

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

October 7, 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, October 7, 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:	Absent
District 6 - Council Member Brown:	Present
District 7 - Council Member Tullock	Present

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Vote:

District 1 - Council Member Haskins:	Absent
District 2 - Council Member Barbagallo:	Present
District 3 – Council Member Mrs. Arons:	Yes
District 4 - Council Member Groeteke:	Yes
District 5 - Council Member Seek:	Absent
District 6 - Council Member Brown:	Yes
District 7 - Council Member Tullock:	Yes

Motion carried.

V. COUNTY BUSINESS

A. Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD)

Ms. Peggy Ladd introduced herself as a local farmer from De Soto, Missouri who raises bison. She is also the Chair for the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, (JCSWCD). Ms. Ladd stated the County each year gives JCSWCD \$5000 from the budget which helps with things they might not have been able to do. A few of these programs are outreach programs for irrigation systems, cover crops, grazing programs. She thanked the County for its assistance and looks forward to a continued relationship. Ms. Ladd gave an overview of what JCSWCD does and mentioned last year they assisted over \$51,000, saved from almost 4,000 tons of soil going into the water systems; almost all of this soil was topsoil. Several questions were asked by the Council with Ms. Ladd responding.

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B. Jefferson County Port Authority (JCPA)

Director Jim McNichols spoke about the recent announcement regarding the purchase of eighteen riverfront acres and the ongoing commercial entity known as Riverview Commerce Park, LLC and how it has given us the chance to highlight other essential infrastructure projects. Mr. McNichols gave an overview of the Port Authority and spoke about some exciting opportunities happening in the Herculaneum, in terms of economic development and jobs. Each Councilmember in attendance was provided with a packet from the JCPA. Mr. McNichols went over the packet, explaining what they have done so far and what they would like to still do. Mr. McNichols gave several examples of benefits the port will provide to Jefferson County.

C. Code Commission

Councilman Bob Tullock stated he had started looking into the Charter and the Code and feels some areas are being under-utilized, such as the Code Commission. Mr. Tullock read the information he found researching what the Code Commission does, and the benefits they offer to Jefferson County. He stated he now understands the role of the Code Commission, but stated he doesn't understand why we do not have the members we are required by the Charter. County Executive Dennis Gannon stated the County website has information regarding the different Boards & Commissions and the vacancies they have.

Counselor Jasha Kuenzel mentioned our Code Commission has two main areas. The first main area involves a model code set nationally by the International Code Council, (ICC). This model code determines where our codes come from. The Jefferson County Code Commission meets any time the ICC has a code change, (normally every 3 years), or more often if there are changes earlier with the code. This helps keep the codes in Jefferson County in accordance with the ICC codes. The second main area is the authority to hear and to turn violations of the codes. Director of Code Enforcement, Mitch Bair, stated the Code Commission also acts as an appeal body. If there is a dispute on how the Code is interpreted and implied, or if there is a dispute on an inspection then an appeal will be filed, and it will go to the Code Commission. In the past year there has not been any appeals. Discussions and questions ensued between the Councilmembers and Staff.

D. Senior Citizen Tax Credit Update

Councilman Tullock said he has been receiving calls from the residents in his district asking for an update on the Jefferson County Senior Citizen Tax Credit. Executive Gannon showed where the information could be found on the Jefferson County website, as well as where to find Frequently Asked Question, regarding the tax credit. Counselor Kuenzel stated the Collector's Office will be including an insert regarding the tax freeze when they mail the Real Estate and Property Tax bills.

E. Apprenticeship Requirements

Councilman Tullock mentioned he has spoken with a number of people over the last few months, one of the conversations concerned a development near Highway MM. They said there were a lot of issues with some of the employees doing the work. The issues they had were the different skill levels the workers of each field had. Mr. Tullock asked if the County could consider drafting something legislatively regarding County projects over certain size, then later private developments over a certain size. Mr. Tullock mentioned the two stages to be considered is to have an apprenticeship program on both public projects, and potentially later on private developments.

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Counselor Kuenzel asked Mr. Tullock if this would be for a bidding process. Mr. Tullock said it would be for a bidding process and provided some examples. Mrs. Kuenzel asked where Mr. Tullock found the information and was told he found it on the States website. Mrs. Kuenzel she would look into it and get back to the Council.

F. Budget Options for the Council

Councilman Tullock mention last year was his first year going formally through the Budget process. Because it was his first time, he did not know what options the Council had. Mr. Tullock said since there is so much to review for the Budget, he would like to see about changing the fiscal year. Councilman Groeteke said he agreed with Mr. Tullock but would like to have the Administration see what issues, changing the Budget schedule might cause. Executive Gannon said the Auditor, Kristy Apprill, is going to have Council Members see her, (three at a time), to go over the 2025 Budget. Mr. Gannon also mentioned out of 114 Counties in Missouri, 17 are first class Counties, (including Jefferson County), which follow the calendar year for the budget process. Counselor Kunzel stated one of the biggest hurdles, to change when the budget is done, is the way the Charter is written. Councilwoman Lori Arons, and Councilman Tim Brown, gave their opinions regarding when the Budget will be done.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

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:	Absent
District 6 - Council Member Brown:	Yes
District 7 - Council Member Tullock:	Yes

Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.