

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI – JOURNAL

December 8, 2025
Regular Meeting
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The Jefferson County, Missouri, County Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025, at Regular Meeting in the Assembly Room of the Jefferson County Administration Center, located at 729 Maple Street, Hillsboro, Missouri.

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

County Executive Dennis Gannon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. **INVOCATION**

Council Member Billy Crow Jr. gave the Invocation.

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge by Greater St. Louis Area Scouting

The Boy Scouts of Greater St. Louis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Executive Dennis Gannon honored the Veterans and active military by asking them to stand and be recognized for their service.

IV. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins
Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow
Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons
Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke
Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek
Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown
Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

Absent:

V. **PROCLAMATIONS**

Proclamation Honoring Scouting For Food 40th Anniversary

Executive Gannon presented a proclamation honoring the Boy Scouts 40th Anniversary of Scouting for Food.

VI. **REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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District 1 - Councilman Brian Haskins:

Mentioned approximately 60 years ago he started camping at Beaumont and shared a story of an experience he had while cooking pork and beans. Mr. Haskins thanked the Boy Scouts for being at the Council meeting.

District 2 - Councilman Billy Crow Jr.:

Last week's EDOC meeting, regarding Data Centers, was very productive and if you were not able to come, the video is available on the County's website. The next Council's EDOC Meeting will be on December 10th, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Crow reminded everyone it is the Holiday Season and to be responsible, arrive alive, and have a designated driver.

District 3 - Councilwoman Lori Arons:

Mention she saw a very serious accident while she was driving to the meeting tonight. Her thoughts and prayers are with all involved in the accident.

Last Saturday Arnold had their third annual Christmas in the Park.

District 4 - Councilman Charles Groeteke:

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday.

District 5 - Councilman Scott Seek:

No comments.

District 6 - Councilman Tim Brown:

De Soto Christmas Parade was this past Saturday and was well attended.

This Saturday is Hillsboro's Christmas Parade.

District 7 - Councilman Bob Tullock:

Stated he was a Boy Scout (Troop # 325), before there were iPhones, PCs, video games and cable.

There was an Opioid Settlement Funds Committee Meeting last week.

Included in tonight's agenda is Bill No. 25-12334 for the Rockford Park agreement.

This Bill will address the park problems.

Attended a Jeffco Trail Riders Award Banquet.

Acknowledged and remembered those who sacrificed their lives on December 7, 1941.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Douglas Bjornstad of Jefferson County Sewer District, 4629 Yeager Road, Hillsboro, stated he was at the meeting on behalf of Clyde Pratt and David Keeley, and said he strongly recommends their reappointment to the board of trustees to the Jefferson County Sewer District.

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Mr. Alan Leaderbrand, 5062 Romaine Spring Drive, Fenton, mentioned he had some questions regarding Bill No. 25-12336. Executive Gannon asked Counselor Kuenzel to verify, since there had already been a hearing for this, the only information we can take is if someone is in favor of or in opposition to the Bill. Mr. Leaderbrand said he thought since the original Bill had been voted down he could still comment on the amended one. Mr. Leaderbrand stated the Charter was not being followed.

Mr. Adam Baer of the Rowles Company, 2200 Barrett Station Road, Ballwin, stated he is in favor of Liguori Bluffs and that he is here to answer any questions.

VIII. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to remove Bill No. 25-12334 and place it under Consideration of Items Removed from the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Council Member Charles Groeteke made a motion to Remove Bill No. 25-12324 from the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

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

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Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Approval of the November 17, 2025, Journal – Budget Work Session.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to approve the Journal of the November 17, 2025, Budget Work Session meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

XI. REPORTS FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Executive Gannon stated on November 1st, the Council was provided a balanced budget for the year 2026. The method used in determining the anticipated revenues was based on past trends and practical applications from previous experience. At the last Council Meeting, we were unable to pass the proposed budget. This past Friday he met with Council Chair Tullock, Vice Chair Brown and Councilman Groeteke. Mr. Gannon stated he believes we have a compromise moving forward and is optimistic the proposed budget amendment could be approved.

Mr. Gannon said he received notice today that the State of Missouri will be closing December 26, 2025, (the Friday after Christmas), and he would like to follow suit and

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close the County Offices for that day. If no objection from the County Council, I would then move forward to close the buildings.

XII. RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS

None.

XIII. CONSIDERATION OF VETOED BILLS

None.

XIV. CONSENT AGENDA

Bill No. 25-12323 - An Ordinance To Authorize Jefferson County To Reimburse The City of Crystal City, Missouri Under The Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement For The One-Half Of One Percent (1/2 Of 1%) Road Improvement Sales Tax For The Purpose Of Capital Improvements To The Publicly Maintained Roads Of Jefferson County.

Bill No. 25-12324 - An Ordinance Renewing The Bid Awards For Certain Products And Services For Health Care Services - Jail 2021, Department Of The Sheriff. PULLED

Bill No. 25-12325 - An Ordinance Awarding Bids For Certain Products And Services To The Lowest And Best Bidders As Reflected In The Responses To Certain Invitations For Bid And Requests For Proposal for Uniform Rental and Laundry Services 2025; And Authorization For The County Executive To Execute Any Necessary Agreements Or Contracts To Effectuate The Award Of The Bids And Proposals.

Bill No. 25-12326 - An Ordinance Approving an Agreement Between Jefferson County, Missouri, Department Of Information Technologies And Mitchell Humphrey For The Annual Maintenance For FMS-Datalink, FMS-REports, ASK FMS, FMS-CashTrack, FMS Info Link And FMS ELINK And Authorizing The County Executive To Execute The Agreement On Behalf Of The County.

Bill No. 25-12327 - An Ordinance Awarding Bids For Certain Products And Services To The Lowest And Best Bidders As Reflected In The Responses To Certain Invitations For Bid And Requests For Proposal for Paper Supplies 2026; And Authorization For The County Executive To Execute Any Necessary Agreements Or Contracts To Effectuate The Award Of The Bids And Proposals.

Bill No. 25-12328 - An Ordinance Awarding Bids For Certain Products And Services To The Lowest And Best Bidders As Reflected In The Responses To

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Certain Invitations For Bid And Requests For Proposal for Office Supplies 2026; And Authorization For The County Executive To Execute Any Necessary Agreements Or Contracts To Effectuate The Award Of The Bids And Proposals.

Bill No. 25-12329 - An Ordinance Awarding Bids For Certain Products And Services To The Lowest And Best Bidders As Reflected In The Responses To Certain Invitations For Bid And Requests For Proposal for Copier Supplies 2026; And Authorization For The County Executive To Execute Any Necessary Agreements Or Contracts To Effectuate The Award Of The Bids And Proposals.

Bill No. 25-12330 - An Ordinance Approving Addendum Six To The Service Contract Between Jefferson County, Missouri, And The Regional Justice Information System Commission (REJIS), For The Intern Staffing Support, And Authorizing The County Executive To Execute The Addendum And To Execute Other Necessary Authorizing Agreements Or Documents To Effectuate This Amendment Of The Service Contract.

Bill No. 25-12331 - An Ordinance Approving Addendum Seven To The Service Contract Between Jefferson County, Missouri, And The Regional Justice Information System Commission (REJIS), To Enter Into REJIS Managed IT Services (RMIS), And Authorizing The County Executive To Execute The Addendum And To Execute Other Necessary Authorizing Agreements Or Documents To Effectuate This Amendment Of The Service Contract.

Bill No. 25-12332 - An Ordinance To Authorize Jefferson County To Reimburse The Town of Scotsdale, Missouri Under The Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement For The One-Half Of One Percent (1/2 Of 1%) Road Improvement Sales Tax For The Purpose Of Capital Improvements To The Publicly Maintained Roads Of Jefferson County.

Bill No. 25-12333 - An Ordinance Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) Between Jefferson County, Missouri, And The Jefferson County Emergency Services Training Academy Regarding The Provision Of Financial Support To The Academy For Hazardous Materials Training And Authorizing The County Executive To Execute the MOU On Behalf Of The County.

Bill No. 25-12334 - An Ordinance Authorizing The County Executive Of Jefferson County, Missouri To Enter Into And Execute An Agreement With U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service For The F25AS00282 National Fish Passage Program FY25 Funding Opportunity For The Dam Located Adjacent To Rockford Park In District 7.

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Council Member, Bob Tullock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended and in its entirety, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Council Member Charles Groteke stated he had a question involving Bill No's 25-12327, 25-12328 and 25-12329 that he had asked prior to the meeting regarding how many letters are mailed out to these vendors to make sure everyone is notified of what we have out for bid. He wanted to know if it was necessary to mail all the bids out by U.S. Mail, which has gotten increasingly more expensive, and instead can they be sent out electronically. Administration Director David Courtway said he would research it, and we are always looking for ways to save money.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

XV. **CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Bill No. 25-12334 - An Ordinance Authorizing The County Executive Of Jefferson County, Missouri To Enter Into And Execute An Agreement With U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service For The F25AS00282 National Fish Passage Program FY25 Funding Opportunity For The Dam Located Adjacent To Rockford Park In District 7. (Parks)

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to introduce and read Bill No. 25-12334, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Tullock read the Bill by title.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion that Bill No. 25-12334 be approved and finally passed, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Council Member Tullock thanked both Council Member Groeteke and Council Member Haskins for their help with working on this.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

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No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

XVI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R25-12105 - A Resolution And Order Of The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council To Approve The Nomination And Reappointment Of Johnathan Sparks (District 3) For Jefferson County Planning And Zoning Commission Of Jefferson County, Missouri, And Terms Thereof.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to read Resolution No. R25-12105 on its first and only reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Resolution.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R25-12105 on its first and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groetke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Resolution No. R25-12106 - A Resolution And Order Of The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council To Approve The Nomination And Reappointment Of Ted Ramsdell (D) To The Jefferson County Port Authority, Jefferson County, Missouri, And Terms Thereof.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to read Resolution No. R25-12106 on its first and only reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Resolution.

Council Member Seek explained to the Boy Scouts, who were still at the meeting, the process for appointing or reappointing members to the different Boards and Commissions in Jefferson County.

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Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R25-12106 on its first and final reading, seconded by Council Member Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Resolution No. R25-12107 - A Resolution And Order Of The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council To Consent To The Reappointment Of Cara Pellerin By The Jefferson County, Missouri, County Executive To The Jefferson County Developmental Disability Advocates And Term Thereof.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to read Resolution No. R25-12107 on its first and only reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Resolution.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R25-12107 on its first and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Resolution No. R25-12108 - A Resolution And Order Of The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council To Consent To The Nomination And Reappointment Of Andrew Sides (Sheriff Department Representative) To The Public Safety Commission, Jefferson County, Missouri, And Terms Thereof.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to read Resolution No. R25-12108 on its first and only reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons;

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Council Member Bob Tullock read the Resolution.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R25-12108 on its first and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Resolution No. R25-12109 - A Resolution And Order Of The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council To Consent To The Nomination And Reappointment Of Clyde Pratt To The Jefferson County Public Sewer District Board Of Trustees, Jefferson County, Missouri, And Terms Thereof.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to read Resolution No. R25-12109 on its first and only reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Resolution.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R25-12109 on its first and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Resolution No. R25-12110 - A Resolution And Order Of The Jefferson County, Missouri, Council To Consent To The Nomination And Reappointment Of David Keeley To The Jefferson County Public Sewer District Board Of Trustees, Jefferson County, Missouri, And Terms Thereof.

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Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to read Resolution No. R25-12110 on its first and only reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Resolution.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R25-12110 on its first and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

XVII. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 25-12335 - An Ordinance Approving And Adopting The Jefferson County, Missouri, Emergency Operations Plan As Prepared By The Jefferson County Public Safety Commission.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to introduce Bill No. 25-12335 by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Bill by Title.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to approve Bill No. 25-12335 and move to Perfection, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Bill No. 25-12336 - An Ordinance Approving The Budget For Fiscal Year 2026 And For The Appropriation Of Funds Therein, Transferring Unencumbered Fund Balances

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And Providing For A "COLA" As Set Forth Herein.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to introduce Bill No. 25-12336 by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Bill by Title.

Council Member Charles Groeteke made a motion to amend Bill No. 25-12336, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; County Council Member Charles Groeteke read the following statement regarding the budget process:

“I would like to thank the members of the County Council who actively examined the 428 page Budget Document that was presented to the Council on October 31st, 2025. Councilmember Brown has provided a fresh set of eyes on this document. The exhibit B tonight is not the same document that was presented on October 31st.

The budget for Jefferson County Government is one of the most important issues that this body votes on. In my terms on this Council the budget for the County has always been for me a difficult issue and continues to be.

As a layperson with limited government accounting experience and given the complexity of this document, it continually leads to a lot of questions in a very compressed timeframe. The constant changing of members of your Council thru resignations and elections also increases the difficulty for members to get up to speed on the finances of the county.

I have asked for years for better communications from the administration to the council about budget matters during the calendar year as this body, the county council, retains the appropriation power for the County finances.

*This is the “**The power of the purse.**” and it rests solely on this body.*

After many years of trying, this year I thought this would happen. Unfortunately, it did not. This has led to a conflict between Council members and the administration about process, expenditures, information and the budget itself.

I have been promised that meetings will be scheduled to inform, educate and communicate the expenditures and the financial position of the County to your County Council throughout the 2026 Calendar year. This will hopefully improve the process, clarify expenditures, and add information so that this body can make the best-informed decisions for the people of Jefferson County.

Mr. Groeteke thanked the Council, who actively examined the 428-page document that was presented to the Council on October 31st. ”

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No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Council Member Tim Brown made a motion to amend Bill No. 25-12336 A1, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Tim Brown read amendment A2 for Bill No. 25-12336:

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to approve Bill No. 25-12336, Amendments A1 and A2, seconded by Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons. Council Member Tim Brown read the following statement regarding the budget process:

To make progress, we must not only recognize the good but be willing to do the same for the bad and the ugly, no matter how uncomfortable it may be.

When I'm asked about what I know of the budget, I want to be able to respond that I've reviewed it, questioned it, requested to amend it, and identified opportunities to improve the process.

I want to share some observations about this year's budget process—not to assign blame, but because I believe we have an opportunity to make next year's process more transparent, more collaborative, and more faithful to the Charter we all swore to uphold.

1. The 2026 Proposed Budget submitted October 31 (§ 7.2.2 & § 7.2.4)

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The Charter seems to be clear: the County Executive must submit a single, complete, detailed proposed budget on or before November 1. That document is what triggers our review, amendment authority, and the public hearing process.

This year we received the summary version on October 31 and a materially different line-item detail book weeks later. In my opinion, the detailed version is the one that more closely satisfies the Charter's requirement to "show in detail ... all proposed expenditures ... by organizational unit and program, purpose or activity."

The summary version does not do this.

I also note that the Charter allows the Council to require the form we desire. We have asked for more detail in the past; unfortunately, the same summary format was used again this year. This is a key area that we want to improve upon before the next budget cycle.

2. Comparative Data (§ 7.2.4)

The Charter requires the proposed budget to include comparative figures for the prior and current years. The summary book does this at a high level, but the detailed line-item book - the one we use in our work sessions to see all expenditures in detail - contains no expenditure comparatives. That makes historical trend analysis extremely difficult and, in my view, falls short of the Charter's intent. Improving this will help to ensure the Council has more data at its fingertips instead of relying on historical documentation to manually compile and compare the data, much of which newer Council members may not have available.

3. Discrepancies Between the Two Versions

When comparing the two books side-by-side, I found estimates or calculation differences in several areas. I brought these to the Auditor's attention and was later informed that the November 1 version (the one attached to the original budget bill and posted for the public) was incorrect and that the line item detail book was accurate and reflected the current amounts that are requested for 2026. A revised proposed budget has now been posted to correct this mistake but has created some confusion within the community as to what was changed. I think this is another reason to include the line item detail and comparative data in the official proposed budget as it makes the budget process more transparent to our constituents.

4. Use of Reserve Funds to Balance the Budget (§ 7.2.5)

Section 7.2.5 requires that proposed expenditures not exceed estimated revenues plus fund balances carried forward exclusive of reserves. I note this because it raises questions and warrants careful review. The 2026 budget proposal includes a nearly \$3 million revenue line titled "Reserve Funds" to achieve balance budget. The use of reserves in calculating revenue isn't a new practice, but when reading the Charter section in plain language, it may create an inconsistency. I am not declaring it illegal - only that legal clarification should be sought before we rely on the practice again.

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5. Public Notice Posting (§ 7.2.6)

The Charter requires the budget summary be posted in a public place in each of the seven Council Districts and on a County sponsored web page on the Internet at least ten days before the hearing. Last year, it was noted that the posting location used for District 6 was no longer within the district boundaries after the redistricting. That same out-of-district location was used again this year. In my opinion, this places us out of technical compliance with the Charter. The budget bill states that all seven districts were properly posted and so I will introduce an amendment to correct that. I have been informed by the Administration that a new district 6 location has been identified which should resolve this matter going forward.

6. Default Mechanism & Appropriations (§ 7.2.8 vs. § 7.2.9)

There are perhaps differing opinions regarding what happens if no budget ordinance is adopted by December 31. The Charter contains a default action for budget approval in this scenario. Section 7.2.9 separately requires the Council to enact an appropriations ordinance to implement the budget. I believe budget approval and budget appropriations are intended to be two separate and distinct legislative acts with appropriations having no default action defined in the Charter but rather falling to statutes which provide for operations and maintenance of items and amounts from the previous budget year but not for the full budget. If the clock can simply be run out in order to receive both budget approval and full appropriations, the Council's "power of the purse" would be substantially diminished. That outcome seems inconsistent with the separation of powers structure in Article II of the Charter.

7. Collaboration & Communication

Finally, a few process observations:

- We had agreed last year that the proposed budget would be provided earlier than the mandated deadline; perhaps a month earlier; it's what was stated. That did not occur.*
- Many questions raised in the work session and on the follow-up document and emails went unanswered or received only vague and/or delayed responses before we were asked to vote on the proposed budget, leaving the Council not fully prepared for a decision.*
- When Council members suggest offsets for new priorities, we are often told that identified cuts are not feasible, but alternative offsets are not offered to initiate a process of discussion and compromise. It is stated that we, the Council must find where to pull it from. This process results in controversy as the Council tries to make those selections based on the available data.*
- Council members frequently point out line items that have been significantly under-spent for multiple years and suggest those amounts be reduced to better reflect actual usage. When we do, we typically receive explanations about why historical trends may not apply next year. Yet when the Administration proposes reductions in other areas, the same historical under-utilization data is used as the justification.*

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I believe we would all benefit from a better process and by applying the same analytical standard consistently, regardless of who is suggesting the cut.

None of these points are meant to suggest bad faith - only that small, common-sense improvements in timing, detail, comparative data, transparency of reserve usage, and two-way collaboration would make this Council's job easier, give the public better insight, and keep us squarely within both the letter and the spirit of the Charter.

Thank you for allowing me to put these thoughts on the record. I look forward to working together to make next year's process the best it can be.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

XVIII. PERFECTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 25-11320 - An Ordinance Approving An Application By The Jefferson County Community Mental Health Fund Board To Change Its Name To The Jefferson County Mental Health Fund.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to place Bill No. 25-11320 on its second reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Bill by Title.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to approve 25-11320 and move to Final Passage, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

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Motion Passed.

Bill No. 25-11322 - An Ordinance Approving Application PB25-0012 To Rezone A Parcel Of Property From Single Family Residential (R7) Zone District To Planned Residential (PR1) Zone District And Development Plan For “Reserve At Liguori Bluffs” Located In Council District 4.

Council Member Charles Groeteke made a motion to place Bill No. 25-11322 on its second reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Bill by Title.

Council Member Charles Groeteke made a motion to approve 25-11322 and move to Final Passage, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

XIX. FINAL PASSAGE OF BILLS

Bill No. 25-11320 - An Ordinance Approving An Application By The Jefferson County Community Mental Health Fund Board To Change Its Name To The Jefferson County Mental Health Fund.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to place Bill No. 25-11320 on its third reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Bill by Title.

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to approve Bill No. 25-11320 to approve and finally pass, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

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No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Bill No. 25-11322 - An Ordinance Approving Application PB25-0012 To Rezone A Parcel Of Property From Single Family Residential (R7) Zone District To Planned Residential (PR1) Zone District And Development Plan For “Reserve At Liguori Bluffs” Located In Council District 4.

Council Member Charles Groeteke made a motion to place Bill No. 25-11322 on its third reading by title, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons; Council Member Bob Tullock read the Bill by Title.

Council Member Charles Groeteke made a motion to approve Bill No. 25-11322 to approve and finally pass, seconded by Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons.

Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

XX. **COUNTY COUNCIL MOTIONS REGARDING FUTURE AGENDAS**
None.

XXI. **OTHER MATTERS**
None.

XXII. **CLOSED SESSION**
None.

XXIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Bob Tullock made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Arons.

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Yes: Council Member, District 1 Brian Haskins, Council Member, District 2 Billy Crow, Council Member, District 3 Lori Arons, Council Member, District 4 Charles Groeteke, Council Member, District 5 Scott Seek, Council Member, District 6 Tim Brown, Council Member, District 7 Bob Tullock

No: None

Absent:

Motion Passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.