

Charter Review Commission

Final Report

January 5, 2026

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Memorandum

December 2025

To: Mayor and Members the City Council
From: 2025 Charter Review Commission
Re: Final report of the 2025 Charter Review Commission

Dear Mayor and Members the City Council:

In 1951, the voters of the City of Joplin approved the Home Rule Charter. Pursuant to Missouri Law, the Charter acts as our local constitution, which both empowers and restricts the city government as it provides services to residents and the region. Section 1.04 of the Charter provides the city has all powers not expressly denied under the Constitution and laws of the State and Federal government. Thus, the Charter is a grant of power. It is a living document, which provides a framework for interaction between government and stakeholders.

Accordingly, it is been the practice of the City Council to appoint a citizen's commission to review the Charter to provide recommendations on matters that may need to be changed, as times and challenges change. Pursuant to the call of the Council, the 2025 Charter Review Commission met on October 8, 2025, October 22, 2025, at which time the Commission conducted a public hearing inviting public comment on the questions we were presented, then on November 19, 2025, at which time the Commission debated and voted on the matters submitted to us. Finally on December 10, 2025 we reviewed the draft report and approved this Final Report.

What follows are the Committee's recommendations concerning its limited charge. It is important to note that many members of the Commission expressed the desire to more fully dive into the Charter's various provisions, particularly in the way the City Council and Mayor are elected. Moreover, the language of the Charter reflects the time of its creation and thus minimizes many of our residents through the exclusive use of masculine pronouns. Accordingly, the members of the Commission suggest the City Council consider a full review of the Charter, and seek public input on the process and scope of the next Charter review prior to formulating the charge to the Commision.

The Commission members are:

Phil Stinnett
Melodee Colbert-Kean
Dan Pekarek
Morris Glaze
Rob O'Brian
Ryan Stanley
Michael Seibert
Diane Reid-Adams
Chuck Brown (Chairman)

Summary of Votes and Discussion by Charter Review Commission

Summary of Votes and Discussion by the Charter Review Commission

1. **Should the Charter be amended to change the rate of pay of the Council from $5.00 dollars per meeting to an increased amount?**

   Motion by Ms. Colbert-Kean, second by Mr. Stanley for a $25.00 per formal meeting for two formal meetings a month for a total of $50.00 a month or $600 a year. $100.00 dollars reimbursable expenses for the mayor remains the same. Voting in favor were: Seibert, Brown, Stanley, Colbert- Kean, Pekarek, 5. Nays: Stinnett, Glaze, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, 4.

   Discussion of this issue occurred during several meetings. Members discussed that the amount of time required to prepare and attend meetings and debated the general concept of compensation for service. Amounts of compensation were discussed by the Commission and the survey of similar communities' compensation was reviewed and the Council and Mayor's role in each community as compared to the duties and responsibility of each role with the City of Joplin were debated. Several Commission members were in favor of a substantial increase, while several Commission members were in favor of removing compensation altogether. It was mentioned that the rate of pay as set forth in the Charter had not been adjusted since the Charter was created in 1951. Thus, the impact of inflation means the rate of compensation in today's dollars should be $61.00 per meeting. Many Commission members felt that service on the Council is a privilege, and, should not be compensated, while some felt the lack of compensation acts as a barrier to service. Several members felt that if the rate of pay was increased the perception would be that individuals are running for council for the wrong reason, i.e., compensation versus community service. While several members felt that any attempt to increase rate of pay for Council members would be so divisive and misunderstood by the voters that the issue would have no chance of passage. Those members who voted "nay" did so because they feel service on the Council should not be compensated. Thus, this resolution is a compromise by suggesting an increase in compensation by a de minimus amount.

2. **Should the Charter be amended to change Section 13.04 to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition, and, alternatively, for a nominative petition for incumbent at City Council member who has already met the signature requirements?**

   Motion by Ms. Colbert-Kean second by Dr. Reid-Adams to reduce the total to 50 with 25 of which being within a zone for zone council members. Voting in favor were: Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams and O'Brian: 7. Nays: Stinnett, Glaze, 2.

   The Commission members see the benefit of potential candidates for a seat on the Council circulating nominating petitions to obtain a place and position on the ballot. However, the Commission recommends reducing the number of signatures which must be obtained to reduce barriers to access to the ballot and to address concerns for safety of candidates and circulators.

Motion by Mr. Glaze second by Mr. Stinnett that the petition requirement should be the same for incumbent council members. Voting in favor were: Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett and Glaze. 9. Nays: 0.

The Commission uniformly felt that it was not appropriate to reduce the signature gathering requirements for incumbent members of the Council. All potential candidates should follow the same procedures to qualify and to obtain a position upon the ballot.

3. **Should the Charter to be amended to change the term "emergency" in Section 2.12 to "expedited" ordinance"?**

Motion by Mr. Stanley Second by Mr. Pekarek to change the term "emergency ordinance" to "expedited ordinance" voting in favor were, Stanley, Colbert, Kean, Siebert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett and Glaze, 8. Nay: Brown 1.

The Commission had an extended discussion of whether there was a legal justification for the title "emergency", versus perception of changing the title to "expedited" was for mere expediency, since the categories of matters eligible for Council action would remain the same. The public may have the perception that emergency ordinances should only deal with matters where true "emergencies" exist. In practice the Council considers council bills on an emergency basis that deal with various matters which have been through an extensive process within the city administration or as specifically allowed by the Charter. It was noted that safeguards remain to remove an ordinance from "emergency" or "expedited" consideration, to consideration under regular procedures.

4. **Should the Charter be amended to remove the requirement that the Public Works Director be a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Missouri?**

Motion by Mr. Stinnett second by Mr. Glaze to leave Section 7.01 as is. Voting in favor were: Brown, Stanley, Colbert- Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett and Glaze, 9. Nays: 0.

The Commission received input at the public hearings from stakeholders which provided several justifications in support of the current provision. Accordingly, the Commission feels it is important for the City of Joplin to have a professional engineer as Director of the Public Works Department for various reasons, including reviewing contracts, and supervising the work of other engineers.

5. **Should the Charter be amended to remove any publication requirements that are required under the current Charter?**

Motion by Mr. Stinnett second by Mr. O'Brian to leave the requirement as is. Voting in favor were: Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett and Glaze, 9. Nays: 0.

While publication requirements are archaic given advent of social media and decline traditional print media, State law mandates such matters. The Commission reached a consensus that the unique publication requirements found within the Charter are so infrequently used that it is not necessary alter the existing publication requirements.

Amended Resolution No. 2025-009

AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-009

A RESOLUTION creating a nine (9) member Charter Review Commission for the City of Joplin; and, defining the purposes, membership and duties thereof.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby created a Charter Review Commission for the City of Joplin which shall consist of nine (9) members; four (4) former Mayors and five (5) citizens at-large, who shall be appointed by the Mayor upon the advice and consent of the Council, hereinafter known as "Commission". The members shall be residents of the City of Joplin who are interested in the self-governance of the City and the continuation of the Charter form of government in the City.

The Commission Members are:

Phil Stinnett
Ryan Stanley
Melodee Colbert-Kean
Michael Seibert
Dan Pekarek
Diane Reid-Adams
Morris Glaze
Rob O'Brian
Chuck Brown (Chairman)

Section 2. That there shall be chosen by the Mayor upon the advice and consent of the Council from among the number selected for Commission, one (1) person to act as Chairman.

Section 3. That the Charter Review Commission shall not review the entire Charter but shall limit its review to items and issues referred to it by the City Council set forth below. It shall specifically not be the charge of Commission to recommend any change in the form of government or to create a new Charter in its entirety. The Commission is directed to only review the following three questions/items:

a. **Should the Charter be amended to change the rate of pay of the Council from $5.00 per meeting to an increased amount?**
b. **Should the Charter be amended to change Section13.04 to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition, and alternatively, for a nominating petition for an incumbent city council member who has already met the signature requirements?**
c. **Should the Charter be amended to change the term "emergency ordinance" in Section 2.12 to "expedited ordinance"?**
d. **Should the Charter be amended to remove the requirement that the Public Works Director be a professional engineer registered in the State of Missouri?**
e. **Should the Charter be amended to remove any publication requirements that are required under the current Charter?**

Section 4. That Commission shall prepare a report to the Council setting forth all recommended amendments to the existing Charter of the Council.

Section 5. That Commission shall periodically report its progress to the Council and submit its final report by December 1, 2025.

Section 6. That the City Manager, or his designee, the City Clerk, or her designee, and the City Attorney, or his designee, shall assist the Commission in its activities and shall provide all necessary staff support.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this 15th day of September 2025, by a vote of 7-0-2. Absent: Copple and Shaw.

Keenan T. Cortez Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Holly Nagy, City Clerk

Minutes

Minutes of the October 8, 2025
Charter Review Commission Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Chuck Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Present: Chuck Brown, Phil Stinnett, Ryan Stanley, Melodee Colbert-Kean, Michael Seibert, Dan Pekarek, Diane Reid-Adams, Morris Glaze, Rob O'Brian.
Staff: Peter Edwards, City Attorney and Holly Nagy, City Clerk.

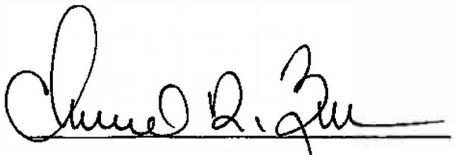
Review of Proposed Charter Amendments

Discussion ensued regarding format of meetings, the charge of the commission and setting up public hearings for citizen input. Public hearings will be advertised across various media sources to encourage public participation.

It was requested that the City Attorney investigate how much other cities pay their Council members and how many other communities utilize the petition process for their Council elections. It was also requested in regard to proposed charter change item #4 that if it could be investigated whether there were any standards from such organizations such as the APWA (American Public Works Association) or other similar organizations, for when public works department heads should be a licensed engineer, and what other like cities in MO or otherwise were doing with this issue. The City Attorney will forward the information to the commission prior to the next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on October 22, 2025, in the Council Chambers to accommodate the public hearings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.



Chuck D. Brown, Chair

Minutes of the October 22, 2025
Charter Review Commission Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Chuck Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Present: Chuck Brown, Ryan Stanley, Melodee Colbert-Kean, Michael Seibert, Dan Pekarek, Diane Reid-Adams, Morris Glaze, Rob O'Brian. Staff: Peter Edwards, City Attorney and Holly Nagy, City Clerk.

Absent: Phil Stinnett

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. O'Brian, seconded by Ms. Colbert-Kean to approve the October 8th meeting minutes. Voting in favor were commission members: Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, Glaze and O'Brian.

Public Hearings

Public Hearing procedures were read by City Clerk Holly Nagy

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 3.1 (Rate of pay for Council)
Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing
No one spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 3.2 (Reduce number of signatures for nominating petitions)
Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing
No one spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 3.3 (Emergency/expedited ordinance language)
Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing
No one spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 3.4 (Public Works Director – prof. engineer requirement)
Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing
No one spoke in favor of this item.
Kurt Higgins, Clayton Christie, and Frank Thompson spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 3.5 (Publication requirements)
Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing
No one spoke in favor of this item.
Frank Thompson spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 3.6 (Public comment)
Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing

Tom Robertson – asked about potential other charter changes not charged to commission but still being included in final report to Council.

Richard Thurman – spoke about reasoning from Council on amendments.

Mary Price – spoke about the use of the words emergency and expedited for Item 3.3. Citizens need more input and doesn't suggest changing the name, she is concerned regarding the transparency for the residents.

Doris Carlin – suggested the use of both terms emergency and expedited for Item 3.3.

Frank Thompson – feels as though this commission is an attempt to shield city actions from the residents. Mr. Thompson is against council pay, lowering signature requirements, changing emergency ordinances, professional engineers, publication requirements.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Public Hearing portion of this meeting ended at 4:43 PM. The meeting reconvened into the Informal Conference Room.

Discussion of Proposed Charter Amendments (4:48 PM)

The commission discussed timing of future meetings and the final report. November 12th and 19th have been tentatively selected for the next meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding Item 3.1 (Council pay) Mr. Stanley suggested $650 a month per Councilmember. $1000 for Mayor and $825 for Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Stanley feels as though a hard number is needed and we should put something out in front of the voters. Other commission members voiced differing opinions.

Discussion ensued on Item 3.2 (number of signatures for petitions). Various opinions were considered. No consensus or decision was made.

Discussion ensued on Item 3.3 (Emergency/expedited ordinance language) Mr. Peter Edwards discussed the use of emergency ordinances and what they have been historically used for. Mr. Seibert pointed out that these ordinances require a super majority vote. Mr. Nick Edwards suggested changing the spending thresholds so that ordinances aren't

required for smaller construction projects. Discussion ensued regarding comparisons with the City of Springfield Charter. The broad consensus was put it in front of the voters and let them decide.

Discussion moved to Item 3.5 (Publications). Discussion ensued regarding the charter requirement to publish notice in the paper if printed media is being phased out.

No formal votes were made on any of the discussed items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Chuck D. Brown, Chair

Minutes of the November 19, 2025
Charter Review Commission Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Chuck Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Present: Chuck Brown, Phil Stinnett, Ryan Stanley, Melodee Colbert-Kean, Michael Seibert, Dan Pekarek, Diane Reid-Adams, Morris Glaze, Rob O'Brian.
Staff: Peter Edwards, City Attorney and Holly Nagy, City Clerk.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. O'Brian, seconded by Dr. Reid-Adams to approve the October 22, 2025 meeting minutes. Voting in favor were commission members: Brown, Colbert-Kean, Glaze, O'Brian, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, Stanley, Seibert, and Stinnett, 9.

Review of Proposed Charter Amendments

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

Section 13.04 – Petitions

Dr. Reid-Adams suggested 25 signatures and a $100 filing fee. Dr. Reid-Adams and Ms. Colbert-Kean share the concern regarding knocking on doors to obtain signatures.

Mr. Stinnett and Mr. Glaze don't see the need to change the current petition process and feels it's important to put the work in.

Motion by Ms. Colbert-Kean second by Dr. Reid-Adams to reduce the total to 50, with 25 of which to be within your zone. Voting in favor were Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, and O'Brian, 7. Nays: Stinnett, Glaze, 2.

Discussion began on the incumbent petition process.

Motion by Mr. Glaze, second by Mr. Stanley that the requirements should be the same for an incumbent council member. Voting in favor were Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett, and Glaze, 9.

Section 2.03- Salary-Expenses

Discussion ensued. Mr. Stanley feels that the amount of time required to prepare for meetings should be compensated and amounts were discussed broadly across the commission. Dr. Reid-Adams is not in favor of a substantial increase, and views serving as a community service, she would prefer the salary was removed all together. Mr. O'Brian feels as though a number should be presented to the voters to show recognition of commitment of a Councilmember. Mr. O'Brian said that the $5 today is actually $61 with inflation.

Mr. Pekarek asked if anyone has heard of people questioning how much they will be paid to run? Mr. Glaze stated that he hasn't heard that. Mr. Stinnett feels that the position is volunteer and if they run for the money they are running for the wrong reasons.

Mr. Seibert suggested $50 a month. $100 reimbursement for expenses for the Mayor. Motion by Ms. Colbert-Kean, second by Mr. Stanley for $25 per formal meeting, for two formal meetings a month with a total of $50 a month or $600/year. $100 reimbursable expenses for the Mayor remains the same. Voting in favor were Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, and Pekarek, 5. Nays: Stinnett, Glaze, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, 4.

Section 2.12 – Legislative Proceedings (Emergency Ordinances)

Mr. Pekarek summarized the last discussion on this topic there's really no difference between them, they both take effect immediately, that would not change. This is an attempt to group the types of things that most people might agree with. Mr. Brown said he understood the City Manager to say that there is a process that we go through, and all these items that are "expedited" have been through that process and are items in the budget for dollars that have been approved.

Peter Edwards stated the reason that we have emergency ordinances is not because there's an emergency, but these are expedited bills that are designed to be passed on one reading for the reasons that are set forth in the charter.

Further discussion ensued.

Motion by Mr. Stanley, second by Mr. Pekarek to change the wording from emergency to expedited. Voting in favor were Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett, and Glaze, 8. Nays: Brown, 1.

Publication Requirements

Discussion ensued. Consensus was to leave the section as is since publications are so infrequent for the listed items.

Motion by Mr. Stinnett, second by Mr. O'Brian to leave the requirement as is. Voting in favor were Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett, and Glaze, 9.

Section 7.01 – Public Works Director- Appointment and Qualification of Director

Mr. Glaze feels that based on the input received from the Public Hearings that this item should be left as is. The Commission discussed pros and cons but ultimately decided to leave the section unchanged.

Motion by Mr. Stinnett, second by Mr. Glaze to leave Section 7.01 as is. Voting in favor were Brown, Stanley, Colbert-Kean, Seibert, Pekarek, Reid-Adams, O'Brian, Stinnett, and Glaze, 9.

Chairman Brown stated that the next meeting will be held December 10th and they will review a draft of the final report at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Chuck D. Brown, Chair

Minutes of the December 10, 2025
Charter Review Commission Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Chuck Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Present: Chuck Brown, Phil Stinnett, Ryan Stanley, Melodee Colbert-Kean, Michael Seibert, Dan Pekarek, Diane Reid-Adams, and Morris Glaze.
Staff: Peter Edwards, City Attorney and Holly Nagy, City Clerk.

Absent: Rob O'Brian

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dr. Reid-Adams, seconded by Mr. Glaze to approve the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes. Voting in favor were commission members: Brown, Colbert-Kean, Glaze Pekarek, Reid-Adams, Stanley, Seibert, and Stinnett, 8.

Discussion of Draft Final Report

Discussion ensued with various grammatical changes being suggested. Suggested changes sent by Mr. O'Brian via email were made as well.

The Final Report will be presented to the City Council on January 5, 2026. With the amendments chosen by Council to be voted on at the January 20, 2026, Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

_____

Chuck D. Brown, Chair

Documentation Submitted to the Commission

Columbia	Mayor: $9,000; other council: $6,000 *(Sec. 7)*	For ward council, not less than 50 nor more than 75 registered voters *(Art. XVI., Sec. 122)* . For officials elected by the entire city need not less than 100 nor more than 150 registered voters.	No
Jefferson City	$450/month *Ord. Sec. 2-20*	"Endorsements from three persons who reside in the area which you wish to represent must be signed either before a notary public or the City Clerk. Candidate Endorsement forms may be obtained from the City Clerk's office or printed from the web site listed in the paragraph immediately above."	Yes
Lee's Summit	Yes *(Section 2.9, 3.3)* . Per Gina in Legal & website for city council annual salary $11,400 + $250/mo car allowance, $100/mo communications allowance. Mayor pro tem gets an additional $1,200/annually. Mayor $30k plus $500/mo car allowance, $100/mo communications allowance *(confirmed by his assistant).*	250 for council at large, 100 for respective districts *(Charter Section 6.6)*	Not mentioned in their Charter, but the requirement is in their job description.

Independence	Yes *(Section 1.9)* Clerk told me that the Council persons make somewhere in the $20k area. Mayor is paid $42k.	250 signatures are required, per the clerk.	No, there is no public works dep't, they call it municipal services dep't which covers streets, public works and water. *(per clerk)*
Springfield	No salary but paid back for specific expenses. *City Charter, Article II,Section 2.3*	Qualified voter, resident for 2 years, registered voter of respective zone if zone council, cannot hold public office (unless military) or hold lucrative position at City *City Charter, Article II, Section 2.1* Nomination by Petition- zone council: not less than 100; council: not less than 200 registered voters *City Charter, Article XIII, Section 13.4.1*	Grad of accredited school of engineering and qualified to perform duties required *City Charter, Article VIII, Sec 8-1*
Cape Girardeu	$100 per month (reviewed every 5 years) *Part 1 - Charter, Article III, Section 3.05*	Registered voter, 21 yrs old, resident for two years immed prior, ward resident for not less than 90 days, cannot hold another office, *Part 1 - Charter, Article III, Section 3.02 - 3.06* Nomination by Petition - not less than 50 voters *Part 1- Charter, Article VII, Section 7.03*	Nothing as to qualifications. *Chapter 2, Article III, Section 2-52*

St. Joseph	$550.00 per month *Chapter 2, Article II, Division 1, Sec 2-36*	Resident of city for one year immediately prior, district council resident for 6 mo prior. *Part 1- Charter: Article III, Section 3.2 - 3.3* Nomination by Petition not less than 250 qualified voters, district council not less than 75 *Part 1 - Charter, Article X, Section 10.2*	Description but nothing as to qualifications: *Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 10, Section 2-317* (I emailed the City Clerk office and she pointed me to the section I mentioned above. She had nothing more to offer.)

NSPE-MO MISSOURI SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

October 22, 2025

Chuck Brown, Chairman
Melodee Colbert-Kean
Morris Glaze
Dan Pekarek
Diane Reid-Adams
Rob O'Brian
Michael Seibert
Phil Stinnett
Ryan Stanley

Charter Review Commission
City of Joplin
602 South Main Street
Joplin, MO 64801

Re: Opposition to Removing the Professional Engineer (PE) Requirement for the Public Works Director

Chairman Brown and Members of the Charter Review Commission,

On behalf of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), we write to respectfully oppose any amendment to the City Charter that would remove the requirement that the City's Public Works Director be a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Missouri.

This position aligns with the National Society of Professional Engineers' long-standing view that engineering decisions impacting public health, safety, and welfare must be made by, or under the responsible charge of, licensed Professional Engineers. The Public Works Director holds direct responsibility for the integrity and performance of Joplin's infrastructure systems, including streets, bridges, stormwater, and utilities, all of which require sound engineering judgment, technical competence, and ethical accountability. Maintaining the PE requirement provides critical safeguards for the City and its residents.

This requirement helps ensure public safety, ethics, and accountability. Ethics is the cornerstone of the PE. Licensed Professional Engineers are bound by a strict Code of Ethics that places public welfare above personal or political interest. They are legally and ethically obligated to protect public safety and can be disciplined for negligence or misconduct.

Moreover, licensed oversight prevents costly design errors and project failures, ensuring responsible use of taxpayer funds. Many state and federal programs require qualified engineering oversight for participation, funding, and permitting.

Citizens deserve assurance that decisions affecting the safety and reliability of public infrastructure are guided by professionals who meet Missouri's standards for licensure, ethics, and technical proficiency.

MSPE urges the Commission to retain the current requirement that the Public Works Director be a Missouri-licensed Professional Engineer. Removing this safeguard could diminish professional accountability, weaken ethical standards, and increase risk to the public and the City.

Our association stands ready to serve as a resource to the City of Joplin and the Commission should you have any questions or wish to discuss the professional and ethical responsibilities associated with the PE license in greater detail.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Lowe, CAE
Executive Director
Missouri Society of Professional Engineers
tlowe@mspe.org

cc: Holly Nagy, City Clerk

The Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, or MSPE, is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization representing licensed Professional Engineers in Missouri. Formed in 1937, MSPE promotes the protection of the public health, safety and welfare through the ethical and competent practice of engineering.

From: Rob OBrian
To: Nagy, Holly
Subject: Fwd: Public Hearing set for Oct. 22 for comments on proposed Charter revisions for civicplus.com
Date: Monday, December 8, 2025 1:53:18 PM

This email originated outside our network. If it is unsolicited or unexpected, please delete. If expected, use caution when opening any links or attachments.

here you go

Rob O'Brian, CEcD
O'Brian & Associates.
417.438.0100 (c)
rob@obrianassociates.com
https://www.obrianassociates.com/

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kurt E. Higgins" <Kurt.Higgins@amce.com>
Date: October 14, 2025 at 11:58:48 AM CDT
To: Morris Glaze <mglaze1234@icloud.com>, robobrianconsulting@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Public Hearing set for Oct. 22 for comments on proposed Charter revisions for civicplus.com

Morris/Rob,
As a professional engineer who has worked for the City of Joplin as a consultant over the past 30 years, I believe the City of Joplin has always had a Public Works Director who was a professional engineer. Here are some quick comments:

1. The Public Works Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the city's public works infrastructure. This includes managing, planning, and implementing projects related to water, wastewater, streets, and storm water systems to name a few. The Director also provides professional engineering expertise, including reviewing and approving project plans, designing and managing capital improvement projects, and offering technical support across the department.
2. This role requires a strong leader who can effectively manage department operations and supervise key staff, including the superintendents of the Water/Wastewater and Streets/Sanitation divisions, the Assistant City Engineer, and others.
3. As someone who oversees other engineers in the Public Works Department, I would think it is important the Director has more experience than those under them.

4. A Professional Engineer has proven they have the technical and work experience needed to obtain a PE.
5. A PE is to consider public safety above finances. A non-PE has not been trained to consider public safety and would have more of a tendency to be more concerned with finances.
6. A PE is informed and responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations related to water quality and wastewater discharge.
7. Surrounding communities like Springfield, Lee's Summit and many others have PE's as their Public Works Director.

Kurt Higgins, P.E.
Sr. Vice President
kurt.higgins@amce.com | www.amce.com
Main: 417.680.7200 | **Direct**: 417.680.7370 | **Cell**: 417.317.0963

ALLGEIER, MARTIN and ASSOCIATES, INC.

Charles E. Patterson PhD, PE, CFM
Vice President, Hydro Division Manager
Charles.Patterson@amce.com | www.amce.com
Main: 573.341.9487

ALLGEIER, MARTIN and ASSOCIATES, INC.
Consulting Engineers

From: City News <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 11:35 AM
To: Charles Patterson <Charles.Patterson@amce.com>
Subject: Public Hearing set for Oct. 22 for comments on proposed Charter revisions for civicplus.com

.... ---- NOT AN AMCE EMAIL ---- ....

View this in your browser

October 10, 2025

Public Hearing set for Oct. 22 for comments on proposed Charter revisions

Joplin citizens are invited to comment on items under consideration by the Charter Review Commission in an upcoming Public Hearing. **The public meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in the City Council Chambers of Joplin City Hall, 602 South Main Street.**

At the September 15, 2025, City Council meeting, the Commission was charged with considering the five items listed below as amendments to the Charter. Citizens are encouraged to comment on these items and suggest other Charter items to be considered at this time. The original five items are:

- Should the Charter be amended to change the rate of pay of the Council from $5.00 per meeting to an increased amount?
- Should the Charter be amended to change Section 13.04 to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition, and alternatively, for a nominating petition for an incumbent city council member who has already met the signature requirements?
- Should the Charter be amended to change the term “emergency ordinance” in Section 2.12 to “expedited ordinance”?
- Should the Charter be amended to remove the requirement that the Public Works Director be a professional engineer registered in the State of Missouri?
- Should the Charter be amended to remove any publication requirements that are required under the current Charter?

After hearing from residents and reviewing all input, the Commission will submit its final recommendations to the City Council, which will consider whether to place these items on the April 7, 2026, municipal ballot. The final report is due by December 1, 2025.

Members of the Commission include: Phil Stinnett, Ryan Stanley, Melodee Colbert-Kean, Michael Seibert, Dan Pekarek, Diane Reid-Adams, Morris Glaze, Rob O'Brian, and Chuck Brown (Chairman). For questions, please contact Holly Nagy, City Clerk, at 417-624-0820, ext. 1220 or Hnagy@joplinmo.org.