JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
The April 6, 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 the winners of the Boys & Girls Club Poster contest.

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.

PRESENTATIONS
Fair Housing Proclamation/Boys & Girls Club Poster Contest

Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Update
Betsy Mense from the Chamber and Amy Kaufman from MoKAN presented.

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:
Maurice Filson
Chris Hammer
Christopher Swanton

PUBLIC HEARINGS
Public Hearing Procedures were read by City Clerk Holly Nagy

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-260
Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing

No one spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.

The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-260

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-260- AN ORDINANCE providing to vacate right-of-way for property known as Old McIntosh Cir., lying near property described as 3201 McIntosh Cir., City of Joplin, Newton County, Missouri.

Mr. Bellairs explained that this item needs to be stricken from the record as the wrong legal description was provided.

Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Bard, that Council Bill No. 2026-260 be **stricken**. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw. 9.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-261

Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing
Dustin Millis, contractor for project spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-261

Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-261- AN ORDINANCE amending the Joplin Development Code, Ordinance No. 2022-119, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, August 1, 2022, being Appendix 29-A of the Joplin Municipal Code. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Jackson that Council Bill No. 2026-261 be **tabled**.

Mr. Bard would like for this item to pertain only to new construction when it comes back to Council.

Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-262

Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing
Zach Imbus spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-262

Mr. Bard introduced Council Bill No. 2026-262- AN ORDINANCE approving the voluntary annexation by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, of property generally described as approximately 25 acres approximately 450 feet East of the Southeast corner of East 32nd Street and South Kodiak Rd, Newton County, Missouri. Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. Jackson that Council Bill No. 2026-262 be placed on First Reading and passed. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-263
Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing
Zach Imbus spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-263
Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-263- 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 M-2 (Heavy Industrial) property as described below and generally known as approximately 25 acres approximately 450 feet East of the Southeast corner of East 32nd St and South Kodiak Rd, Newton County, Missouri. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Ms. Carlin that Council Bill No. 2026-263 be placed on First Reading and passed. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-264
Mayor Cortez opened the Public Hearing
Angela Hudson spoke in favor of this item.
No one spoke in opposition of this item.
The Public Hearing was closed.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-264
Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-264- 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-2 (Two-Family Residential) and include in R-2 HL (Two-Family Residential – Historic Landmark Overlay) property as described below and generally known as 612 West E Street, Jasper County, Missouri. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Ms. Carlin that Council Bill No. 2026-264 be placed on First Reading and passed. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

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

Minutes of the March 16, 2026, Joplin City Council Meeting

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-051.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-052.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-053.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-054.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-055.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-056.**

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Lawson introduced Resolution No. 2026-006 - A RESOLUTION authorizing the submittal of an application with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office for the FY 2026 Historic Preservation Fund Grant for the Intensive Level Architectural Survey of North Heights Phase II, and future phases. Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Copple, that Resolution No. 2026-006 be approved. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Carlin, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Jackson, Lawson and Shaw, 9.

ORIDNANCES – EMERGENCY

Break was taken at 7:53 PM. Meeting reconvened at 8:01 PM.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-121

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-121 - AN ORDINANCE approving Amendment #3 to Work Authorization OLS-OC24-001 with Olsson for professional engineering consultation services in the not to exceed amount of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Three and 00/100 dollars ($136,783.00) for the 7th Street Sanitary Sewer Relocation 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. Copple, second by Ms. Carlin that Council Bill No. 2026-121 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. 2026-121.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-122

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-122- AN ORDINANCE approving the City of Joplin to enter into a construction agreement with APAC Central, Inc. in the amount of One Million Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven and 02/100 Dollars, ($1,013,587.02) for the Mill and Overlay 2026 project; 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 Dr. Farnham that Council Bill No. 2026-122 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. 2026-122.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-265

Mr. DeTar introduced Council Bill No. 2026-265- AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Joplin to enter into an Agreement with Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc. for Professional Planning Services relating to the creation of the Active Transportation and Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan updates for the Joplin Area Transportation Planning Organization (JATSO); authorizing the City Manager to execute said Agreement for the City of Joplin; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Bard, that Council Bill No. 2026-265 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. 2026-265.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-401

Mr. Bard introduced Council Bill No. 2026-401 - AN ORDINANCE approving an Agreement between the City of Joplin, Missouri, and Joplin Economic Housing Development Initiative that pertains to 2024 and 2025 HOME funds in the total amount not to exceed $310,000.00; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute same on behalf of the City of Joplin. Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2026-401 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. 2026-401.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-402
Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-402 - AN ORDINANCE approving an Agreement between the City of Joplin, Missouri, and Joplin Economic Housing Development Initiative that pertains to 2024 and 2025 HOME funds in the total amount not to exceed $175,000.00; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute same on behalf of the City of Joplin. Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Mr. Lawson, that Council Bill No. 2026-402 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. 2026-402.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-509
Dr. Farnham introduced Council Bill No. 2026-509 - 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 Dr. Farnham, second by Mr. DeTar that Council Bill No. 2026-509 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. 2026-509.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-607
Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-607 - AN ORDINANCE approving a Purchase Order to be issued to Superion, LLC., to cover the annual support payment for the financial software and related systems as budgeted amount of $227,063.26, was budgeted and approved for FY2026 by Council during the budget process and finalized by Ordinance 2025-538 on October 20, 2025; and establishing a date when it shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2026-607 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. 2026-607.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-608
Dr. Farnham introduced Council Bill No. 2026-608 - AN ORDINANCE Authorizing the City of Joplin to issue a purchase order to Don Brown Chevrolet in the amount of One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars and No Cents ($114,188.00) for the purchase of two (2) Chevy Tahoe Police vehicles; authorizing the City Manager to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin and setting an effective date. Motion by Dr. Farnham, second by Mr. Bard, that Council Bill No. 2026-608 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. 2026-608.

SECOND AND THIRD READING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Carlin requested clarification regarding the Council-approved changes to the CVB Board membership.

City Attorney Edwards reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) adopted on February 2, 2026, noting that it does not specify a timeline for realigning the Board.

Mr. Jackson stated his understanding that several members are nearing the end of their terms and that changes would occur through attrition, with those positions to be filled by hotelier representatives.

Ms. Carlin expressed the importance of ensuring the Council follows through on its prior commitments.

Mr. Copple suggested that ordinances be prepared in advance for consideration as board member terms expire.

Mr. Cortez stated that his understanding was that the MOU would be complied with and that the promises made would be adhered to.

NEW BUSINESS

Amanda Bearden addressed Council regarding homelessness.

Hannah Dyer addressed Council regarding letter of support by City Manager promising tax abatements to proposed Wildwood Data Center Project.

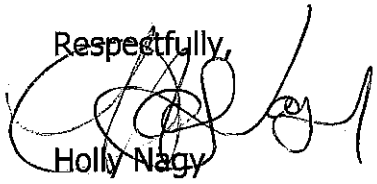
Spencer Fields addressed Council regarding elections and proposed Wildwood Data Center.

Mr. Copple raised safety concerns regarding Momentum Bike Park and requested that they be addressed. He also recommended that Animal Control Officers (ACOs) continue making direct contact in animal abuse/neglect cases rather than leaving business cards without continued follow-up.

Mr. DeTar requested a review of ordinances related to data centers prior to consideration of any proposed data center plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully,



Holly Nagy
City Clerk