COMMISSION BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES
THURSDAY JANUARY 8, 2026 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Commissioner Nolte called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. **INVOCATION**
Recited by Natalie Bergin

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Recited

4. **ROLL CALL**
Commissioner Nolte requested the Clerk to call the roll.

A Quorum was established by the following roll call vote:

Commissioner Nolte – Here
Commissioner Withington – Here
Commissioner Lawson – Here
Commissioner Wagner – Here
Commissioner Johnson – Here
Commissioner Thompson – Here
Commissioner Carpenter – Here

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioner Withington made a request to move Resolution 2026-10, under Ceremonial Matters, to the Commission agenda on the 15th.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda as printed with the change requested.

Commissioner Johnson – Yes
Commissioner Thompson – Yes
Commissioner Carpenter – Yes
Commissioner Withington – Yes
Commissioner Lawson – Yes
Commissioner Wagner – Yes

The motion Passed.

6. **CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

- 2026-10 Honorary Resolution for the 2025 Kearney High School Bulldogs Football Team for Winning the 2025 Missouri High School Championship/Commissioner Withington

This item was moved to the Ceremonial Matters for the January 15, 2026 Agenda.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A Clay County citizen gave a statement to the Commission regarding the Royals.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

- 2026 Proposed Budget

Commissioner Nolte opened the Public Meeting.

Damon Hodges, County Administrator, presented the Commission with 2026 Proposed Budget.

Clay County citizens gave comments on the 2026 Proposed Budget.

Commissioner Nolte closed the Public Hearing

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- 2026-02 Approve Invoice Payments for Clay County for the Period of December 13, 2025 to December 31, 2025/Accounts Payable
- 2026-01 Approve Clay County Two-Year Assessment Maintenance Plan for 2026- 2027/ Assessor
- 2026-04 Approve Clay County Collector's Report and Recommendations of Tax Sale Surplus of Certain Parcels/Collector
- 2026-ORD-02 Approve Acceptance of State Block Grant Agreement 25-107B-2 for Funding for the Taxiway and Apron Pavement Sealcoat Project at Midwest National Air Center - Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission/Airport
- 2026-ORD-03 Approve Acceptance of State Block Grant Agreement 25-107B-3 for Funding for Electrical Upgrades Project at Midwest National Air Center - Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission/Airport
- 2026-09 Approve Establishing January 30, 2026 as the Final Due Date for All Clay County, Missouri 2025 Property Tax Payments/County Administrator
- 2026-05 Reappoint Member(s) to Airport Advisory Board/Commission
- 2026-06 Reappoint Member(s) to Children's Services Fund Board/Commission
- 2026-07 Reappoint Member(s) to Park Advisory Board/Commission
- 2026-08 Reappoint Member(s) to Senior Services Board/Commission

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as printed.

Commissioner Johnson – Yes
Commissioner Thompson – Yes
Commissioner Carpenter – Yes
Commissioner Withington – Yes
Commissioner Lawson – Yes
Commissioner Wagner – Yes

The motion Passed.

10. REGULAR AGENDA

- 2026-02 Approve Invoice Payments for Clay County for the Period of December 13, 2025 to December 31, 2025/Accounts Payable

This was disregarded as it was already approved on the consent agenda.

- 2025-ORD-27 Approve Amendment to Ordinances 2023-ORD-42 & 2024-ORD-27 Section 38.06 - Senior Real Estate Tax Credit/Administrative Services

Victor Hurlbert, County Auditor, spoke regarding Ordinance 2025-ORD-27.

Commissioner Nolte made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-ORD-27.

Discussion took place.

Commissioner Johnson shared that according to Robert's Rules of Order that a Presiding Commissioner should not make a motion to approve a vote. Commissioner Johnson said in the spirit of making sure the Commission does this right he feels it is necessary for him to make the motion to approve this Ordinance since he is the one who brought this Ordinance forward.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-ORD-27.

Discussion took place.

Commissioner Johnson – Yes
Commissioner Thompson – Yes
Commissioner Carpenter – Yes
Commissioner Withington – Yes
Commissioner Lawson – Yes
Commissioner Wagner – Yes

The motion Passed.

Commissioner Nolte said we would stand at ease for five minutes to give folks a chance to leave that wish to.

The meeting reconvened at 8:48 PM.

- 2026-ORD-1a An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget of Clay County, Missouri for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2026 and Ending on December 31, 2026 Pursuant to Section 50.525 Through 50.651 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri - With the Exception of all Accounts Associated with the Operations of the Clay County Prosecutor's Office/Auditor

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-ORD-1a.

Will Akin, Clay County Sheriff, spoke regarding Ordinance 2026-ORD-1a.

Discussion took place.

Commissioner Johnson – Yes
Commissioner Thompson – Yes
Commissioner Carpenter – Yes
Commissioner Withington – Yes
Commissioner Lawson – Yes
Commissioner Wagner – Yes

The motion Passed.

- 2026-ORD-1b An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget of Clay County, Missouri for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2026 and Ending on December 31, 2026 Pursuant to Section 50.525 Through 50.651 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri - For All Accounts Associated with the Operations of the Clay County Prosecutor's Office/Auditor

Victor Hurlbert, County Auditor, spoke regarding Ordinance 2026-ORD-1b.

Discussion took place.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-ORD-1b.

Commissioner Johnson – Yes
Commissioner Thompson – Recused
Commissioner Carpenter – Yes
Commissioner Withington – Yes
Commissioner Lawson – Yes
Commissioner Wagner – Yes

The motion Passed.

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

- Meetings Schedule
- Commission Business Session January 15, 2026 6:00 PM

Damon Hodges reminded everyone there is a survey out for our Master Plan for the Parks Department, they are looking for input from citizens. There is also a call for artists for the Go North campaign, we have a 20-foot soccer ball that we are looking for artists to help with what the renderings would look like. If anyone knows any aspiring artist that has experience and not just with crayons, they are looking for submittals for that. This is his first time going through the collection process, he has always been a payer but not a participant and when he is walking through the hallways in the morning he has heard a couple things, he feels like staff has stepped up a lot. It was not perfect but he will say when there was a call to staff to help the Collector's Office and the things we needed to do each department stepped up and our employees volunteered to help direct traffic from the Sheriff's Department, Recorder of Deeds Office, Administration staff, we got it done, so, he wanted to thank everyone for that.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Carpenter said Happy New Year to everybody, and he thinks we are going to have a good one in Clay County and across the county. Keep everyone doing their part to make the country better and encourage everyone else to do as well because we all are in this thing together. The more we can work together, see each other, and understand each other, the better. It was a busy day for him for all kinds of reasons, one of them is on January 8, 1958 his mom was born, so happy birthday to his mom and he is looking forward to a wonderful year with everyone.

Commissioner Johnson said congratulations to our County Administrator for getting past his first budget and also to all the staff involved. They did a great job.

Commissioner Lawson wanted to wish everyone a happy new year, and she thinks this could be the best year that we have had so far. There is a lot that is going to be going on in elections, so hopefully that all turns out well. She wanted to make sure that as we proceed from this point forward, to make dead certain that she knows what is going on in the Collector's office as we proceed looking for new software of that nature because she never wants us to go through a mess like we have gone through this time. She would like some updates to know what we have done or what they are going to come in and look at. She would like to know a timeframe and when something is happening and a date when we will have something concrete, when we will have something.

Commissioner Withington thanked Damon, Victor, and staff for helping with the budget. He thanked Barbara and DeEtta for answering all the emails that he forwarded to them. John usually has some really good quotes that he shares but he didn't tonight so he shared one about courage.

Commissioner Nolte also wanted to thank Damon and the entire staff and obviously our Auditor who put together a budget we can all be proud of. It seems we are improving as we go along and certainly Damon has survived his first budget and it can only get better from here and he has confidence that it will. We are also going to be starting the new year and he hopes we can constructively work together and have conversations together and as we do so it would be a good idea to work and have respect for each other and make sure our communications and conversations are open and free willing so that

we can make sure we avoid as many misunderstandings as possible. Any Commissioner that wants to talk to him, he is more than willing to talk. He is looking forward to a more productive and even better year here in Clay County as we go forward. Also remember the words we say have meaning, when we make comments let us keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts that we have recently celebrated and make sure that does not stray very far from our hearts.

13. RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 9:20 PM.