



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

*Scott Burnett (1st) Chair, Alfred Jordan (2nd) Vice Chair,  
Garry J. Baker (1st AL), Crystal Williams (2nd AL), Tony Miller (3rd AL),  
Dennis Waits (3rd), Dan Tarwater III (4th), Greg Grounds (5th),  
Theresa Galvin (6th)*

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**Wednesday, August 8, 2018**

**2:00 PM**

**Thirty-first Regular Meeting**

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

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Scott Burnett, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

**1 ROLL CALL**

Present 8 - Garry Baker, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Dennis Waits, Dan Tarwater III, Greg Grounds and Theresa Galvin

Absent 1 - Alfred Jordan

**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 Dennis Waits to approve the journal of the previous meeting held on August 06, 2018. The motion passed by a voice vote.

**4 HEARINGS**

*None.*

**5 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

*None.*

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

Greg Grounds assumed the Chair.

[5102](#)

AN ORDINANCE submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at the general election to be held on November 6, 2018, six questions to amend the Jackson County Charter, with an effective date.  
*(Legislature As A Whole - 7th. Perfection)*

*Greg Grounds, County Legislator, said he had no intention to perfect Ordinance #5102 today. His intent was to lead a discussion, resolve any questions and entertain proposals for amendments so the final legislation can be ready for perfection on Monday. He said the Proposed Floor Substitute dated August 8, 2018 has a slight technical change and he asked Jay Haden, Deputy County Counselor, to explain the changes.*

*Jay Haden said he sent an email to all legislators detailing the two non-substantial differences between the Proposed Floor Substitute dated July 30, 2018 and the Proposed Floor Substitute dated August 8, 2018. He said the first change was it renumbers the ballot questions from one through seven, previously they were numbered two through eight. The reason for the renumbering is because Question 1 for the Senior Citizens Services Fund will be withdrawn by the County Legislature prior to ballot certification. The second change renumbers Question 5 to Question 4 and adds Section 7 of Article V in the first line. He said they are both technical corrections only.*

*Greg Grounds explained the procedure. He asked anyone who wanted to offer an amendment to indicate the page and section, then there would be discussion and if there is a motion and a second a voice vote would be taken. He said he attempted to include requests from all of his colleagues so they all can be discussed. He asked for any proposed amendments to the Proposed Floor Substitute dated August 8, 2018 for Ordinance #5102. No amendments were proposed.*

*Scott Burnett said the plan is to perfect and adopt Ordinance #5102 on Monday, August 13, 2018.*

*Greg Grounds then opened the floor for discussion.*

*Crystal Williams, County Legislator, said she had Jay Haden prepare a substitute to Ordinance #5102 but the Primary Election changed her mind. She said the two issues her constituents were concerned about were term limits and raises for elected officials. She tried to group together issues in her amendments and said she would give it to Greg Grounds for his review. She said she admired Greg's tenacity, his commitment for doing what he thinks is right and thanked him for being kind to her during this process.*

*Greg Grounds said when he asked Jay Haden to draft legislation dealing with charter changes, Jay looked at the most recent example used in Lee's Summit and used it as a model for this legislation.*

*Greg Grounds entertained discussion regarding Question 5 dealing with the appointment of the County Counselor. He asked everyone to look at page twelve of the Ordinance (Section 6 of the Jackson County Charter). He tried to include the County Executive and County Legislature in the selection of a County Counselor to provide a balance. The substitute suggests a three person panel submitted by the County Executive to the County Legislature and then the Legislature would appoint a County Counselor from the names submitted. Another option he proposed was if the County Executive appoints the County Counselor, the County Legislature could remove the counselor with a seven member super majority vote.*

*After much discussion, a motion was made by Crystal Williams, seconded by Tony Miller, to amend the Proposed Floor Substitute for Ordinance #5102 dated August 8, 2018, to change the language to include the phrase "The County Counselor shall be appointed by the County Executive as provided in this charter," striking the phrase "Legislature from a panel of three nominees" and retaining the phrase "with the affirmative vote of seven of its members" all in Section 6 on page twelve. The motion passed by a voice vote.*

*Greg Grounds asked if there were any other items for discussion. There were none.*

*Scott Burnett resumed the Chair and asked Dan Tarwater III to talk about The Healing House.*

*Dan Tarwater III, County Legislator, explained that The Healing House is an organization that works with people who have addictions or have been in rehabilitation. They help their clients by providing training, rebuilding houses, helping them move, providing meals and helping them find employment. He said they recently had a fire in their kitchen and although they had insurance, they have a \$5,000.00 deductible. He said they have finished clean up but need money to meet their deductible. Checks for donations should be made payable to The Healing House.*

*Tony Miller, County Legislator, said he had a couple of questions regarding the charter amendments. He asked about the line item veto and why we wanted to get rid of it. He feels it is a way to keep the government working.*

*Greg Grounds replied that the thought is if the County Legislature passes legislation as a body, having one person able to override it is not a good process.*

*Dennis Waits, County Legislator, said it is about having a system of checks and balances between the County Legislature and County Executive.*

*Tony Miller asked if Question 7, which bars a current holder of any federal, state, county or municipal elective office from filing for any County elective office, was legal.*

*Jay Haden replied that his initial reaction was the same as Tony Miller's. However, after one of the associates in the County Counselor's office did some research, he found that this has been litigated in Arizona and also Texas. The general assemblies in those states enacted similar laws, which were upheld at the federal court of appeals level. Some people think it is a good thing. The courts believe it is legal.*

*Greg Grounds explained the reasoning is the incumbency of one office gives an unfair advantage to the candidate.*

**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**

*None.*

**12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

*None.*

**13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**14 NEW BUSINESS**

*None.*

**15 ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dan Tarwater III, seconded by Dennis Waits, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

*Meeting adjourned until Monday, August 13, 2018 at 2:30 P.M. at the Eastern Jackson County Courthouse, 308 W. Kansas, Independence, Missouri, Ground Floor, Legislative Chambers.*