



Let's Cross Paths

**CITY OF SEDALIA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 27, 2025 – Noon
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
200 S. Osage Avenue**

**Call to Order
Roll Call**

ROLL CALL OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE / ADMINISTRATION – Chairwoman Tina Boggess; Vice Chairman Thomas Oldham

1. Possible override of Mayor's Veto regarding addition of 1/8 of 1% Sales Tax – April 8, 2025 Ballot

- Mayor's return of Bill No. 2025-7 without signature and submission of the Mayor's written objections to Bill No. 2025-7 to be entered at large on the Journal of the Council.
- Reconsideration of:

BILL NO. 2025-7

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY A PROPOSITION TO IMPOSE
A GENERAL SALES TAX WITHIN THE CITY.**

- Council Discussion and call for Motion and Second with Roll Call Vote to override Mayor's veto of above Bill – Requires 2/3 majority to override (6 affirmative votes).
 - The question before the Council is "Shall the bill pass, the objections of the Mayor thereto notwithstanding?"

CLOSED DOOR MEETING – Motion and Second to move into closed door meeting in the upstairs conference room pursuant to Subsection 1 (Legal Advice) of Section 610.021 RSMo.

- A.** Roll Call Vote for Closed Door Meeting
- B.** Discussion of closed items
- C.** Vote on matters, if necessary (require a Roll Call Vote)
- D.** Motion and Second with Roll Call Vote to adjourn closed door meeting and return to open meeting

ADJOURN MEETING

A. Motion and second to adjourn meeting

The City Council reserves the right to discuss any other topics that are broached during the course of this meeting.

Please join the meeting by clicking or touching this link from your smartphone, computer, tablet, or iPad:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/578973061>

If this is the **first time** you have joined a GoToMeeting you will be asked to identify yourself. Please fill in this information. If you would like, and we suggest you do, go ahead and set your preferences to make it easier to join next time. If you are new to GoToMeeting, we suggest to get the app through the following link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/578973061> This will make joining these meetings quick and easy. Once you have followed the link above and identified yourself you will be given options for how you want to join in with **audio**. For **smartphones**: tap on one of the phone numbers and it will dial the phone and the meeting numbers. For **other devices**: use the feature of call me. The phone audio will be much better than through your computer. This should come up if you have your preferences set up to show it. If it does not, in the upper right-hand corner of the GoToMeeting screen you will see an icon that looks like a gear. Click on the gear and then look for "Phone" and if it is not highlighted click on it. One of the options should be to call me. Put the phone number you want to be called on (direct dial) into the box provided and then click the "Call Me" button. Once the system calls you, you will be asked to hit pound. Please be mindful of others on the call by eliminating as much background noise as you can. Mute yourself until you are ready to speak. Do not put the call on hold, if you need to leave even for a short time, hang up as you can always dial back in after your other call. If you hear an echo or squeal, you may have your computer speakers on as well as the phone, mute your computer speakers to eliminate this.

If you want to join in **listen only** mode you can dial the following number and enter the access code.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 Access Code: 578-973-061

- One-touch: <tel:+18668994679,,578973061#>

United States: +1 (669) 224-3318

- One-touch: <tel:+16692243318,,578973061#>

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, WHICH REQUIRE ACCOMMODATION, PLEASE NOTIFY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 827-3000. ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE MADE FOR YOUR NEEDS.

POSTED ON JANUARY 24, 2025 AT NOON AT THE SEDALIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING, BOONSLICK REGIONAL LIBRARY, SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.SEDALIA.COM.



Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to officially inform you of my decision to veto Bill No. 2025-7, which proposes placing a 1/8th cent sales tax on the April ballot. This decision reflects my concern for the economic well-being of Sedalia's residents and businesses, as well as the accountability of government tax measures. My objections are as follows:

- 1. Economic Burden on Residents:** Adding a 1/8 cent sales tax at this time would place additional strain on Sedalia's working families, many of whom are already facing increased costs of living. It is our responsibility to consider the financial impact of any tax proposal and ensure that it is necessary, justified, and equitably implemented.
- 2. Clarification of the Washington Street Bridge Project:** This tax has been presented as necessary for the repair and replacement of the Washington Street Bridge. However, the repair is already moving forward. I have repeatedly confirmed with staff that no additional funds will expedite its completion, as the timeline is determined by the engineering firm, HDR. We may need additional funds in the future for the replacement of the Washington Street bridge, but we should have a well-defined plan in place before asking the voters for additional revenue.
- 3. Concerns About the County's One-half of One Percent Sales Tax Proposal:** I also strongly oppose the County's proposal to renew its half-cent sales tax while removing the sunset clause. Sunset clauses are critical for accountability, as they give voters a periodic opportunity to evaluate the success and impact of tax measures. Removing this safeguard denies voters their voice. Furthermore, in 2023 and 2024, Sedalia residents saw no tangible benefits from the County's half-cent sales tax, despite the ballot language "This tax will be used for the purpose of improving and maintaining county roads and for street, sewer, water and storm water projects in municipalities located within Pettis County." I am of the opinion that it is unreasonable to ask taxpayers to continue funding it indefinitely without any controls on how moneys will be spent. Placing the burden of an additional 1/8th cent



sales tax on the ballot will not address this underlying issue and only further burdens the taxpayer.

- 4. Need for Alternative Revenue Strategies:** Before pursuing additional taxes, we must explore alternative funding sources, such as grants, partnerships, or reallocating existing resources. It is vital that we approach taxation with a clear plan that demonstrates how the funds will benefit our community.

For these reasons, I cannot support placing a 1/8th cent sales tax on the April ballot. I encourage the Council to consider alternative solutions that protect the financial interests of Sedalia's residents and businesses while addressing our city's needs in a responsible manner.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew L. Dawson".

Andrew L. Dawson

Mayor of the City of Sedalia

BILL NO. 2025-7

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY A PROPOSITION TO IMPOSE A GENERAL SALES TAX WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to §94.510, RSMo, the City of Sedalia, Missouri (“City”) is authorized to impose a general sales tax if approved by the qualified voters of the City; and

WHEREAS, the State has authorized a maximum combined general sales tax rate of up to 2% under §94.510.2 RSMo., of which the City has a current approved rate of 1%; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to submit to the qualified voters of the City a proposition to impose an additional tax of 1/8% while remaining at or below the maximum combined rate for general sales taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: There is imposed, subject to approval by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters of the City a general sales tax as authorized by § 94.510 RSMo at the rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) on all retail sales made within the City which are subject to taxation pursuant to section 144.010 to 144.525, RSMo. Such Sales Tax shall not be effective unless approved by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters voting thereon at an election to be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

SECTION 2: The City Council approves the submission to the qualified voters of the City the following ballot proposition:

Shall the municipality of Sedalia, Missouri, impose a City sales tax of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) for the purpose of funding roads, bridges, sidewalks, and other infrastructure for a period of five (5) years after the effective date of such tax?”

YES **NO**

If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES". If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO".

SECTION 3: The County Clerk of Pettis County, Missouri, shall provide the ballot and ballot labels, conduct the election, and cause the results thereof to be certified to the City Council as provided by law.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk shall notify the County Clerk of Pettis County, Missouri, of the adoption of this Ordinance no later than 5:00 P.M. on January 28, 2025, and of the call for a general municipal election to be held on April 8, 2025. Such notice should include all of the terms and provisions required by Chapter 115, RSMo, as amended, including a certified copy of the legal notice of election. This election shall be held and conducted and the result thereof shall be canvassed in all respects in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the State of Missouri, and in accordance with appropriate ordinances adopted by the City City Council of the City of Sedalia, Missouri.

SECTION 5: Form of Notice of Election. The Notice of Election and ballot to be used at this election shall be in substantially the same form as attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

SECTION 6: The City Clerk is authorized to correct any scrivener's errors discovered herein.

SECTION 7: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any Section, Subsection, sentence, or provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other Sections, Subsections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid Section, Subsection, sentence, provision or application.

SECTION 8: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Read two times by title, copies of the proposed ordinance having been made available for public inspection prior to the time the bill is under consideration by the Council and passed by the Council of the City of Sedalia, Missouri this 21st day of January, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Council

Approved by the Mayor of said City this 21st day of January, 2025.

Andrew L. Dawson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jason S. Myers
City Clerk

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of Sedalia, Missouri, that the City City Council of said City has called an election to be held in the City on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, commencing at six o'clock A.M. and closing at seven o'clock P.M., local time, on the question contained in the following sample ballot:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ELECTION
CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI**

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

QUESTION

Shall the municipality of Sedalia, Missouri, impose a City sales tax of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) for the purpose of funding roads, bridges, sidewalks, and other infrastructure for a period of five (5) years after the effective date of such tax?"

YES **NO**

If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES". If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO".

If a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the proposal, then the City of Sedalia, Missouri, shall collect an additional general revenue sales tax of one percent (0.125%) as provided for in §94.510 RSMo.