Minutes of the February 27, 2026
Joplin Citizen's Committee: Proposition Police & Fire

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of February 27, 2026, Citizen's Committee: Proposition Police & Fire was called to order by Chair CB Eastman at 7:34 am and second by Chris Stockton.

Roll Call: Committee Members Present: CB Eastman, Dottie Murphy, Kim Cox, Bob Loudermilk, Fred Palmer, Dan Pekarek, Ryan Stanley and Chris Stockton.

Absent: Luke Gibson, Jhan Hurn, Drew Kimble, Payton Layne, Anthony Monteleone, Terri Wachter and Greg Wilkerson.

City Employees Present: Nick Edwards, Drew Douglas, Felicia Urban, Gerald Ezell, Richard Pearson, Brian Lewis, Thomas Bowin, Luke Stahl, Jared Delzell, Mark Cox, Betsey Mense, Erin Slifka, Charles Copple and Josh Bard.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: CB Eastman motioned to approve minutes as is, Chris Stockton second the motion. All in favor to pass minutes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview of Citizen's Committee: The committee discussed finalizing a one-page informational handout intended for community outreach, events, and door-to-door efforts. The handout is designed to provide neutral, basic information without overwhelming the reader and to fit on a single sheet. Members reviewed plans to circulate a draft prior to printing, use gloss paper stock, and proceed with printing approximately 2,500 copies at a modest cost. Upon approval, a digital PDF version will be distributed via email and posted on the website to allow for public access and sharing. The materials will be appropriate for use by union members, staff, and volunteers, and were noted to be effective for brief interactions such as community events and canvassing. Previous outreach reports were described as having performed well, with strong commitment and measurable growth.

Members discussed using the approved one-page design as a foundation for additional internal reference materials, which may expand into a longer format for committee use but would not be printed. The same design will also be adapted for a large-format postcard mailing planned for mid-March, with design work expected to begin early the following week.

An update was provided on fundraising activity. As of February 26, at 8:46 p.m., total donations received amounted to $4,700. Expenses incurred totaled $1,096.38 for police and fire outreach flyers and hangers, leaving available funds of $5,904, which includes a carryover from a previous period. The committee discussed a fundraising goal of $15,000 as an appropriate target and noted plans to continue outreach to business owners while avoiding excessive follow-up. Strategies for clear and compelling messaging regarding the purpose and value of donations were also discussed.

The committee discussed the importance of submitting letters to the editor to support public awareness efforts. It was noted that at least one volunteer had agreed to prepare and submit a letter

for publication consideration, and other members were encouraged to submit correspondence as well. Timing of publication was identified as a priority.

An update was provided regarding sign distribution efforts. As of the most recent reporting period, approximately 94 signs were distributed following a recent event. A sign location map based on previous campaigns is being finalized and will be circulated to committee members for review. Members will be asked to confirm whether existing locations remain active, identify any changes, and suggest new locations for sign placement. Due to demand, additional sign orders were discussed, including pricing estimates. Volunteers have been actively placing signs and documenting locations, and updated counts will be incorporated into the centralized tracking map once finalized.

The committee reviewed digital outreach efforts, including the use of a centralized landing webpage to host campaign information and materials. Targeted digital advertising strategies were discussed, including text messaging and social media advertising aimed at likely voters. Emphasis was placed on educational messaging, awareness, and voter turnout. Members were encouraged to monitor social media posts and respond to public questions in comment sections to support accurate information sharing. The importance of consistent messaging and directing all outreach efforts to a single, comprehensive webpage was emphasized.

Additional outreach tools, including door hangers and smaller printed materials, were discussed. Certain neighborhoods and homeowner associations were identified as areas where further engagement may be needed. Ongoing outreach to community leaders, organizations, and residents will continue as part of the overall campaign strategy.

A motion was made to order 40 larger signs by Ryan Stanley and seconded by Kim Cox, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 am.

Submitted,

Felicia Urban, Secretary