JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting for 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 was led by Gary Shaw

READING OF THE SPECIAL CALL

City Clerk Holly Nagy read the Special Call:
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, will hold a Special Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 602 S. Main Street, Joplin, Missouri, for the purpose of receiving the official report of the April 7, 2026, General Municipal Election; administering the Oaths of Office of the newly elected council members; and electing the 2026-2028 Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Charles Copple, Keenan Cortez, Josh DeTar, Mark Farnham, Doug Lawson, Doris Carlin, Gary Shaw, Josh Bard, and Ryan Jackson. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

RESULTS OF THE APRIL 7, 2026, GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The City Clerk's office has received the official returns of the April 7, 2026, General Municipal Election as verified by the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton Counties.

It is found and declared that the results are as follows:

For General Council Members 4-year term
Josh DeTar– 3,004
Natasha Klue-Michael – 1,965
Brian Cowles Sr. –2,055
Mary Price – 2,961
Jamie Hammond – 1,851
Mathew Wolsey -1,643

For Zone I Council Member
Rob O'Brian – 4,065

For Zone IV Council Member
Eli Moran – 4,158

Proposition Police and Fire passed with 4,443 voting yes and 1,196 voting no.
Charter Amendment No. 2 passed with 2,695 voting yes and 2,519 voting no.

For the record 8,903 people voted in this general municipal election.

Josh DeTar and Mary Price and Brian Cowles, Sr. are the candidates who received the greatest number of votes for the office of General Councilmember and is declared elected to a four-year term.
Rob O'Brian is the candidate who received the greatest number of votes for the office of Zone I Councilmember and is declared elected to a four-year term.

Eli Moran is the candidate who received the greatest number of votes for the office of Zone IV Councilmember and is declared elected to a four-year term.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Nagy, City Clerk

Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Lawson to approve the April 7, 2026, general municipal election results. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Farnham, Lawson, Carlin, Shaw, Bard, and Jackson, 9. Nays: 0.

RECOGNITION FOR OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Cortez recognized outgoing Council Members Doris Carlin and Doug Lawson with an appreciation plaque for their years of service on the Joplin City Council.

In recognition of his 24 years of distinguished service as a Council Member to the City of Joplin, Gary Shaw was honored with a Resolution from State Senator Jill Carter and presented with a Key to the City by Mayor Cortez.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjourn Sine Die of the current Council.

Mayor Cortez closed the Joplin City Council meeting. Outgoing council members Doris Carlin, Doug Lawson and Gary Shaw stepped down from the dais.

City Clerk Holly Nagy took the mayor's chair and called the meeting to order.

Judge Podleski approached the dais to administer the oaths of office to the newly elected and re-elected Council Members. The order of swearing-in is determined by the number of votes received, starting with the highest number of votes. Judge Podleski administered the oaths of office to:

Zone IV Council Member/4 yrs: Eli Moran
Zone I Council Member/4 yrs.: Rob O'Brian
General Council Member/4 yrs.: Josh DeTar
General Council Member/4 yrs: Mary Price
General Council Member/4 yrs: Brian Cowles, Sr.

Election of Mayor

City Attorney Edwards read the procedures for the election of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Joplin as directed by Charter. Ms. Nagy conducted the election of the Mayor by asking for nominations.

Mr. Copple nominated Josh DeTar for the position of Mayor. Mr. Moran nominated Rob O'Brian.

Voting in favor of Mr. DeTar were Copple, DeTar, Cortez, and Bard, 4.

Voting in favor of Mr. O'Brian were Price, Moran, Cowels, O'Brian, and Jackson, 5.

Upon tallying the votes, Mr. O'Brian received the majority and was declared Mayor.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor O'Brian took the mayor's seat and conducted the election of Mayor Pro Tem.

Mr. DeTar nominated Charles Copple. Ms. Price nominated Keenan Cortez.

Voting in favor of Charles Copple were Council Members: Copple, DeTar, 2.

Voting in favor of Keenan Cortez were Council Members: Cortez, Cowles, Moran, Price, O'Brian, Bard and Jackson, 7.

Mr. Cortez received the majority and was declared Mayor Pro Tem.

There being no further business to come before council the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Nagy, City Clerk