JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 16, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The March 16, 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 Sally Beard.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Josh DeTar

Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. Lawson to excuse the absence of Mr. DeTar. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

PRESENTATIONS

Proposition Police and Fire Presentation

Nick Edwards, City Manager, Gereld Ezell, Fire Chief, Richard Pearson, Police Chief presented.

Speaking in support:
Tom Bowin, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #27 representative
Mark Cox, Joplin Professional Firefighters IAFF Local #59 representative
Dottie Murphy
CB Eastman

FINALIZATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

News from the Public Information Office

Lynn Onstot, Public Information Officer presented.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

The following residents addressed Council.

Mary Price addressed Council regarding decorum.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Mr. Shaw, second by Mr. Lawson to approve the consent agenda. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

Minutes of the March 2, 2026, Joplin City Council Meeting

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-259 - 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 C-2 (Central Business) property as described below and generally known as 1721 S Joplin Avenue, Jasper County, Missouri.
Ordinance No. 2026-045.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-504 - AN ORDINANCE approving a Cooperative Agreement among the City of Joplin, Missouri, the Joplin Sports Facility Community Improvement District, and Prospect Village, LLC; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Joplin, setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective.
Ordinance No. 2026-046.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-505 - AN ORDINANCE approving a Cooperative Agreement among the City of Joplin, Missouri, the Woodsonia Marketplace Community Improvement District, and Prospect Village, LLC; and authorizing the City Manager to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Joplin, setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective.
Ordinance No. 2026-047.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-506 – AN ORDINANCE approving the Real Estate Contract by and between the City of Joplin, Missouri, a Municipal Corporation, and Nathanial Dagley, for the sale of one parcel located at East Furnace Street – West of St Louis, totaling approximately 5,525 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.
Ordinance No. 2026-048.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-507 - AN ORDINANCE approving the Real Estate Contract by and between the City of Joplin, Missouri, a Municipal Corporation, and Nathanial Dagley, for the sale of one parcel located at North Street – West of St Louis, totaling approximately 7,225 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.
Ordinance No. 2026-049.

RESOLUTIONS

ORIDNANCES – EMERGENCY

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-120

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-120 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the acceptance of an agreement by and between the City of Joplin and Crawford, Murphy and Tilly for the Design and Bidding Phase services for the Restroom Expansion and Renovation Terminal Standards Update - Phase 1A at the Joplin Regional Airport in the not to exceed amount of Two Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-One and 40/100 Dollars ($234,651.40) 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. Copple, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2026-120 be passed on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

Ordinance No. 2026-050.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-112

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-112 - AN ORDINANCE approving the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with KCI Construction Company in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and 00/100 dollars ($122,290.00) for construction of the Newman Road Bridge Deck Repairs project 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. Copple, second by Ms. Carlin that Council Bill No. 2026-112 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-112.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-115

Mr. Bard introduced Council Bill No. 2026-115 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into a work authorization with Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc. for Professional Engineering Consulting Services in the not to exceed amount of Four Hundred Thirty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($430,000.00) for the Shoal Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Final Clarifier Addition 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. Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2026-115 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-115.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-116

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-116 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into a work authorization with Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc. for engineering consultation services in the not to exceed amount of Ninety-Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($98,000.00) for the Wastewater Treatment Plants Electrical Upgrades 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. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Ms. Carlin, that Council Bill No. 2026-116 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-116.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-117

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-117 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into a work authorization with Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc. for engineering consultation services in the not to exceed amount of Eighty-Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($88,000.00) for the Wastewater Treatment Plants Lime Silo and Digester Roof Rehabilitation Project 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. Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2026-117 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-117.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-508

Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-508 - AN ORDINANCE approving an agreement for banking and depository services by and between Commerce Bank and the City of Joplin, Missouri, for Commerce Bank to provide banking and depository services to the City of Joplin; authorizing the City Manager to execute said agreements; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Ms. Carlin, that Council Bill No. 2026-508 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-508.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-606

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-606 - AN ORDINANCE approving the purchase of annual insurance premiums from multiple insurance carriers to provide property, casualty and liability coverage for the City of Joplin; authorizing the City Manager to execute said agreement; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Ms. Carlin, that Council Bill No. 2026-606 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-606.

SECOND AND THIRD READING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Marla LePage addressed Council at this time.

Certification of Results for Referendum Petition No. 2026-001-R (Annexation) Petition to Repeal Ordinance No. 2026-041 (Annexation)

City Clerk, Holly Nagy read the results of the certification of the referendum petitions that were received in her office on March 9, 2026, known as Referendum Petition No. 2026-001-R (Annexation). The petitioner turned in 2,832 signatures, which is 2,200 signatures short of the required number. The petition is certified as insufficient and does not qualify for further verification by the Jasper and Newton County Election Officials. No further action shall be had on this petition.

Certification of Results for Referendum Petition No. 2026-002-R (Rezoning) Petition to Repeal Ordinance No. 2026-042 (Rezoning)

City Clerk, Holly Nagy read the results of the certification of the referendum petitions that were received in her office on March 9, 2026, known as Referendum Petition No. 2026-002-R (Rezoning). The petitioner turned in 2,348 signatures, which is 2,684 signatures short of the required number. The petition is certified as insufficient and does not qualify for further verification by the Jasper and Newton County Election Officials. No further action shall be had on this petition.

Dr. Farnham addressed the need to move forward with a Utility Rates Study.

Mr. Copple inquired about the status of the Short-Term Rental tax he asked the Legal Department to look into. Mr. Peter Edwards confirmed that some additional information has been brought forward and they are still looking into it. Mr. Copple would like the Public Works Department to keep in mind the sidewalks being blocked on the east side of the viaduct near the high school as students are unable to navigate the sidewalks when snowplows clear the roads and the snow piles up.

Mr. Bard would like the protective netting at Joe Becker stadium either replaced or extended.

Vote to go into closed session, which shall pertain to legal action, causes of action, or litigation including a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys pursuant to state law, as set forth in Section 610.021 (1) RSMo, as amended, 2020. This meeting, record, and vote to be closed. Council shall adjourn at the end of the session.

Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Jackson to go into closed session. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 8. Absent: DeTar, 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully,

Holly Nagy
City Clerk