Minutes of the January 9, 2026
Joplin Legislative Committee

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of January 9, 2026, Legislative Committee was called to order by City Mayor Keenan Cortez at 4:37 pm. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion carried.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keenan Cortez, Mayor Pro Tem Josh DeTar, Charles Copple, City Manager Nick Edwards, Asst. City Manager Tony Robyn, Finance Director Leslie Haase, Felicia Urban. Guests: District 32 Senator Jill Carter, Tony Dugger.

Absent: Mark Farnham

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Legislative Priorities: City Mayor Keenan Cortez began the meeting by welcoming everyone. Tony Dugger began discussing the upcoming legislative session and the key bills that would potentially come to the floor for a vote. House leadership is expected to move a high volume of bills quickly this session. Democrats are not anticipated to delay proceedings procedurally but may oppose bills upon floor consideration. The Representative discussed an important property tax caps and state tax commission. Pressure from the State Tax Commission to increase assessed values was identified as a primary concern. They also discussed the future of the State's budget, revenue outlook, and spending priorities. City staff and Council members discussed the City's upcoming initiatives that may align with State priorities. Proposal to eliminate the state income tax over a long-term, incremental period was discussed. Potential impacts on sales tax, including food and restaurant sales, were raised. Concerns expressed regarding effects on local government revenues, schools, and public services. Bills requiring cities to pay utility relocation costs when opening rights-of-way have been referred to committee. Leadership referral decisions may impact bill outcomes.

A motion was made by Nick Edwards and seconded by Josh DeTar to review how allowing mobile homes within the city limits would affect the city. The motion carried.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Submitted,

Felicia Urban

Felicia Urban, Secretary