



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,  
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),  
Jeanie Lauer (5th), Sean E. Smith (6th)*

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**Monday, January 8, 2024**

**3:00 PM**

**First Regular Meeting**

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

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DaRon McGee, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

**1 ROLL CALL**

Present 9 - DaRon McGee, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

**2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Recited.

**3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion was made by Jeanie Lauer, seconded by Venessa Huskey to approve the journal of the previous meeting held on December 29, 2023. The motion passed by a voice vote.

**4 HEARINGS**

DaRon McGee, Chairman, opened nominations for Chairman of the Legislature for 2024.

Sean E. Smith nominated Jeanie Lauer.  
Charlie Franklin nominated Donna Peyton.

The votes for Chairman were as follows:

Jeanie Lauer: 5 - Jalen Anderson, Megan L. Marshall, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer, and Sean E. Smith

Donna Peyton: 4 - Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, DaRon McGee

DaRon McGee opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair.

Manuel Abarca IV nominated Jalen Anderson.

Jalen Anderson nominated Megan L. Marshall.

The votes for Vice Chair were as follows:

Megan L. Marshall: 6 - Jalen Anderson, Megan L. Marshall, Charlie Franklin, DaRon McGee, Jeanie Lauer, and Sean E. Smith

Jalen Anderson: 3 - Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, and Venessa Huskey

## **5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Frank White, Jr., County Executive, congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. White read a statement regarding the stadium sales tax issue:

*“As our county legislature prepares to vote on the proposal to place the ballpark project on the April ballot, I want to express my respect and understanding for the roles and responsibilities of our esteemed legislators. The decision before them is not an easy one, and I am very aware of the immense political pressures involved in such significant civic decisions.*

*I understand the complexities and challenges of these discussions and want to reassure everyone that my commitment to collaboration remains strong. Regardless of the vote's outcome, I am dedicated to working closely with legislators, our sports teams and all stakeholders. This commitment holds true whether the issue reaches the ballot or not. My office is ready to continue constructive engagement in every step of this process, ensuring the best outcomes for all involved.*

*Over the past months, my administration has worked diligently to improve this deal for the taxpayers of Jackson County. We have successfully negotiated several concessions from the teams, which I believe are steps in the right direction. However, I firmly believe that our county deserves and can achieve more before we commit to placing this on the ballot.*

*A key component that must be addressed is the establishment of a strong and enforceable Community Benefits Agreement. This agreement is vital to ensure that the project delivers tangible and lasting benefits to our community. Additionally, we need a solid and enforceable agreement that includes the costs associated with the demolition of Kauffman Stadium. It is essential that we fully understand and prepare for these financial implications.*

*Furthermore, it is crucial to secure a commitment that both teams maintain their front offices and training facilities in Jackson County for the duration of the lease. This commitment is not just a matter of local pride; it is also about economic stability and the sustained growth of our county.*

*In closing, I want to reiterate my respect for the legislative process and the difficult decisions our legislators are facing. My office remains ready and willing to continue our efforts to ensure the best possible outcome for Jackson County and its residents.”*

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, asked about the reported \$1 billion in concessions Mr. White requested from the teams. Mr. White said this amount is tied to different areas related to the stadium tax and insurance costs, but the figure is negotiable.

Mr. Abarca asked about the court hearing regarding the lawsuit from certain cities over the assessment issue. Bryan Covinsky, County Counselor, said the Legislature can schedule a closed hearing to discuss the litigation issues.

Donna Peyton, County Legislator, asked for information regarding the 2006 stadium tax and the timing of negotiations during that time. Greg Grisham said he was the attorney representing the Chiefs during the 2006 negotiations. The 2006 stadium tax was on the April ballot, but the final community benefits agreements were not approved until March 2006.

Charlie Franklin, County Legislator, asked Frank White, Jr., what a four-day hold on the ballot issue might accomplish. Frank White, Jr., said a hold will give more time to iron out issues.

Manuel Abarca IV asked Mr. Grisham if members of the County Legislator participated in the negotiations with the teams in 2006. Mr. Grisham said there were representatives from the Sports Complex Authority, the County Executive's team, and some members of the County Legislature involved in the prior stadium improvements tax.

**6      PERFECTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Donna Peyton to approve the Floor Substitute dated January 8, 2024 for Ordinance #5822. Megan Marshall objected.

A motion was made by Megan L. Marshall, seconded by Charlie Franklin, to hold Ordinance #5822. The motion failed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 4 - Megan L. Marshall, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith

No: 5 - DaRon McGee, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV and Venessa Huskey

(FAILED)

[5822](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to approve the Floor Substitute dated January 8, 2024 for Ordinance #5822.

The motion passed by a roll call vote:

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

No: 1 - Megan L. Marshall

(APPROVED)

[5822](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Donna Peyton, to perfect the Floor Substitute dated January 8, 2024 for Ordinance #5822.

The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 7 - DaRon McGee, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Jeanie Lauer

No: 2 - Megan L. Marshall and Sean E. Smith

(PERFECTED)

[5822](#)

A motion was made by DaRon McGee, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to adopt the Floor Substitute dated January 8, 2024 for Ordinance #5822, submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on April 2, 2024, a question authorizing Jackson County to impose a countywide sales tax of three-eighths of one percent for a period of forty years for the purpose of retaining the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs sports teams in Jackson County, Missouri. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

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

No: 1 - Megan L. Marshall

(ADOPTED)

[5823](#) 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.  
*(Finance and Audit Committee - 2nd. Perfection)*

[5824](#) AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$22,000,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the General Fund and authorizing the construction of two floors of office space in the Health Sciences building for use by University Health.  
*(Budget Committee - 2nd. Perfection)*

[5825](#) A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Jalen Anderson to perfect Ordinance #5825. The motion passed by a voice vote.  
(PERFECTED)

[5825](#) A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to adopt Ordinance #5825 enacting sections 1074., 1075., 1076., 1077., 1078., and 1079., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to County development incentives and responsible bidding on County projects. The motion passed by a roll call vote:  
Yes: 9 - DaRon McGee, Megan L. Marshall, Jalen Anderson, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith  
(ADOPTED)

## 7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None.

## 8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

[21507](#) Budget Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

## 9 CONSENT AGENDA

[21507](#) A RESOLUTION encouraging the County Executive to appropriate \$22,000,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the General Fund and authorizing the construction of a new Health Sciences building for use by University Health.  
(ADOPTED)

Resolution #21507 was moved to the Consent Agenda for adoption.

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

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

Absent: 1 - DaRon McGee

**10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE**

[5826](#)

Submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on April 2, 2024, a question authorizing Jackson County to impose a countywide parks sales tax of three-sixteenths of one percent for a period of twenty-five years for the purpose of retaining the Kansas City Chiefs sports team in Jackson County, Missouri.

*(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)*

**11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE**

[21508](#)

Expressing support for payment of prevailing wages for all workers involved in the Jackson County Detention Center Construction Project located in Kansas City, Missouri.

*(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)*

**12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

None.

**13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**14 NEW BUSINESS**

Jalen Anderson, County Legislator, said that he encourages the Royals and Chiefs to continue to negotiate in good faith for a community benefits agreement that will provide union jobs and guarantee fair pay and affordable housing. If these community benefits are not met, he would have to reconsider his support for the stadium tax.

**15 ADJOURNMENT**

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

In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 15, 2024, the meeting adjourned until TUESDAY, January 16, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.