JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 15, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The December 15, 2025, regular meeting of the Joplin City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Cortez.

INVOCATION was read by City Clerk, Holly Nagy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was led by Mike Boykin, Salvation Army

ROLL CALL

Answering Roll Call were Council Members: Joshua Bard, Doris Carlin, Charles Copple, Keenan Cortez, Mark Farnham, Ryan Jackson, Doug Lawson and Gary Shaw. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

Absent: Josh DeTar

Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. Lawson to excuse the absence of Mr. DeTar. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

PRESENTATIONS

Boards and Commissions Recognition
Mayor Cortez, presented.

Thrive Joplin Project Kick Off
Nicole Brown, One Joplin, presented.

Semi-Annual Oversight Committee Report
Leslie Haase, Finance Director presented.

Tom Robertson addressed Council regarding this topic.

Grant Project Update
Leslie Haase, Finance Director presented.

Zora & Duquesne Roundabout Beautification Options
Dan Johnson, Director of Public Works presented

FINALIZATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

News from the Public Information Office
Drew Douglas, Public Information Officer, presented.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard, to move the speakers under new business to Citizen Requests. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

Amanda Bearden spoke regarding Homelessness and entered notes into record.
The following spoke to council regarding Hopeful Bites, and entered notes into the record: Schuyler Carr, Rosalyn Jourdon, Sabrina Cole, Chris Hammer, Christopher Deile, Grace Bennett, Shawnya Fisher.

Mr. Stinnett addressed Council wishing them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Cortez opened the floor for further discussion regarding the Hopeful Bites matter. Mr. Cortez called Mr. Carr, Ms. Jourdan, and Ms. Bennett back to the podium.

Further discussion happened on this topic. Mayor Cortez offered a meeting to the Hopeful Bites group to discuss the issue further.

Break was taken at 8:17 PM. Meeting was reconvened at 8:27 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. Lawson to approve the consent agenda. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

Minutes of the December 1, 2025, City Council Meeting

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-152 - AN ORDINANCE approving the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with R.E. Smith Construction Company in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen and 00/100 dollars ($499,513.00) for construction of the East Town Sidewalks 2025 project and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin and setting a date when the Ordinance shall become effective. **Ordinance No. 2025-186**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-154 - AN ORDINANCE approving the issuance of a Purchase Order to Tri-State Truck Center, Inc., in the amount of One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Five and 00/100 Dollars ($157,405.00) for the purchase of a 2025 Mack GR64F Chassis with mDRIVE Transmission; and, setting a date when this ordinance shall become effective. **Ordinance No. 2025-187**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-155 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with Mercury Voice and Data, L.L.C. d/b/a Optimum Communications ("Optimum") for the purpose of Optimum installing, maintaining and operating facilities for communications related capabilities within the City's Rights-of-Way and ensuring compliance with the City's requirements of such use of City property; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. **Ordinance No. 2025-188**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-285 - AN ORDINANCE approving the voluntary annexation by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, of property generally described as approximately 328 acres at the Southwest corner of 7th Street and Old Scotland Rd, Jasper County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2025-189**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-288 - AN ORDINANCE providing to vacate a drainage easement, located at 2139 E Nashville St, City of Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri.
Ordinance No. 2025-190

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-289 - AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2022-119, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, August 1, 2022, by removing from District R-1 (Single-Family Residential) and include in District C-3 (Commercial) property as described below and generally known as 3508 N Range Line Rd, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2025-191**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-623 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to issue a purchase order to Don Brown Chevrolet in the amount of Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars and No Cents ($285,470.00) for the purchase of five (5) Chevy Tahoe Police vehicles; authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin and setting an effective date.
Ordinance No. 2025-192

RESOLUTIONS
ORDINANCES – EMERGENCY

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING
COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-153
Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2025-153- AN ORDINANCE approving the issuance of a Purchase Order to Southern Bus & Mobility, Inc., in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Thirty-Four and 00/100 Dollars ($224,034.00) for the purchase of a two (2) light duty cutaway vehicles, 2026 Ford E450 Diamond Coach with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant lifts; and, setting a date when this ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Bard, that Council Bill No. 2025-153 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-153.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-156

Dr. Farnham introduced Council Bill No. 2025-156 - AN ORDINANCE approving Amendment 1 to Work Authorization OLS-WIL-02 with Olsson in the not to exceed amount of Six Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand and 00/100 dollars ($647,000.00) for professional engineering services for the Willow Branch Improvements project and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; amending the Annual Budget of the City of Joplin for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as adopted by Ordinance 2025-143 on October 20, 2025; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Dr. Farnham, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2025-156 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-156.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-554

Mr. Shaw introduced Council Bill No. 2025-554 - AN ORDINANCE repealing Section 30-121, License Classifications and Fees, of Article III, Licenses, Division 2, Schedule of Fees, of Chapter 30, Businesses, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin and enacting in lieu thereof a new Section 30-121, License Classifications and Fees, of Article III, Licenses, Division 2, Schedule of Fees, of Chapter 30, Businesses, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin to implement certain classification changes; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Shaw, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2025-554 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-554.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-555

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2025-555 - AN ORDINANCE amending the Annual Budget of the City of Joplin for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as adopted by Ordinance 2025-143 on October 20, 2025, to adjust appropriations; and, setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Ms. Carlin that Council Bill No. 2025-555 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-555.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-624

Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2025-624 - AN ORDINANCE approving a Purchase Order to be issued to Turn-Key Mobile, Inc., to cover the purchase of replacement mobile data computers for the Police Department and Animal Control Officers as budgeted in the Annual Budget of the City of Joplin for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as adopted by Ordinance 2025-538 on October 20, 2025; and setting an effective date. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2025-624 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-624.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-625

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2025-625 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with Mid-America Sports Construction for the purpose of removing and installing synthetic turf at Joe Becker and Wendell Redden Baseball Stadiums and installing synthetic turf on four fields at the Gene Bassman Softball Complex for the not to exceed price of One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-One Dollars ($1,589,851.00); authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; and, amending the Annual Budget of the City of Joplin for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as adopted by Ordinance 2025-143 on October 20, 2025. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2025-625 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-625.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-627

Dr. Farnham introduced Council Bill No. 2025-627 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with OMNIA Partners Cooperative for the purchase of a Groundsmaster 4000-D Rough Mower through Professional Turf Products, L.P. for the not to exceed price of One Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Twenty-Seven Cents ($105,749.27) and authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin. Motion by Dr. Farnham, second by Mr. Jackson that Council Bill No. 2025-627 be passed on first reading and advance to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2025-627.

SECOND AND THIRD READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-017

Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2025-017- AN ORDINANCE approving a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (MOU) by and between the City of Joplin, Missouri, a Municipal Corporation, and Friends of Joplin Memorial Hall, for the purpose of renovating Memorial Hall. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2025-017be tabled to allow time to CVB to review. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson, and Shaw 5. Nays: Carlin, Copple, Cortez 3. **This item was tabled and will be heard again at the 2nd meeting in January.**

Mr. Stinnett spoke about this item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bard expressed concern regarding road cuts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully,

Holly Nagy
City Clerk