Minutes of the February 5, 2026
Joplin Legislative Committee

CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of the February 5, 2026, Legislative Committee was called to order by City Manager Nick Edwards at 4:00pm.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Copple, Mr. Cortez, Mr. DeTar. Staff: Nick Edwards, Leslie Haase, Tony Robyn.

Absent: Dr. Farnham

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Legislative Priorities:

Mr. Edwards handed out draft copies of HJR 173 and 174 which contained the legislation related to the State's income tax elimination proposal. Mr. Edwards reviewed with the Committee the basic intent of the resolutions which calls for the elimination of the State's Income Tax, how the State intends to replace the revenue, and it's impact on political subdivisions.

Mr. Copple asked if other cities or MML has taken a position or started advocacy efforts. Mr. Edwards answered that there's been very little discussion on this proposal within the professional networks. Mr. Copple asked if city staff could discuss this with their appropriate counterparts and Mr. Edwards agreed to reach out to colleagues to discuss the proposal.

Mr. Cortez shared a personal experience from his time in Texas, a state without an income tax, and explained how taxes are collected there. Mr. DeTar asked about the potential impact to the City and if we have been informed of what other goods or services might be taxed to replace the income tax. Mr. Edwards answered that he would reach out to MML to see if they have additional information.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 4:53pm.

Submitted,

Secretary