

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

April 1, 2024
Work Session
Jefferson County Administration Center, Hillsboro, MO
Assembly Room
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The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council conducted a Work Session on Monday, April 1, 2024, 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 - Council Member Haskins:	Absent
District 2 - Council Member Barbagallo:	Present
District 3 – Council Member Mrs. Arons	Present
District 4 - Council Member Groeteke:	Present
District 5 - Council Member Seek:	Present
District 6 - Council Member Stallman:	Present
District 7 - Council Member Tullock	Present

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Gene F. Barbagallo made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Bob Tullock.

Vote:

District 1 - Council Member Haskins:	Absent
District 2 - Council Member Barbagallo:	Yes
District 3 – Council Member Mrs. Arons:	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

A. Stormwater Code Change

County Counselor Jasha Kuenzel provided an update regarding the Stormwater Code Change. She mentioned after speaking with the Director of Administration and the County Executive, regarding the fee increase, she stated the increase will be made over a two-year period. This part of the code will be redrafted to state this change and that there may be more changes that might emerge out of discussions with the County Executive and Director of Administration. Ms. Kuenzel said she will keep the Council updated and hopefully will have a draft to give them soon.

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B. Boards & Commission Discussion

Councilman Bob Tullock stated he was contacted regarding an issue in the Jefferson County Sewer District. When Mr. Tullock went on our website to see who to contact, some of the Board members were no longer valid or there were vacancies. Mr. Tullock asked if some of the Boards & Commissions are still needed, and if so, what is being done to fill the vacancies. Counselor Kuenzel stated she had discussed this subject with Executive Gannon and wanted to let the Council know some of the Boards & Commissions are required by State statute. Councilwoman Arons requested a list showing which Boards & Commissions are State mandated. Executive Gannon mentioned some Boards & Commissions only meet as needed, an example of this is the Board of Building Appeals.

C. County Council Term Limit Discussion

Councilman Seek mentioned proposing an amendment to the Home Rule Charter of Jefferson to establish term limits for the Jefferson County Council and the Executive of Jefferson County and having it placed on the November 5th, 2024, general election ballot. This would become effective January 1st, 2025. Mr. Seek stated having term limits would encourage other citizens to possibly run. He also mentioned this would establish a term limit of twelve years for the offices of the Council, with an allowance up to sixteen years if including an appointed portion of the term and would put a term limit of sixteen years, or four terms, for the County Executive. Questions were asked from the Council, with Councilman Seek responding.

Councilman Tullock handed out an attendance log to each of the Councilmembers showing what days each Councilmember had missed a regular Council Meeting. He stated they are all paid the same no matter how many meetings they attend and suggested this information should be made available to the Public. Mr. Tullock mentioned if there is an amendment made to the Charter that it be to establish a minimum number of meetings that must be attended.

Counselor Kuenzel stated most elections are going to term limits. The question is do you want to self-impose this, or this is something you want the people to decide. All of you are elected by the people and it is up to the people not to elect you if you are not attending meetings.

D. Council Working Legislation

- Squatter Legislation

Councilman Groeteke stated he has been working with the County Counselor's Office, the Sheriff, and others regarding this topic. Mr. Groeteke provided copies to the Council of legislation presented by the Florida House of Representatives that was passed and put into law by the Governor of Florida. Mr. Groeteke stated there is also legislation pending, regarding squatters, in both Georgia and New York. Mr. Groeteke said he would like to do something about this issue to help our homeowners. Counselor Kuenzel mentioned she has also looked into this and stated there is such a thing called squatters rights and explained what this means. Ms. Kuenzel said the legislation should come from the State, just as the other legislations have. Mr. Groeteke asked if we could pass a Resolution to send to the Governor and other elected officials, requesting they act on this, before it becomes an issue in this State. Counselor Kuenzel stated she did not see why they would not be able to do this and would also encourage anyone who is concerned with this issue to call their State Legislature.

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VI. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Tullock made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Stallman.

Vote:

District 1 - Council Member Haskins:	Absent
District 2 - Council Member Barbagallo	Yes
District 3 – Council Member Mrs. Arons:	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 7:41 p.m.