COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-005 ORDINANCE NO. 2026-

AN ORDINANCE submitting to the electors of the City of Joplin, Missouri, at a General Municipal Election to be held on the 7th day of April, 2026, proposed Charter Amendment No. 02 to the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as adopted November 6, 2007 and containing an emergency clause.

WHEREAS, the Council appointed a nine (9) member Charter Review Commission by Resolution No. 2025-009 on September 15, 2025, charging the Commission with reviewing certain sections of the City's Charter; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission presented the results of their review including suggestions for the betterment and update of the current Charter to the City Council at its regular meeting on January 5, 2026, and the City Council approved two (2) of those recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, one of the items discussed by the Commission was whether the term "emergency", as stated and defined in Section 2.12 of the Charter, should be changed to "expedited", to better define the type of bills that Council passes with a single reading; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission voted 8-1 to recommend to the Council to place this item on the ballot; and,

WHEREAS, it is deemed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, to be in the public interest to submit to the electors of the City of Joplin, at a General Municipal Election to be held in the City on the 7th day of April, 2026, an amendment to the Charter of said City November 6, 2007.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as follows:

That there be submitted to the electors of the City of Joplin, Missouri, at a General Municipal Election to be held in said City, on the 7th day of April, 2026, the following amendment to the Charter of the City of Joplin, adopted November 6, 2007; said amendment to be as follows:

Section 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 02

That Article II. The Council, of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Mo., adopted November 6, 2007, be amended by amending Section 2.12. - Legislative proceedings., change the term 'emergency' ordinance to 'expedited' ordinance.

BE IT ADOPTED by the people of the City of Joplin, Missouri:

That Article II. The Council, of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Mo., adopted November 6, 2007, be amended to change the term 'emergency' ordinance to 'expedited' ordinance, so that Section 2.12 shall read as follows:

"Section 2.12. - Legislative proceedings.

In the transaction of legislative business, whenever the council shall act by ordinance, the following procedure shall be used: Every ordinance shall be by bill, which shall be in written or printed form, and the enacting clause shall be, "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN," except the enacting clause of all ordinances submitted by the initiative shall be: "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF JOPLIN." All bills shall be read three times before final passage, not more than two of which readings shall be at the same legislative session; and at least one week shall elapse between the introduction and final passage of any bill, except as set forth below.

~~Emergency~~ Expedited measures shall take effect immediately upon their passage. An ~~emergency~~ expedited measure is any ordinance passed by either the vote of two-thirds of the members of the council or the unanimous vote of those members present, whichever is lesser, and shall be restricted to the following:

(1) Any ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety or morals, containing the statement that an ~~emergency~~ expedited need exists and specifying distinctly the facts and reasons constituting such ~~emergency~~ need for expediency.

(2) Any ordinance calling any election or providing for submission of any proposal to the people.

(3) Any ordinance making an appropriation for the payment of principal or interest of the public debt, or for current expenses of the city government, or payment of compromise settlements of damage claims upon recommendation of the city attorney.

(4) Any general appropriation ordinance.

(5) Any ordinance fixing any tax rate or assessment.

(6) Any ordinance relating to any public improvement.

Every bill introduced shall be filed with the city clerk on the day of its first reading and shall remain on file in his office for public inspection until it is finally adopted or fails of passage. Prior to the final passage of any bill, other than an ~~emergency~~ expedited bill, all persons interested therein may be heard before the council, in accordance with such rules and regulations as the council may adopt. After the third reading of any bill and compliance with the other provisions herein, the council may finally pass the bill with or without amendment; except that if the council shall make an amendment which constitutes a change in substance, the bill as amended shall be filed in the office of the city clerk for one additional week, and an opportunity afforded for a further public hearing, after which final action may be taken thereon.

An ordinance, when passed by the council, shall be signed by the presiding officer and attested by the city clerk; it shall be immediately filed and thereafter preserved in the office of the city clerk; and, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be subject to the referendum provided in Article XIV of this charter. Unless otherwise specified, every ordinance shall become effective twenty days after its final passage. If an ordinance be submitted at a referendum election or as a result of an initiative petition, it shall become effective upon the declaration by the council, after canvassing the election returns, that it has received the favorable vote of a majority of those voting thereon.

"Shall Section 2.12 of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, be amended to change the term ‘emergency’ ordinance to ‘expedited’ ordinance?"

Yes. ⬅____

No. ⬅____

Instructions to Voters

TO vote IN FAVOR OF Amendment 02, complete the arrow next to the word "YES".

TO vote AGAINST Amendment 02, complete the arrow next to the word "NO". "

Any approved change in this Section of the Charter shall be applicable to any other reference to the term “emergency” ordinance in the Charter and Code of Ordinances.

Section 2. That said election shall be governed in all things by the provisions of the statutes of Missouri and Charter and ordinances of the City of Joplin, Missouri, relating to elections in the City insofar as the same are applicable and not in contravention with the particular provisions of this ordinance; said election shall be held at the respective voting districts of said City as set out in a Notice to be published by the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, Missouri, according to law. Said Notice shall include the question to be submitted as set forth herein, and a complete and detailed description of each and all precincts of said City, and, in said annexation area, in Jasper and Newton Counties, Missouri, to be published by the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, in a paper of general circulation in Joplin, Missouri, the publication of which to occur in accordance with Missouri law.

That the ballot shall be in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

"Shall Section 2.12 of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, be amended to change the term ‘emergency’ ordinance to ‘expedited’ ordinance?"

CITY OF JOPLIN CHARTER

Election - Tuesday, April 7, 2026

SHALL THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

Yes, for Amendment 02. ← —

No, for Amendment 02. ← —

Instructions to Voters

TO vote IN FAVOR OF Amendment 02, complete the arrow next to the word "YES".

TO vote AGAINST Amendment 02, complete the arrow next to the word "NO". "

Section 5. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to deliver to the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, Missouri, a Notice of said election for publication as required by state statutes in a newspaper of general circulation in Joplin, Missouri, that at the Election to be held on the 7th day of April, 2026, in the City of Joplin, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this City at such election, the proposed new Charter to the Charter of the City hereinbefore referred to. The Notice of Election shall be published in accordance with the statutes and laws of the State of Missouri.

Section 6. The City Clerk shall canvas the results of the election as verified by the Jasper and Newton County Clerks and report the same to the Council at the next scheduled Council meeting following the election.

Section 7. That this Ordinance, being an Ordinance submitting a Charter Amendment to the voters, is an emergency within the meaning of Section 2.12(2) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, and as such, this Ordinance shall become effective immediately from and after its adoption and approval.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this 20th day of January, 2026, by a vote of _____.

_____
Keenan T. Cortez, Sr.

ATTEST:

_____
Holly Nagy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney