JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 20, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
The April 20, 2026, regular meeting of the Joplin City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Rob O'Brian.

INVOCATION was read by City Clerk, Holly Nagy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was led by Eli Moran.

ROLL CALL
Answering Roll Call were Council Members: Joshua Bard, Charles Copple, Keenan Cortez, Brian Cowles, Josh DeTar, Ryan Jackson, Eli Moran, Rob O'Brian and Mary Price. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Keenan T. Cortez, Sr. as the 2024-2026 Mayor
Mr. DeTar, the former Mayor Pro Tem presented Mr. Cortez with plaques in recognition of his service.

Residential Trash Service Contract Presentation
Julie Davis, Representative from Burns McDonnell presented. Council discussion occurred and questions were asked. Concerns were voiced regarding the additional cart charge and changes to bulk pickup. Information will be forwarded to Council prior to the item being brought for formal consideration.

FINALIZATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Price pulled Council Bill No. 2026-121 off the consent agenda. It will be heard under 2nd an 3rd Readings.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
News from the Public Information Office
Lynn Onstot, Public Information Officer presented.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND PETITIONS
The following residents addressed Council.

Amanda Bearden
Jen Wunder
Kaylann Loraine
Rich Thurman

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. DeTar, second by Mr. Bard to approve the amended consent agenda. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 9.

Minutes of the April 6, 2026, Joplin City Council Meeting

Minutes of the April 13, 2026, Joplin City Council Special Called Meeting

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-057.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-058.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-059.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-060.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-061.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-062.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-063.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-064.**

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 the amount of $227,063.26, was budgeted and approved for FY2026 by Council during the budget process and finalized by Ordinance 2025-143 on October 20, 2025; and establishing a date when it shall become effective. **Ordinance No. 2026-065.**

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. **Ordinance No. 2026-066.**

RESOLUTIONS

ORIDNANCES – EXPEDITED

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-118

Mr. Bard introduced Council Bill No. 2026-118 - AN ORDINANCE approving the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with Liberty in the amount of One Million Four Hundred Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred and 00/100 dollars ($1,411,800.00) for facility relocations required for Streetlight Installations and Underground Conductor Feeding along the 7th Street Corridor included in the MoDOT 7th Street Reconstruction Project and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the same 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 expedited clause. Motion by Mr. Bard, second by Mr. DeTar, that Council Bill No. 2026-118 be passed on an expedited basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, and O'Brian, 7. Nays: Cowles, Price, 2. **Ordinance No. 2026-067.**

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-113

Mr. Jackson introduced Council Bill No. 2026-113 - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance of a Purchase Order to Central States Bus Sales Inc., in the amount of Ninety-six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars ($96,750.00) for the purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford Transit Van with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant lift and Q'Straint System; by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; and, setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective. Motion by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2026-113 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 9.
The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-113.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-119

Mr. Cortez introduced Council Bill No. 2026-119 - AN ORDINANCE approving an Agreement between the City of Joplin, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, and the Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad Company, Inc. that pertains to improved warning devices at the Enterprise Avenue railroad crossing; 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. Cortez, second by Mr. Jackson, that Council Bill No. 2026-119 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-119.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-123

Mr. Copple introduced Council Bill No. 2026-123 - AN ORDINANCE approving the City of Joplin to enter into an agreement with Masters Elevator Co. LLC in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Three Hundred Eighty- Three and 20/100 dollars ($180,383.20) for Elevator Modifications and upgrades of the Elevator located at Donald E. Clark Justice Center & an Elevator located at Fire Station #4 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 Mr. DeTar, that Council Bill No. 2026-123 be passed on the first reading and advanced to second and third. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 9. The Bill was read as Council Bill No. 2026-123.

SECOND AND THIRD READING

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-121

Mr. DeTar 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. DeTar, second by Mr. Bard that Council Bill No. 2026-121 move to second reading, advance to third and pass. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, and Price, 8. Nays: O'Brian, 1. **Ordinance No. 2026-068.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Break took place at 8 PM. Meeting reconvened at 8:16 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Copple thanks the public for the passage of Proposition Police and Fire.

Mr. Copple would like to address dispatcher/patrolmen pay plans along with the purchase of new fire trucks with the recent passage of the Proposition.

Mr. Copple would like to entertain a mid-year contract increase for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Discussion was held regarding amounts.

Discussion of Ryan Jackson's recent social media and KSN comments.

The following individuals addressed Council on this topic:

Ron Burch
Nicole Bearden
Cydney McKinnie
Andrew Lietz
Logan Alberts
Amber Jourdan
Natasha Klue-Michael
Thomas Jay
Lucas Sarakinis

All were in support of removal of Mr. Jackson from office.

City Attorney Edwards presented the item.

Mr. Cowles made a motion to censure Mr. Jackson for the behavior related to social media comments and the actions toward KSN as well. Mayor O'Brian requested that City Attorney be allowed to finish explaining the procedure.

City Attorney Edwards requested a vote to move forward with the contested case.

Motion by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mr. DeTar, to move forward with the contested case proceedings. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 9.

City Attorney Edwards explained the procedure, introduced the contested case documents, and entered the exhibits into the record.

Mr. Jackson acknowledged that his conduct with members of the media was inappropriate, stating it was made in anger and poorly communicated. He issued an apology to those involved, clarified that no personal information was used, and indicated a willingness to accept Council action, including censure.

City Attorney Edwards stated that the Council could not determine the level of sanction until the record was complete, Council will have the opportunity to question Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Jackson will have the opportunity to conclude any statements.

City Attorney Edwards confirmed Mr. Jackson's request to proceed based on the factual record contained in the contested case documents. Mr. Jackson affirmed. City Attorney Edwards stated there were no disputes as to the factual statements in the contested case and referred Council to the Code of Ethics as the governing document.

The hearing regarding alleged violations of the Code of Ethics by Council Member Ryan Jackson continued. Mayor O'Brian asked Mr. Jackson if he had further comments.

Mr. Jackson addressed the Council, asserting his First Amendment rights and distinguishing between personal and official capacities. He stated that his exercise of personal viewpoints is separate from his official responsibilities and does not impact his ability to perform his duties.

The City Attorney Edwards clarified that:

A simple majority vote is required to determine a violation of the Code of Ethics.
A three-quarter majority vote of the full Council is required to impose sanctions.

Council members provided comments and asked questions regarding:

- Prior conduct and previous discussions addressing similar concerns
- Expectations for elected officials to uphold a higher standard of conduct
- The impact of public statements on constituents, including marginalized groups
- Allegations involving threatening or inappropriate statements toward a media outlet

Motion by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mr. Copple, to affirm that Mr. Jackson violated the Code of Ethics. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cortez, Cowles, DeTar, Moran, and O'Brian, 7. Nays: Price, 1. Abstain: Jackson, 1. **Motion passed.**

City Attorney Edwards advised that only one sanction may be imposed per action:

Censure
Suspension
Removal from office
Other disciplinary action

A three-quarter majority (7 votes) is required for any sanction.

Motion by Mr. Copple, seconded by Mr. DeTar that Mr. Jackson be removed from office. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, DeTar, Moran, 4. Nays: Bard, Cowles, O'Brian, Price, Jackson, 5. **Motion failed.**

Motion by Mr. Cowles, seconded by Mr. DeTar to censure Mr. Jackson. Voting in favor were Council Members: Bard, Copple, Cowles, DeTar, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 8. Nays: Cortez, 1. **Motion passed, Mr. Jackson was formally censured. (Res. 2026-010)**

The hearing was closed.

Motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Jackson to direct the city attorney to immediately initiate an independent investigation into the allegations involving 3 Council members after the April 13th swearing in of council members, including reported intimidation, and to preserve all records. Voting in favor were Council Members: Cowles, Jackson, Moran, O'Brian and Price, 5. Nays: Bard, Cortez, Copple, DeTar, 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully,

Holly Nagy
City Clerk