JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
APRIL 15, 2019

An appreciation reception was held for Ron Richard, a former Joplin City Council member and mayor who later became a Missouri State Representative and Missouri State Senator. The reception was in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard's distinguished career in public service.

Mayor Gary Shaw presented Mr. Richard with a proclamation and a Key to the City, to represent the highest honor a city can bestow on an individual in acknowledgement and appreciation for his valuable service and achievements that further the ideals of our community.

The proclamation highlighted some of Ron's accomplishments in Joplin and as a state legislator:

Ron Richard began his public service in 1980 by volunteering to serve on the City of Joplin Health Department Review Board, and later, after serving on many other boards and commissions, ran successfully for the Joplin City Council, and served as mayor from 1994-1997.

During his tenure as mayor, Ron Richard introduced and supported the adoption of business-friendly policies that enabled Joplin to compete for businesses to help jumpstart economic development and growth for the city; he was instrumental in helping to create the Joplin Redevelopment Corporation and initiated the start of the Murphy/Campbell Parkway Trail.

Ron Richard's desire to increase economic growth and draw more people to the state of Missouri led him to pursue a career in state government where he served in the House of Representatives from 2002-2008, and then in the Senate from 2010-2018.

Ron Richard earned the respect and admiration of many by cultivating a remarkable ability to build and maintain bridges between people of varying interests, objectives and politics by working across party lines to get results.

Ron Richard's strong history of sponsoring and promoting legislation to improve Missouri's business climate resulted in the success of many of the state and local economic development efforts.

Ron Richard has accumulated an impressive list of achievements and honors, including being the first person in Missouri's history to serve as both Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem of the Senate, earning him the Lifetime Achievement Award from Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe.

Attendees included former mayors, council members, and city clerk; Jasper and Newton County officials; staff from Missouri Southern State University, citizens and City of Joplin employees.

Former Mayor and Council Member Mike Seibert, and former state representative Charlie Davis, gave brief comments, complimenting Ron Richard on his career and accomplishments, and all the efforts Ron put forth to help the city of Joplin grow and prosper.

Cupcakes and punch were served.

The reception ended at 5:55 p.m.

Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk