the Legislature, and he will do what the Legislature wants him to do. But, he cautioned, the Missouri Legislature has a super majority of members of the Republican party. This creates the need to proceed carefully on certain issues. Some issues, such as gun control in light of the situation at the Super Bowl Parade, in which it might be beneficial to adopt a

position. Other issues require caution on how they approach the topic with the Missouri Legislature. Many of these issues will not have a hearing, so there would not be an opportunity for the lobbyist to testify. The better way to approach these issues is to have a Jackson County day at the Capitol. This is an opportunity to meet with the representatives and senators. A personal meeting will help to determine what works and what doesn't work and develop an appropriate approach to the benefit of Jackson County. Having a personal relationship with some of the elected officials at the Capitol can make a difference.

Donna Peyton, County Legislator, said there are eight weeks remaining for the Legislative session. She loves the idea of a Jackson County day. If there is a subject the Legislature wants the Chief Lobbyist to advocate for, what is the most expedient way to accomplish that? Mr. Dreiling said the best way to accomplish these goals is for County Legislators to go to Jefferson City, meet with Mr. Dreiling and his team. They will introduce legislators to the key decision makers in Jefferson City. It will give the County Legislators a feel for what the process is like at the Capitol. He said Legislator Smith has come to Jefferson City several times and it means more when an elected official is talking to another elected official.

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, asked what the harm is to sending advocacy items to the Capitol, even when an issue is not likely to be addressed. Mr. Dreiling said he wasn't sure if there is any harm, but for example, the Kansas City mayor tweeted a few comments about the gun control issue and now the elected officials in Jefferson City will not see him. If Mr. Abarca comes down as an elected official it will be beneficial, but the body as a whole should exercise caution. Mr. Abarca said he will be in Jefferson City on Wednesday and looks forward to it.

Mr. Dreiling added that he will send an email with a link when certain key issues are up for debate so County Legislators can listen live. With so many lame-duck elected officials now, and many of those officials seeking higher office, they are all angling for position.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Frank White, Jr., County Executive, was not present. Sylvia Stevenson, Chief Administrative Officer, said there was no report.

Mr. Abarca asked about the long lines at the Historic Truman Courthouse in Independence. Sylvia Stevenson said the Administration is continuing to investigate the situation. Several jurisdictions are cracking down on expired tags and that has created long lines with citizens needing to obtain their car license renewal. Maureen Monaghan, Deputy Director of Assessment, said the department has been hiring as many people as possible to handle the

demand. The County's pay is such that the best employees are lost soon after to better paying jobs elsewhere. They are hiring people as fast as they can. There is space limitation at the Truman Courthouse. They are trying to develop different options such as a senior line. Caleb Clifford, Chief of Staff, said the IAAO (International Association of Assessing Officers) conducted an audit of the operation and recommended the County find a singular space for the Assessment Department. The pay scale study from a few years ago will require a pay study for these positions to identify the market level of pay. He intends to have a report on this when the County Administrator returns next week.

Mr. Abarca asked Ms. Monaghan for the report on the analysis/data that validates the success of the assessment process. Caleb Clifford said the County Administrator spoke about the data last week. They will check with him when he returns.

Jeanie Lauer, County Legislator, said there have been numerous problems with the line at the Truman Courthouse. It does not appear that the line is being managed effectively or efficiently. Mr. Clifford said they agree there is a problem, and they are working on improving the processes with the resources available.

Sean E. Smith, County Legislator, asked the Deputy Director how often she has assisted the staff with helping customers. Ms. Monaghan said she helped with emails and phone calls but is not the most effective person at working the window. There is a limit on the space at the Independence courthouse. Mr. Smith said he has heard of three emergency medical calls from people waiting for 6+ hours in line. This is not a new problem, as he waited in line for 6 hours with his daughter for a tax waiver. This should be an "all hands-on deck" moment to clear the back log. A different view of the problem is needed. He stressed the County has to do something immediately as it is past the time of being appropriate. The Assessment Department does the same thing every year.

6 PERFECTON OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

[5836](#)

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

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

[21519](#)

A RESOLUTION authorizing the County Executive or the Chairman of the Legislature to sell the County-owned property located at 1300 Washington Street, Kansas City, MO 64105 via the competitive bidding process.

(Land Use Committee - 7th. Meeting)

[21536](#)

Finance and Audit Committee moved to adopt.

Manuel Abarca IV objected to the Consent Agenda.

Discussion.

Sean E. Smith said he had requested changes to the plan. This is the same plan from previous years. This is the Legislature's one chance to make changes to the process. If the Legislature adopts this Resolution, it is making a statement that everything is fine with the Assessment process.

Manuel Abarca IV said he concurs. This is a continuation of the problematic process from before.

Donna Peyton said is it the plan that is faulty or is it the way the plan was carried out? Did you find cause that the plan was in error or the way the plan was administered? Sean E. Smith said the plan lacks substantial information that should be carried out. There are opportunities to limit the number of appeals. The Board of Equalization needs to resolve appeals timely in July and August so taxing jurisdictions can set their levies.

Ms. Peyton said she agrees that the County should not carry out the process the same as it did in 2023. If so, shame on us. We have a plan that has gone through the State Tax Commission (STC). I am uncomfortable in saying the STC is in error.

[21536](#)

Manuel Abarca IV moved to hold Resolution #21536. Seconded by Sean E. Smith.

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

No: 5 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Charlie Franklin and DaRon McGee

(FAILED)

[21536](#) A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Megan L. Marshall, to adopt Resolution #21536, approving the 2024-2025 Jackson County Assessment and Equalization Maintenance Plan. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Charlie Franklin and DaRon McGee

No: 3 - Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey and Sean E. Smith

(ADOPTED)

[21537](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of greater local controls for Jackson County.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 5th. Meeting)

[21538](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate in support of trans rights to the Missouri General Assembly.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 5th. Meeting)

[21540](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in opposition to House Bills 2367, 2470, and 2523.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 5th. Meeting)

[21546](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of maintaining a fair and equitable citizen initiative petition process.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 5th. Meeting)

[21552](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of Blair's Law and greater local gun control for Jackson County.

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

[21553](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of the County Assessor being an elected position in Jackson County.

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

[21554](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act in Jackson County.

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

[21562](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of reproductive rights and funding for family planning clinics.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 3rd. Meeting)

[21571](#) Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[21572](#) A RESOLUTION expressing the intent of the Legislature to direct the Chief Lobbyist to advocate to the Missouri General Assembly in support of House Joint Resolution 135.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 2nd. Meeting)

[21575](#) A motion was made by DaRon McGee, seconded by Megan L. Marshall, to adopt Resolution #21575, authorizing a twelve-month extension to an existing term and supply contract for the furnishing of broker and consulting services for the County's employee group health, life, and dental insurance for use Countywide to CBIZ Benefits of Kansas City, MO, under the terms and conditions of Request for Proposals 42-21. The motion failed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 3 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall and Charlie Franklin

No: 4 - Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey and DaRon McGee

Abstain: 1 - Jalen Anderson

Absent: 1 - Sean E. Smith

(DEFEATED)

[21577](#) A motion was made by Megan L. Marshall, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to approve the Finance and Audit Committee Amendment dated March 18, 2024 for Resolution #21577, to delete the figure "\$981,003.00" and insert the figure "\$1,006,228.00" in the heading and body on page one, the table on page two and the fiscal on page four; to delete the figure "\$235,850" and insert the figure "\$261,075" in the table and final paragraph on page two and the fiscal on page four. The motion passed by a voice vote. Consent Agenda.

- [21579](#) A motion was made by Donna Peyton, seconded by Megan L. Marshall, to adopt Resolution #21579, authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to issue a check to the permanent members of the Jackson County Board of Equalization as a retention stipend in the total amount of \$16,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:
Yes: 7 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and DaRon McGee
No: 2 - Manuel Abarca IV and Sean E. Smith
(ADOPTED)
- [21580](#) Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.
- [21581](#) Land Use Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.
- [21582](#) Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.
- [21583](#) Anti-Crime Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.
- [21584](#) Land Use Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.
- [21585](#) Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.
- [21586](#) A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to approve the Finance and Audit Amendment dated March 25, 2024 for Resolution #21586, to delete the figure "\$5,000.00" and insert the figure "\$3,000.00" in the heading and body on page one, the final paragraph on page two and the fiscal on page three. The motion passed by a voice vote.
- [21586](#) A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adopt Resolution #21586 authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to issue a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 to the KC Repertory Theatre, for sponsorship of its 60th Anniversary Gala to be held April 5, 2024, in Kansas City, MO.. The motion failed by a roll call vote:
Yes: 4 - Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and DaRon McGee
No: 5 - Jeanie Lauer, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton and Sean E. Smith
(DEFEATED)
- [21588](#) Finance and Audit Committee moved to adopt.
Manuel Abarca IV objects to the Consent Agenda.

[21588](#) A motion was made by Megan L. Marshall, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to adopt Resolution #21588, awarding twenty-four-month term and supply contracts, with one twelve-month option to extend, for the furnishing of general contracting services for use by various County departments to Hartline Construction, LLC, of Kansas City, MO, Lytle Construction, Inc., of Lee's Summit, MO, Tailor Made Exteriors of Lee's Summit, MO, and Universal Construction Company, Inc. of Kansas City, KS, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 23-082. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

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

No: 2 - Manuel Abarca IV and Venessa Huskey

(ADOPTED)

[21589](#) Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[21591](#) Finance and Audit Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

9 CONSENT AGENDA

[5836](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$975,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2024 County Improvement Fund to cover the cost of renovations and accessibility to the Family Court Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court.

(PERFECTED)

[21571](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the County Executive to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District to provide access to the regional household hazardous waste centers for the residents of the unincorporated areas of Jackson County, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$26,795.00.

(ADOPTED)

[21577](#) A RESOLUTION transferring \$1,006,228.00 within the 2024 General Fund and authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to issue checks in the total amount of \$1,006,228.00 to cover costs incurred in connection with the April 2, 2024, special election.

(ADOPTED)

[21580](#) A RESOLUTION awarding twenty-four-month term and supply contracts, with one twelve-month option to extend, for the furnishing of towing services for use by various County departments to Brad's Towing & Recovery, LLC of Smithville, MO, E.W. Transport of Kansas City, MO, Independence Specialty Towing, LLC of Independence, MO, Lazer-Pipes Services, Inc. of Grandview, MO, and Santa Fe Tow of Blue Springs, MO, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 23-085.

(ADOPTED)

[21581](#) A RESOLUTION awarding twelve-month term and supply contracts, with one twelve-month option to extend, for park site furnishings for use by the Parks + Rec Department to Fry & Associates of Kansas City, MO, and Global Equipment Company Inc. of Port Washington, NY, under the terms and conditions of invitation to Bid No. 23-088.

(ADOPTED)

[21582](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a twelve-month term and supply contract, with one twelve-month option to extend, for lawn mower tractor maintenance and repair of John Deere equipment for use by the various County departments to Ag-Power of Centerview, MO, as a sole source purchase.

(ADOPTED)

[21583](#) A RESOLUTION transferring \$150,000.00 within the 2024 Anti-Crime Sales Tax Fund to fully fund the Jackson County Sheriff's Office's 2024 Law Enforcement School Based Initiative.

(ADOPTED)

[21584](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a twenty-four-month term and supply contract, with one twelve-month option to extend, for the furnishing of fencing installation and repair services for use by the Parks + Rec Department to Guier Fencing of Blue Springs, Missouri, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 24-006.

(ADOPTED)

[21585](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a thirty-six-month term and supply contract, with two twelve-month options to extend, for the furnishing of elevator maintenance and as needed repairs for use by the Public Works Department to KONE Inc. of Moline, IL, under the terms and conditions of Request for Proposals No. 23-055.

(ADOPTED)

[21589](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the County Executive to execute a Participation Agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services related to its summer food service program, with costs to be reimbursed to the County.

(ADOPTED)

[21591](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a contract for the furnishing and installation of audio-visual equipment at the Eastern Jackson County Courthouse for use by the County Legislature to Harvest AV Solutions of Kansas City MO, under the terms and conditions set forth in Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri Contract No. 2353-19-25, an existing government contract, at an actual cost to the County not to exceed \$62,934.00.

(ADOPTED)

Ordinance #5836 was moved to the Consent Agenda for perfection. Resolution #21571, #21577, #21580, #21581, #21582, #21583, #21584, #21585, #21589, and #21591 were sent 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

[5837](#) Appropriating \$24,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2024 Grant Fund in acceptance of the National Environmental Health Association Food and Drug Administration grant awarded by the Federal Drug Administration.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

[5838](#) A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV to perfect Ordinance #5838. The motion passed by a voice vote.

(PERFECTED)

[5838](#)

A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Donna Peyton, to adopt Ordinance #5838, appropriating \$200,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2024 Grant Fund in acceptance of the Detection and Mitigation in Confinement Facilities-COVID-19 grant for use by the Detention Center and authorizing the County Executive to execute a Program Agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the expenditure of grant funds. 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)

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[21592](#)

Authorizing the County Counselor to execute a Legal Services Agreement and Addendums to existing Legal Services Agreements with certain lawyers and law firms at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$92,000.00, for services to be performed in 2024.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

[24-05](#)

Pursuant to Chapter 82 of the County Code, I hereby make the following appointments and reappointments to the Jackson County Children’s Services Fund:

Amy Harris is reappointed for a term to expire March 31, 2027.

Ajia Morris is reappointed for a term to expire March 31, 2027.

Brian Kaberline is reappointed for a term to expire March 31, 2027.

[24-06](#)

Pursuant to Chapter 91 of the County Code, I hereby appoint Forestine A. Beasley as the Chair of the Board of Equalization.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

14 NEW BUSINESS

None.

15 ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned until Monday, April 1, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.