Minutes of the February 20, 2026
Joplin Citizen's Committee: Proposition Police & Fire

CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of February 20, 2026, Citizen's Committee: Proposition Police & Fire was called to order by Chair CB Eastman at 7:32 am.

Roll Call: Committee Members Present: CB Eastman, Jhan Hurn, Bob Loudermilk, Dottie Murphy, Fred Palmer, Ryan Stanley, Gregg Wilkerson, Betsy Mense, Kim Cox.

Absent: Drew Kimble, Payton Layne, Anthony Monteleone, Terry Wachter, Dan Pekarek, Chris Stockton

City Employees Present: Nick Edwards, Drew Douglas, Leslie Haase, Felicia Urban, Andy Nimmo, Brian Lewis, Tom Bowin, Jared Delzell, Dan Stevens, John Smith & Josh Bard.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: CB Eastman motioned to approve minutes as is. All in favor to pass minutes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview of Citizen's Committee: The committee discussed ongoing community engagement efforts and emphasized the importance of attending speaking engagements with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, City Manager, and committee members. Members were encouraged to continue participating in these engagements as schedules allow. An updated tracking sheet documenting completed, and upcoming engagements is being prepared and will be recirculated. Educational flyers previously reviewed by the committee were finalized with minor edits and completed as of the prior evening.

Updated educational materials and the City's informational webpage were reviewed. The webpage includes updated charts, tables, and plan comparisons intended to provide clear information regarding the proposition. Committee members were advised that all webpage language has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel to ensure compliance and to avoid advocacy language by the City. It was noted that opinion-based or advocacy messaging may be distributed separately by non-City groups through materials such as PDFs or other outreach tools.

The committee discussed the use of QR codes to share information and fundraising links. A QR code linking to the City's informational webpage is available and will be emailed to committee members following the meeting. Fundraising QR codes will continue to be distributed through appropriate non-City channels, such as the Chamber or political action committees. Members were encouraged to share links and QR codes with personal contacts and through personal social media accounts.

An update was provided on fundraising efforts, with emphasis placed on participation rather than contribution amounts. PAC funds are being built to support campaign materials, including printed educational materials and signage. Committee members were reminded that fundraising activities must remain separate from City Communications.

The committee reviewed the status of printed materials and yard sign distribution. Door hangers, flyers, and business cards containing QR codes are in development and pending final QR code integration. Yard signs are currently available for pickup at the Chamber of Commerce front desk. Members were instructed to record the number of signs taken and the locations where they are placed to assist with tracking and avoid duplication. Approximately 200 signs are currently in circulation, and additional orders may be considered. The committee discussed the benefit of using heavier-gauge sign stakes to improve durability in windy conditions.

Plans for door-to-door canvassing were discussed. A coordinated outreach event is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with breakfast provided for volunteers. Outreach teams will include police, fire, and community volunteers and will distribute approved materials. Efforts will be coordinated to ensure coverage while avoiding duplication of outreach locations.

The committee also discussed media and communications strategies, including potential letters to the editor and increased social media engagement. Members were encouraged to share information through personal social media accounts and to refresh posts periodically to maintain visibility. The possibility of boosting posts using PAC funds was discussed, with the understanding that such efforts must comply with applicable regulations.

Finally, the committee discussed coordination and awareness of other community initiatives on the ballot, noting the importance of maintaining clear, compliant messaging specific to the Proposition Police and Fire effort while remaining mindful of broader community conversations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am.

Submitted,

Felicia Urban, Secretary