JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 20, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The January 20, 2026, regular meeting of the Joplin City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Keenan Cortez.

INVOCATION was read by City Clerk, Holly Nagy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was led by Mr. Copple

ROLL CALL

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

Public Hearings were moved up on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing Procedures were read by City Clerk Holly Nagy

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-256
Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing

The following spoke in favor of this item:
Harvey Hutchinson, Jimmer Pinjuv, Frank Thompson (Time extended by 60 seconds)
Allen Mock, Brett Johnson, Tim Wilson, President of Liberty Utilities
Emily Pink (for annexation, not for data center)
Matt Barnhart, Missouri American Water, Payton White
Joshua Wilson (for annexation, not for data center),
Houston Britton – Pryor, OK Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Barker, Toby Teeter, Rob Jones, Morris Glaze, Tim Carr, Daniel Hawkins

Break was taken at 7:56 PM – Reconvened the meeting at 8:05 PM

The following spoke in opposition of this item:
Rob Peterson, Sabrina Cole, Amanda Calderon Kidston, Eric Hilgendorf, Chris Hammer (time extended by 60 seconds) Ron Burch, Austin Rose, Mason Knickerson, Sabrina Johnston, Jill Halbach, Karl Keczkemethy, Carl Ford, Michael Williams, Ashley Simmons, Dan Shields, Ryan Hagendorf, Amber Jourdon, Avery Maggerson, Nicole Bearden, Scott Healy,
Natalie Ailey, Mathew Wolsey, Rob Dunkle, Jacobi Marten, Brenda Bower, Dan Lawson, Jennifer Moore, Micah Goins, Logan Alritz, Leo Fair, Journey Gustafson,
Natasha Klue-Michael, Rusty Shackleford, Melissa Perkins, Susan Adams, Kimberly Barker, Daniel Sluger, Marla LePage, Jean Matlock, Chris Osgood, Colton Page

Break was taken at 10:21 PM – Reconvened the meeting at 10:33 PM

Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. DeTar to reopen the Public Hearing. Motion passed with Mr. Jackson, Bard, and Farnham against.

Benjamin Joseph Peterson, Elizabeth Peterson, Derrick Carter

The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-256
Mr. Bard introduced Council Bill No. 2026-256- AN ORDINANCE approving the voluntary annexation by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, of property generally described as Approximately 540 Acres Southwest of the intersection of Central City Rd and W 20th Street, Jasper and Newton County, Missouri. Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. Jackson that Council Bill No. 2026 - 256 be placed on First Reading and passed. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Cortez, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw. 6. Nays: Copple, DeTar, Farnham, 3.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-257
Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing

The following spoke in favor of this item:

Jimmer Pinjuv (time extended for 60 seconds), Richard Cobb, Matt Barnhart, Missouri American Water.

The following spoke in opposition of this item:

Jennifer Jones, Preston Hamilton, Stacey Gordon, Joshua Wilson, Susan Mitchell, Tyler Castillo, Logan Alvarez, Amanda Caldrone Kidston, Colton Page, Michael Florez, Natasha Klue-Michael, Rebecca Collins, Andrew Sleaner, Ashlyn Fennal, Marla LePage.

The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-257
Mr. Bard introduced Council Bill No. 2026-257- 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 M-2 (Heavy Industrial) property as described below and generally known as Approximately 600.4 Acres Southwest of the intersection of Central City Rd and W 20th St., Joplin, Jasper and Newton County, Missouri. Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. Jackson that Council Bill No. 2026-257 be placed on First Reading and passed. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Cortez, DeTar, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw,7. Nays: Copple, Farnham, 2.

PRESENTATIONS

Allo Quarterly Update
Brandon, a representative from Allo, presented.

FINALIZATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Copple moved Council Bill No. 2026-104 to Second and Third Reading.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

News from the Public Information Office

Drew Douglas, Director of Marketing and Communications presented.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

The following residents addressed Council:

Amanda Bearden, Mathew Wolsey, Michael Williams.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Lawson to approve the amended consent agenda. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

Minutes of the January 5, 2026, City Council Meeting

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-287 - AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2022-119, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, August 1, 2022, by removing from District C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) and include in District R-1 (Single-Family Residential) property as described below and generally known as the Northeast Corner of W 20th Street and South Empire Avenue, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2026-009.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-002 - AN ORDINANCE amending throughout Chapter 30 – BUSINESS, Article III. Licenses, Division 6. Hotel, Motel, and Tourist Courts to include short-term rentals under the hotel/motel tax paid by transient guests; enacting a new section; and establishing a time for this ordinance to become effective. **Ordinance No. 2026-010.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-101 - AN ORDINANCE approving an agreement with G&G Construction Company Inc. in the amount of Seven Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS ($729,000.00) for the Turkey Creek WWTP Trickling Filter Drive Renovation 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 this Ordinance shall become effective. **Ordinance No. 2026-011.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-102 - AN ORDINANCE approving an agreement with Pediatrics Plus Therapy Services, to provide sanitary sewer service to a portion of the property on 4445 E 7th St. in Jasper County, Missouri, 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. 2026-012.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-103 - AN ORDINANCE approving the issuance of a Purchase Order to Henderson Products, Inc., in the amount of Five Hundred Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Nine and 38/100 Dollars ($503,799.38) for the purchase of two (2) 2027 Freightliner 108SD+ Single Axle Dump Trucks with Henderson Comprehensive Snow Removal Package; 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. **Ordinance No. 2026-013.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-250 - AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2022-119, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, August 1, 2022, by removing from District M-2 (Heavy Industrial) and include in District R-2 (Two-Family Residential) property as described below and generally known as 1531 S Iowa Ave, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri.
Ordinance No. 2026-014.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-251- AN ORDINANCE approving the voluntary annexation by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, of property generally described as 4549 S Hwy 43, Newton County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2026-015.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-252 - 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 4549 S Hwy 43, Joplin, Newton County, Missouri.
Ordinance No. 2026-016.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-253 - AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2022-119, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, August 1, 2022, by removing from District M-2 (Heavy Industrial) and include in District C-3 (Commercial) property as described below and generally known as approximately 67 Acres SE of E 20th St and S Geneva Ave, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2026-017.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-400 - AN ORDINANCE approving an Agreement between the City of Joplin, Missouri, and the Homeless Coalition that pertains to 2025 CDBG public service grant funds; authorizing the City Manager to execute same on behalf of the City.
Ordinance No. 2026-018.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-601- AN ORDINANCE approving a Contract by and between the City of Joplin and Upanup Studios Inc. to provide comprehensive website design, development and technology implementation services for the City of Joplin; authorizing the City Manager to execute said Contract by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; and establishing a time for this ordinance to become effective. **Ordinance No. 2026-019.**

RESOLUTIONS

ORIDNANCES – EMERGENCY

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-003

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-003- AN ORDINANCE calling an election on April 7, 2026, in the City of Joplin, Missouri, to submit to the qualified voters, a question as to whether to impose a one-half of one percent (1/2 percent) citywide sales tax on retail sales within the City of Joplin, Missouri, for the purpose of improving the public safety of the City to replace upon its expiration the one-half of one percent (1/2 percent) general sales tax previously approved by the voters on November 5, 2019 to provide revenues to close the Police and Fire Pension Plan to new hires and migrate new hires to the Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System, and containing an emergency clause.

Mary Price spoke in support of this item.

Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2026-003 be passed on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Cortez, Copple, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson, and Shaw, 9. **Ordinance No. 2026-020.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-004

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-004- 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. 01 to the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as adopted November 6, 2007; and containing an emergency clause. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Dr. Farnham, that Council Bill No. 2026-004 be passed on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Lawson, and Shaw, 5. Nays: Carlin, DeTar, Jackson, Bard ,4. **This Council Bill failed, due to the number of votes required for an emergency.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-005

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-005- 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. Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Copple, that Council Bill No. 2026-005 be passed on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Carlin, Cortez, Copple, DeTar, Farnham, Lawson, and Shaw, 7. Nays: Bard, Jackson, 2. **Ordinance No. 2026-021.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-105

Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-105- AN ORDINANCE authorizing the acceptance of an agreement by and between the City of Joplin and Crawford, Murphy and Tilley for Construction Management services for the Design and Bidding Services for the North Perimeter Road at the Joplin Regional Airport in the not to exceed amount of One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Seven and 00/100 Dollars ($154,167.00); authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute this agreement 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 containing an emergency clause. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard, that Council Bill No. 2026-105 be passed on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. **Ordinance No. 2026-022.**

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-100

Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-100 - AN ORDINANCE approving the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with Sprouls Construction Incorporated in the amount of Eighty thousand two hundred and 00/100 dollars ($80,200.00) for 24 Trolley Shelter Metal projects 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. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Dr. Farnham, that Council Bill No. 2026-100 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-100.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-106

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-106 - AN ORDINANCE Authorizing the approval of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Grant Agreement for Air Service Promotion and Marketing at the Joplin Regional Airport, authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin and setting an effective date. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. DeTar that Council Bill No. 2026-106 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-106.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-107

Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-107- AN ORDINANCE authorizing the acceptance of an agreement by and between the City of Joplin and Crawford, Murphy and Tilley for an Aviation Project Consultant Agreement for a new Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Application at the Joplin Regional Airport in the not to exceed amount of Forty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Five and 78/100 Dollars ($49,155.78); authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute this agreement 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 an effective date. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2026-107 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-107.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-500

Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-500 - AN ORDINANCE approving the Real Estate Contract by and between the City of Joplin, Missouri, a Municipal Corporation, and Land Scout, LLC., for the sale of one parcel located at 1304 Kentucky Avenue, totaling approximately 6,000 square feet of land; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Dr. Farnham, that Council Bill No. 2026-500 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-500.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-501

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-501 - 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. Lawson, second by Mr. Jackson that Council Bill No. 2026-501 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-501.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-600

Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-600 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin, Missouri, to enter into a Ground Lease Agreement with Liberty Enterprise Group, LLC, a Missouri Corporation, for the purpose of hosting the 2026 World Street Painting Festival during the Route 66 Centennial; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard, that Council Bill No. 2026-600 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-600.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-602

Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-602 - AN ORDINANCE approving the issuance of a Purchase Order to Blue Valley Public Safety, Inc. to cover the purchase of three tornado sirens manufactured by Federal Warning Systems as approved in the Annual Budget of the City of Joplin for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as adopted by Ordinance 2025-151 on October 20, 2025; authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin, and setting an effective date. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Copple that Council Bill No. 2026-602 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-602.

SECOND AND THIRD READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-104

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-104- AN ORDINANCE approving the issuance of a Purchase Order to Henderson Products, Inc., in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight and 12/100 Dollars ($234,658.12) for the purchase of one (1) 2027 Freightliner 108SD+ Tandem Axle Dump Truck with Henderson Anti-Ice Package; 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 Mr. Copple, second by Mr. Lawson to amend Council Bill No. 2026-104 to remove the Henderson Anti Ice Package language. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. DeTar that amended Council Bill No. 2026-104 move to second reading, advance to third and pass. **Ordinance No. 2026-023.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned at January 21, 2026, at 1:09 a.m.

Respectfully,

Holly Nagy
City Clerk