

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

June 5, 2023
Work Session
Jefferson County Administration Center, Hillsboro, MO
Assembly Room
Page 1 of 4

The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council conducted a Work Session on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Jefferson County Administration Center, located at 729 Maple Street, Hillsboro, Missouri.

I. CALL TO ORDER

County Council Chair Charles Groeteke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited

III. ROLL CALL

District 1- Brian Haskins:	Absent
District 2 – Gene Barbagallo	Present
District 3 – Shannon Otto:	Present
District 4 - Charles Groeteke:	Present
District 5 - Scott Seek:	Present
District 6 - Dan Stallman:	Present
District 7 – Bob Tullock:	Present

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilman Bob Tullock made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Otto.

Vote:

District 1 - Council Member Haskins:	Absent
District 2 - Council Member Barbagallo	Yes
District 3 - Council Member Otto:	Yes
District 4 - Council Member Groeteke:	Yes
District 5 - Council Member Seek:	Yes
District 6 - Council Member Stallman:	Yes
District 7 - Council Member Tullock:	Yes

Motion carried.

V. COUNTY BUSINESS

- Councilman Tullock passed out handouts involving the following topics:
 - Budget
 - Amendments to Rules Procedure
 - Equine Ordinance
 - Nuisance Properties
 - Amendment of Charter Discussion

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

June 5, 2023
Work Session
Jefferson County Administration Center, Hillsboro, MO
Assembly Room
Page 2 of 4

A. Budget Discussion

Councilman Tullock mentioned the County does not have access to the FMS System and asked if the County Council does. Assistant County Counselor Jason Cordes stated the Council's Executive Assistant, has access and if the Council had any questions, they could contact her. County Executive Gannon stated the Council was provided with a budget and receives a monthly summary from the Treasure. Mr. Tullock agreed but said the details regarding the budget are on FMS. Mr. Tullock asked if the Council is allowed independent access to the FMS System. Mr. Gannon stated he was not sure but will find out. Other Council Members were also interested with getting access to FMS.

Councilman Tullock mentioned Section 7.1 of the Charter allows the Council to change the fiscal year by an Ordinance. He spoke about possibly moving the end of a fiscal year from December 31 to March 31. This would allow new Council Members to be involved with making budget decisions and having budget discussions in a month without so many holidays. Councilman Seek stated the Council should also look at October as another option for the end of fiscal year and see which date would work best for the Council and the Administration. Mr. Tullock asked what the process would be if the Council decides to change the fiscal year. Counselor Kuenzel stated she would look into it.

Councilman Groetke requested that budget dates be given to the Council ahead of time so they can plan their schedules to be able to attend them. Executive Gannon stated that he, the Auditor, and his Assistant were already working on dates to meet with the department heads. Mr. Gannon also said budget discussions are typically two days a week, beginning September and October.

Councilman Tullock spoke regarding the Jail and Courthouse and asked Executive Gannon if anything had been addressed regarding them. Executive Gannon stated the Crime Lab is currently being worked on and mentioned an estimated cost for both a Courthouse and Jail is around one hundred and fifty million dollars. Mr. Tullock stated he had spoken with some of the other Councilmembers and suggested to have across the board cut of 5 % to start a fund allocation for the Courthouse and Jail. Assistant Counselor Cordes spoke about the issues with this when it comes to cutting someone's pay. Councilman Tullock stated it would be a cut for each line item, it would be a cut for each department. Discussions ensued regarding where funds would come from for a Courthouse and Jail and how it would be paid back.

B. Amendments To The Rules Of Procedure

Councilman Tullock spoke about the Rules Committee and went over potential changes the Committee would like to be taken into consideration. Councilman Groetke stated the current Rules of Procedure is parallel to what the Charter states and at the present time he feels the Council should stick with the way it is written. Councilman Seek stated he is more concerned with efficiency and thinks by upgrading the technology it would probably fix the problem of getting information in a timelier manner for the Council Meetings. Councilman Tullock suggested changing the Council Meeting day, from Monday to Tuesday, to help allow more time for the Council to review information on the Agenda. Councilman Groetke stated some Councilmembers already have their schedules set for Monday meetings and didn't have interest in changing the day. Executive Gannon stated he had asked both Mr. Groetke and Mr. Tullock if they would not make any quick decisions regarding changing the Rules of Procedure until the new County Counselor had a chance to settle in. Mr. Gannon also mentioned again about the new process being implemented and feels it would be worth it for the Council to wait before making changes to the Rules of Procedure, which may not be needed.

Councilman Tullock spoke about having a short description added to each Bill explaining what the Bill is about. Executive Gannon asked if in addition to the documents on Laserfiche they are also requesting to have a summary for each Bill. Mr. Tullock explained it would be easier to read through a short description of a Bill to see which Bills might need to be looked at in more depth.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

June 5, 2023
Work Session
Jefferson County Administration Center, Hillsboro, MO
Assembly Room
Page 3 of 4

C. Equine Ordinance

Councilman Tullock spoke about a proposed ordinance amendment to be the Equine Ordinance saying that “Any and all equine activity used for commercial purposes or in parks with less than 20 contiguous acres is hereby prohibited in and within Jefferson County, Missouri, parks, roads and trail systems”. Several of Mr. Tullock’s constituents in District 7 have expressed concern that they would like to see the Equine Ordinance changed and Mr. Tullock would like for the Council to consider the change. Councilman Seek stated he would support this amendment. Councilman Groetke asked if the County Counselor would look over the amendment and provide some guidance. Counselor Kuenzel responded she would.

D. SB 190 Ordinance

Councilman Groetke informed the Council that the Missouri Senate passed Senate Bill 190 and read the Bill. Mr. Groetke mentioned the Senate Bill can be put on a ballot or it can be voted into Ordinance by the Council by passing a Bill. He said it was his understanding that the Governor is supposed to sign the Bill into law sometime this month and would like to have something prepared for when it is signed. County Collector Michelle Worth stated she had sent an email to the County Councilmembers that explains the issues with the way the Senate Bill is written. She mentioned there is a lot of unknown right now with this Bill, because they do not know the way it is going to be implemented. Executive Gannon also spoke about issues with the Senate Bill. Counselor Kuenzel said she felt they should wait on doing anything until the Governor signs it and then proceed from there. Mr. Groetke agreed.

E. Nuisance Properties Discussion

Councilman Tullock stated a major complaint he has from residents his district are nuisance properties. Mr. Tullock provided pictures to the Council showing some nuisance properties in his district. When someone submits a complaint on our website and the complaint is sent to another department our website shows the complaint as closed instead of saying a file has been generated and is in process. When the public sees the complaint showing closed and nothing has been done, it is very confusing. Mr. Tullock reached out to Planning & Zoning Director Dennis Kehm who told him there are around six hundred to eight hundred open violations. Mr. Kehm said what would be helpful is if the Council would allow us to have an expedited dangerous removal process. Assistant County Counselor Tom Duggan stated the Prosecutor’s Office does aggressively prosecute these, however there are steps that must be done before someone is prosecuted.

F. Road Tax Agreement Discussion

Councilman Groetke mentioned there are sixteen different road taxing districts the county maintains money for. Mr. Groetke has asked the Administration for guidance and if the County can charge a fee for administering these funds to help recoup the time and manpower that goes into the administration for the road tax collection. Executive Gannon stated Road Tax Agreement was authorized in 1986. There is a fifteen-year window that this was approved for. We are in year seven of the second fifteen-year window and have eight more years before it will sunset again. The document signed by the fifteen cities indicate they can be reimbursed but does not indicate the County can take money from them. Mr. Gannon stated the Administration is still researching this.

G. Amendment Of Charter Discussion

Councilman Groetke stated it has been said the Charter will never be amended, but if you read the Charter, it explains the proper way to amend it. Mr. Groetke mentioned he thinks the County Council should appoint a Charter Commission in 2028. Councilman Tullock asked if the Council wanted to amend the Charter before 2028 what would the process be. Executive Gannon suggested it might be beneficial to start making a list of changes the Council wants to be considered, instead of looking at changes one item at a time. Several Councilmembers gave their thoughts and suggestions regarding amending the Charter.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

June 5, 2023
Work Session
Jefferson County Administration Center, Hillsboro, MO
Assembly Room
Page 4 of 4

H. Marijuana Tax Discussion

Councilman Groeteke mentioned the Council agreed not to move forward with the Marijuana Tax since we were not prepared to put it on the August ballot. Mr. Groeteke stated he would like to move forward with some legislation so the Council can have this put on a ballot for the election in November. Counselor Kuenzel said she would investigate this and see if there is something we can do. Councilman Tullock mentioned while he was at the MAC Conference one of his goals was to learn more about marijuana tax. Mr. Tullock was referred to Tom Robbins, a lobbyist for Jefferson County, who had a wealth of knowledge about this the topic.

I. Proposed Legislation

Councilman Groeteke mentioned at recent Council Meetings Councilmembers have proposed Legislation at the last minute. Mr. Groeteke suggested if a Councilmember has proposed Legislation, they want brought forward to put it in writing, so the Councilmembers can read it. He also suggests proposed Legislation be brought forward at a Work Session, rather than a Council Meeting, so it may be amended if needed. This would make it a longer process but would give Councilmembers more time to understand what they are voting on, or not voting on.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Tullock made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Seek.

Vote:

District 1 - Council Member Haskins:	Absent
District 2 - Council Member Barbagallo	Yes
District 3 - Council Member Otto:	Yes
District 4 - Council Member Groeteke:	Yes
District 5 - Council Member Seek:	Yes
District 6 - Council Member Stallman:	Yes
District 7 - Council Member Tullock:	Yes

Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.