



**CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 26, 2026**

The City has an on-line broadcast of Council Meetings available both live and recorded by going to ["Microsoft Teams"](#).

The Council of the City of Sedalia, Missouri duly met in special session on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in the Council Chambers with Mayor Traves Williams presiding. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Jack Robinson	Present	David Covington	Present
Cheryl Ames	Present	Bob Cross	Present
Lee Scribner	Absent	Spencer Redford	Present
Tina Boggess	Present	Michelle Franklin	Present

PRESENTATION – FIREFIGHTERS IFF LOCAL 103:

Josh Nelson, President, Firefighters IFF Local 103 presented information regarding a dedicated funding source for the Sedalia Fire Department. Missouri law allows for a dedicated sales tax and a larger tax that be restricted for Firefighters through Ballot language. Discussion has been held about how this works alongside existing property tax. Other communities have dedicated funding in place for Public Safety and Local 103 believes Sedalia should take it under consideration. It would benefit all in the community and offer the City greater flexibility to address other needs, offers security at the same time and give the Fire Department an opportunity to find a solution that benefits our firefighters, our city and the citizens we serve. Our goal is to bring awareness to the issue and keep the conversation moving to ensure the concerns of local 103's membership is heard.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

- City Attorney, Lindsey Kolisch that statutory requirements for property taxes are very complex, but part of it is that you are allowed to take a voluntary reduction to lower property taxes over the highest tax rate ceiling. But when you do that in an even year, which is this year, you would bind next year's tax levy to this lowered amount. You are essentially making the decision for this year and for next year to voluntarily reduce it.

City Council inquired how keeping the same rate impacts the budget? City Administrator Matthew Wirt stated it will have a reduction in the base valuation, we have a reduction in what property values are assigned. That reduction based on keeping the levy the same will reduce overall by an estimation of about \$75,000. New construction will begin being taxed and that can make up some of the difference. However, it is difficult when trying to predict taxes and what the valuation will be. This current budget has a 3% growth in our general revenue. When it came to property taxes, we only plan for a 1% growth, so the City is possibly going recognize less than that 1% growth. Following the discussion, City Attorney Kolisch clarified for the Council that Voting yes would repeal Ordinance 12490 and set the 2025 tax rates for current and next year; and Voting no would leave last Wednesday's ordinance in place.

BILL NO. 2026-104 – REPEALING ORDINANCE 12490 RELATING TO THE LEVYING AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2026 IN THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI was read once by title.

2nd Reading – Motion by Boggess, 2nd by Franklin. All Present in Favor. Scribner was Absent

Final Passage – Motion by Boggess, 2nd by Cross. All Present in Favor. Scribner was Absent

Roll Call Vote: Voting “Yes” were Boggess, Covington and Redford. Voting “No” were Robinson, Ames, Cross and Franklin. Scribner was Absent. **BILL FAILED.**

Mayor Williams stated that before Council goes into closed session and since he ran on transparency, he is going to speak about the closed items in open for the public. City Attorney, Kolisch reminded Mayor Williams that personnel items are closed. To discuss them in open would require a vote of the Council to open those items.

He stated he formed a group of 10 mayors and their municipal attorneys and based on discussions, he is allowed to discuss the items because as they described it, he is like the CEO of a company and was elected to represent all the voices of the City. He wishes to open this up to have a conversation if you would like to object it, he has 10 municipal attorneys that will dispute anything you say because he had a lengthy conversation and can show you the text message. Attorney Kolisch again reminded Mayor that personnel matters are closed and require Council vote to open. He responded he can do this and has the municipal right to exercise transparency and as Mayor, a First Amendment right. Council can talk about this in closed, but he has the law to support it and the documentation and proof for matter that is going to be discussed in closed, which is what they're going to do about me. He went to the administrator to address this issue by saying that the City should write these people up, suspend or terminate. The administrator refused to do his job and said that I created a hostile working environment. That's insubordination, because if your CEO is asking you to do something, then it's your requirement as the City Administrator to listen to the wishes of the Mayor that was elected by a large discrepancy. He has been requesting to sit in the interview process but did not receive the e-mail back and did not attend the first series of interviews. He feels it was intentional and has the proof and documentation.

He had requested multiple times at multiple meetings to receive this information, it took three months. Based on what these attorneys told him, he can sue the Council members as well as the municipality for refusing to give those documentations. He can currently have a lawsuit against every council member for refusing the documentation. As well as receiving emails that he emailed three times, that was to everybody and the attorney replied not to send to reply all about sitting in to these interview processes. The fact that there's no support on this Council to do the right thing is very disturbing behavior that I've witnessed and it is my amendment right, so moving forward because he has the right to do so when he e-mails, he will not comment, but will post it when he receive calls from everybody in this town about certain items and if it doesn't get the response desired then call your municipality and wonder why your mayor was answering your questions and they weren't answered or addressed moving forward. That is how he will conduct himself, so it won't create a hostile working environment because he requested something and individuals refuse to do their job.

Councilman Covington apologized and stated that they were going to acknowledge all the First Responders and others responding during the building collapse on Tuesday. He acknowledged everyone that came out for the safety of the public and the city of Sedalia. He also apologized to the people who came out to speak because a motion was going to be made to allow a Good and Welfare.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. on motion by Boggess, seconded by Redford to a closed-door meeting in the upstairs conference room pursuant to subsections 1 (Legal Advice), 3 (Personnel) and 13 (Individually Identifiable Personnel Records) of Section 610.021 RSMo. Roll Call Vote: Voting "Yes" were Robinson, Ames, Boggess, Covington, Cross, Redford and Franklin. No one voted "No". Scribner was Absent.

The regular meeting reopened at 4:32 p.m. on motion by Boggess, seconded by Covington.

Prior to Roll Call, City Administrator Matthew Wirt stated the following: "Over the last several months, an elected official has chosen to attempt to make this increasingly personal by making accusation about me publicly, question my integrity, and this person is using social media to encourage criticism and at times the public shaming of city employees. I think that conduct speaks for itself. I was raised to believe that. How you treat people matters, particularly when you have been entrusted with a public office. I was raised to disagree with people without trying to humiliate them, to deal with people directly rather than attacking them publicly and to understand that having authority over someone creates a greater responsibility to treat that person fairly, not lesser. I have served this community for many years. During that time, I have disagreed with elected officials, employees and members of the public and people have certainly disagreed with me. That is part of public service, but disagreements do not require personal destruction. What concerns me even more is when the conflict begins to involve other city employees.

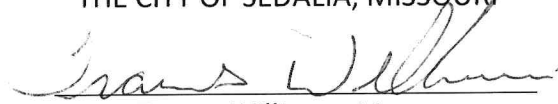
Our employees should not be pulled into a personal or a political dispute. They're professionals doing their jobs, and they deserve to be trusted that way. I will not publicly criticize or discuss an individual's employees performance. In a setting like this, I do not believe that would be appropriate, professional, or fair to the employee. I'm not going to retaliate with insults, attack anyone's character or participate in a public spectacle. Instead, I will continue to conduct myself professionally and do my job as long as you entrust me to do it. At the end of the day, each of us has to decide what kind of person we are going to be when we are giving authority over people. Titles are temporary, elections come and jobs end but how we treat people, particularly people who cannot respond to us on an equal footing, says something about who we are. I cannot control what is posted about me online, said about me or how someone else chooses to conduct themselves, but I can control how I respond. I was raised to tell the truth, to treat people with dignity and stand up for the people who work for me. Especially when it would be easier to remain silent. And I was raised to understand that having power over someone is never excused or mistreated. So whatever happens here today or whatever decisions are made, I'm going to leave this room knowing that I conducted myself the way I was raised. Someday, none of us will have titles that we have today, and when that day comes, what will matter is not the title we held, but whether we can stand before God with a clear conscience about what we did with that power and how we treated the people that he placed in our path. Thank you."

ROLL CALL:

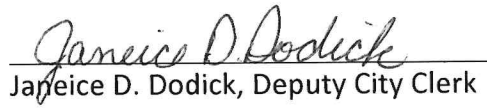
Jack Robinson	Present	David Covington	Present
Cheryl Ames	Present	Bob Cross	Present
Lee Scribner	Absent	Spencer Redford	Present
Tina Boggess	Present	Michelle Franklin	Present

The regular meeting Adjourned at 4:35 p.m. on motion by Boggess, seconded by Robinson. All Present in Favor. Scribner was Absent.

THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Traves Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Traves Williams, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janyce D. Dodick", written over a horizontal line.

Janyce D. Dodick, Deputy City Clerk