



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

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

**Monday, July 26, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

**Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting**

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

Ronald E. Finley, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

**1 ROLL CALL**

Present 8 - Ronald E. Finley, Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Theresa Cass Galvin

Absent 1 - Dan Tarwater III

**2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Recited.

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

A motion was made by Scott Burnett, seconded by Theresa Cass Galvin to approve the journal of the previous meeting held on July 19, 2021. The motion passed by a voice vote.

**4 HEARINGS**

None.

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

*Frank White, Jr., County Executive, presented Theresa Byrd, Deputy Court Administrator, with a proclamation in honor of her fifty years of service to the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court.*

*Bridgette Shaffer, Director of the Jackson County Health Department, and Lynette Wheeler, Chief Operating Officer for Truman Medical Centers – Lakewood, gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Shaffer said there has been a rapid increase in COVID cases in Eastern Jackson County due to the Delta variant. The data for Jackson County no longer includes the City of Independence as it has re-established its health*

department. The data also does not include the City of Kansas City as it has its own health department as well. Total case numbers in Jackson County since the start of the pandemic are 23,695, with an additional 6,197 probable cases, and 379 deaths. There is an increase in the percentage positivity rate, which has tripled in the last month. The case counts have quadrupled for the same period. The age groups most impacted are the 20 - 24 age range followed by the 15 – 19 years old age range which had higher infection rates in May and June at the end of the school year. These ages have a six to seven times higher case rate than the general population. The Delta variant is a more contagious strain of the virus. The vaccine is the best protection against an infection and the Health Department encourages everyone to get vaccinated. The Health Department recommends that if you are vaccinated and immune compromised, you should wear a mask. If you are not vaccinated you should wear a mask, practice social distancing, and follow hand washing protocols. For all Jackson County residents, 54% are fully vaccinated. For those residents aged 12 – 17, 25% are fully vaccinated and for those aged 20 – 24, 39.8% are fully vaccinated. New vaccinations are stagnant. The vaccination is the best protection against the virus and the County needs residents to get vaccinated to stop the spread of the disease.

Jeanie Lauer, County Legislator, asked if the Health Department has data regarding cases from the different variants of the virus. Ms. Shaffer said the positivity case data they receive does not separate cases by variants.

Jalen Anderson, County Legislator, asked about the County's trajectory going into fall and winter. He asked if case counts will rise when school starts. Ms. Shaffer said they anticipate case numbers will continue to creep up as long as the vaccination rates remain stagnate and if schools do not require students to wear a mask. The Health Department does not have any predictive tools to know what will happen in the future. Mr. Anderson asked about the status of hospital beds. Ms. Wheeler said Truman Medical Centers has beds available and is accepting patients transferred to TMC. The census of patient numbers is increasing, and they have had an increase in COVID cases. The bed occupancy changes hourly but she will supply an update to Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson said many vaccinated people are concerned about becoming a carrier and passing COVID to their children and grandchildren. St. Louis is implementing a mask mandate. We are at a time when it is dangerous and officials running for office are using mask mandates as a political weapon. He said he hopes the Legislature can have these conversations about what can be done to stop the spread of the virus.

*Crystal Williams, County Legislator, said she agrees with Mr. Anderson's sentiments. She said this pandemic is a life or death issue. She asked if the Delta variant is making people sicker. Ms. Shaffer said that Children's Mercy Hospital reports an increase in hospitalizations among children sick with COVID. The Delta variant creates an increased risk.*

*Ronald E. Finley, County Legislator, asked, with respect to the City of Independence reopening its health department, how the case reports are now different. Ms. Shaffer said she will have to check with her team on the reported case rates. For Jackson County to track the trends, they had to remove all City of Independence data from its dashboard to avoid a false report of case rates. The Jackson County Health Department is no longer the owner of the City of Independence data. They work regionally with other health departments on the COVID response. Ms. Shaffer said pulling data from the Kansas City dashboard will include Clay and Platte County. Caleb Clifford, Chief of Staff, said the Administration will make the request to the Cities of Kansas City and Independence to see if the County can get data delineated by areas within Jackson County.*

*Mr. Finley said he would like additional discussion about other steps the County can take to increase vaccination rates and reduce COVID cases, including groups gathering for sporting events at the stadiums. Mr. Clifford said there is no current health order mandate in effect within the County or within the municipalities in our region. The State of Missouri has limited localities from instituting health order mandates. Mr. Finley questioned what the County's responsibility might be in this instance.*

*Crystal Williams said the state has signed orders limiting any health mandates to thirty days. She said we cannot blame those professionals who are trying to handle this situation. Mr. Finley said the County must discuss what remedies we have available. Frank White, Jr., said the Administration is meeting with the stadium personnel. Temperature checks and regular testing of athletes will be instituted. Teams will be required to forfeit games if an unvaccinated player tests positive. The County is setting up plans with local school boards so they can be prepared. Ms. Wheeler said the programs the County adopted for vaccinations and testing are still in place and ongoing. There are resources available and plenty of vaccines by appointment or by walk in. They are also starting to offer pop up locations for vaccines around the County.*

*Jalen Anderson asked if there has been a response about the comments made on national television by the mayor of Kansas City. Mr. White said*

*he is not yet at the point of mandating masks. They are looking at numbers and speaking with school districts and will continue in a recommendation mode. Mr. Anderson asked what would bring the County to the point of a mandate. Mr. White said the case numbers and the recommendation of health officials will direct those decisions. He will not put politics ahead of health safety issues.*

*Niki Lee Donawa, Chief Community Relations Officer for Truman Medical Centers, said community education efforts are the key resource to encouraging people to get the vaccine. She said those hesitant to take the vaccine have genuine fears that must be addressed through education efforts to overcome their concerns with getting vaccinated. TMC takes doctors with them to vaccine events to answer resident's questions and take as much time as a person needs to have their concerns addressed. They realize that when they educate, people will schedule an appointment to be vaccinated.*

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

None.

**7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES**

None.

**8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE**

[20718](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to execute a nine-year lease with Arghom, LLC, of Kansas City, MO, for office space for the State of Missouri Public Defender's Children's Defense Team, at a cost to the County not to exceed \$21,115.00 for 2021.

*(Justice and Law Enforcement Committee - 2nd. Meeting)*

[20722](#) Justice and Law Enforcement Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[20723](#) Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[20724](#) Justice and Law Enforcement Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[20725](#) Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

[20726](#) Public Works Committee moved to adopt. Consent Agenda.

**9 CONSENT AGENDA**

[20722](#) A RESOLUTION transferring \$28,848.00 within the 2021 Sheriff Revolving Fund to cover the cost of a replacement HVAC split system unit at the Sheriff's Office General Headquarters.

(ADOPTED)

[20724](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a twelve-month term and supply contract for the furnishing of surplus liquidation and/or auction service and related services for use by the Sheriff's Office to PropertyRoom.com, of Frederick, Maryland, under the terms and conditions of the Sourcewell Contract No. 012821-PRC, an existing government contract, at no cost to the County.

(ADOPTED)

[20725](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a contract for the furnishing of a fire notification and smoke control system at the downtown Jackson County Courthouse to Johnson Controls of Lenexa, KS, and Simplex Grinnell of Westminster, MA, under the terms and conditions set forth in the Sourcewell Contract No. 031517-SGL, an existing competitively bid government contract, at a total cost to the County not to exceed \$1,114,914.00.

(ADOPTED)

[20726](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the Director of Finance and Purchasing to execute an amendment to the contract with SFS Architecture of Kansas City, MO, for additional architecture and engineering services in connection with renovations at the downtown courthouse, at a cost to the County not to exceed \$58,500.00.

(ADOPTED)

*Resolutions #20722, #20723, #20724, #20725, and #20726 were moved to the Consent Agenda for adoption.*

A motion was made by Theresa Cass Galvin, seconded by Jalen Anderson, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 8 - Ronald E. Finley, Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Theresa Cass Galvin

Absent: 1 - Dan Tarwater III

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

*None.*

**11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE**[20727](#)

Declaring certain vehicles and equipment items within various County departments as surplus and unusable personal property and authorizing their disposal by way of auction.

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

[20728](#)

Transferring \$174,250.00 within the 2021 General Fund to cover an unanticipated budgetary shortfall within the Jackson County Family Court's natural gas account.

*(Assigned to the Budget Committee.)*

[20729](#)

Awarding a contract for the furnishing of a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor SUV for use by the Sheriff's Office to Joe Machens Ford/Lincoln of Columbia, MO, under the terms and conditions of State of Missouri Contract No. CC210416003, an existing competitively bid government contract, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$34,968.00.

*(Assigned to the Justice and Law Enforcement Committee.)*

**12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

*None.*

**13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ronald E. Finley asked for an update to the fleet management program to be scheduled next week.

**14 NEW BUSINESS**

Jalen Anderson expressed concerns about the handling of tenants at the mobile home park where the new detention center will be located. He said he does not think the County should be charging tenants rent during the transition period. He also expressed concerns about using an associate at the mobile home park as a translator while the employee was on vacation. He asked about the involvement of JCDC Partners on the transition period at the park.

Tony Miller, County Legislator, said he has concerns about a "one size fits all" policy on the relocation of tenants at the mobile home park. Frank White, Jr., said all interactions and discussions with the tenants are flexible and will be handled on an individual, case-by-case basis. It is a priority to provide whatever needs to be done to relocate tenants.

**15     ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Theresa Cass Galvin, seconded by Scott Burnett, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

*The next legislative meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.*