**JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL**
**JUNE 15, 2020**
**MEETING MINUTES**

## CALL TO ORDER

The June 15, 2020 regular meeting of the Joplin City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m.by Mayor Ryan Stanley.

**INVOCATION** was read by City Clerk Barbara Gollhofer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** to the United States of America was led by Mr. Copple.

## ROLL CALL

Answering Roll Call were Council Members: Charles Copple, Keenan Cortez, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Gary Shaw, Mayor Ryan Stanley, Phil Stinnett, and Christina Williams. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

## PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Stanley and Mayor Pro Tem Cortez presented a Diversity and Inclusion Proclamation to Sergio Rizo, Co-Chair for the Joplin Chamber's Diversity and Inclusivity (D&I) Workgroup.

Toby Teeter, Joplin Chamber of Commerce President presented a Joplin Area Economic Update, which included the list of business attraction and expansion projects; business retention and COVID response efforts; and JIDA/Crossroads Industrial Park updates.

## FINALIZATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Consent Agenda was finalized.

## REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Mr. Shaw, second by Dr. Reid Adams to move the FY 2019 Year in Review and FY 2020 Financial Projections from Reports and Communications to New Business. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0.

<u>Semi-annual Report -Capital Improvement and Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee</u>

The Oversight Committee is required to meet at least quarterly to review collection and expenditure of revenue from the ¼-cent parks and stormwater sales tax, the 3/8-cent capital improvements sales tax, the ½-cent public safety sales tax, as well as the progress towards completion of the voter-approved projects funded by these taxes. In addition, the Oversight Committee is required to make a written, public report to the Council twice each year. Ryan Jackson, outgoing Chairman of the Capital Improvement and Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee, presented the semi-annual oversight report.

Committee Observations: As of the Oversight Committee's last meeting on May 20, 2020, it is agreed that the revenues from the ¼-cent parks and stormwater sales tax, the 3/8 cent capital improvements sales tax, and the ½-cent public safety sales tax are being collected below the projected level for the 2020 fiscal year. The projects under Phase I of the Parks/Stormwater Sales Tax have been completed as promised. The projects under Phase II of the Parks/Stormwater Sales Tax are in progress as set forth to the voters. The projects under Phase I of the Capital Improvements Sales Tax are all complete as promised, except one which is the Traffic Signal Upgrades. This project is expected to be completed during the 2020 fiscal year. The projects under Phase II of the Capital Improvements Sales Tax are in progress as set forth to the voters. For the public safety sales tax, all capital items have been completed as promised except for the remaining Eastside fire station. All operational items have been completed except the staffing for the remaining Eastside fire station and the remaining streetlights.

The council members thanked Mr. Jackson for the report and his service of six years on the committee.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS AND PETITIONS**

Ronald Brewer, 308 Foxfire Court, requested to address Council to speak on Covid-19; however, he was unable to attend the meeting. Gary Shaw stated Mr. Brewer is his neighbor and Mr. Brewer asked Mr. Shaw to relay his comments at the meeting. Mr. Shaw stated that Mr. Brewer asked if the city can share more information on the COVID-19 testing results and statistics. Assistant Health Director Ryan Talken replied that some information is confidential, but the Health Dept. is working on a dashboard that will provide more statistical information to the public.

Harold McCoy, 2001 E. Natalie, requested to address Council regarding Council Bill No. 2020-143 (the Connecticut widening project). He told the city council that he was on the committee that ranked the capital improvement projects and explained the ranking process. Mr. McCoy stated this project should be completed as promised to the voters when they approved the renewal of the Capital Improvements Sales Tax in 2014.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Public Hearing Procedures were read by City Clerk Barbara Gollhofer

Public Hearing for a Request for a Vehicle For Hire business from Joseph Harper - Harper Transport.

Mayor Stanley opened the Public Hearing

Joe Harper, 3231 N. Thicket, Joplin appeared in favor of this item and stated he plans to have 2 vehicles for taxi service, and he plans to operate the business from his home.

Martin McCabe, 1717 S. Moffet appeared in favor of this item and stated he operates a taxi service in Joplin and welcomes the competition.

No one appeared in opposition to this item.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Stinnett, second by Mr. Cortez to approve the request for a Vehicle for Hire license for Harper Transport. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Stinnett, second by Mr. Monteleone to approve the Consent Agenda. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0.

Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Special City Council Meeting

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-259 - AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2004-256, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, November 15, 2004, by removing from District R-1 and including in District R-2 property as described below and located approximately140' North and 60' West of the intersection of N Oliver Ave. and W A St., City of Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2020-082**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-260 -AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance No. 2004-256, passed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, November 15, 2004, by removing from District C-O and including in District C-1 property as described below and located 5526 W 32nd Street, City of Joplin, Jasper County and Newton County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2020-083**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-262 - AN ORDINANCE providing the vacation for a public street located Pearl Ave. right-of-way lying North of W. 7th St. and South of W 6th St. in the City of Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri. Requested by Jasper County. **Ordinance No. 2020-084**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-264 - AN ORDINANCE providing to vacate an easement approximately 500 feet South of the intersection of E 26th St. and S Irwin Ave in the City of Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri. **Ordinance No. 2020-085**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCES – EMERGENCY**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-144

Mr. Lawson introduced Council Bill No. 2020-144 - an ordinance approving a work authorization with City of Joplin in the not to exceed amount of Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty and 00/100 Dollars ($238,740.00) for the Glendale Parallel Interceptor Improvements (Phase 1); and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; and containing an emergency clause. Motion by Mr. Lawson, second by Mr. Cortez that Council Bill No. 2020-144 be approved on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0. The Council Bill was declared adopted and entitled **Ordinance No. 2020-086.**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-145

Mr. Stinnett introduced Council Bill No. 2020-145 - an ordinance approving Work Authorization OLS-OC20-04 with Olsson in the not to exceed amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Fifty and 00/100 dollars ($227,450.00) for professional engineering consulting services for Phase 1 of the Zora Widening project from Rangeline to MO-249, and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin; and containing an emergency clause. Motion by Mr. Stinnett, second by Mr. Copple that Council Bill No.2020-145 be approved on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0. The Council Bill was declared adopted and entitled **Ordinance No. 2020-087.**

**ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCES – SECOND AND THIRD READING**

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-143

Ashley Mickelthwaite, 3820 Hawthorn Court, requested to speak on Council Bill 2020-143. She stated she is against the widening of Connecticut Avenue to five lanes, but she does support the need for improvements. Improvements need to fit the needs of the neighborhood and the community and they also need to improve safety. She requested that Council consider moving this item to Third Reading so that citizens can give their input.

Mr. Cortez introduced Council Bill No. 2020-143 - an ordinance approving Amendment 1 to Work Authorization BW-Conn-TC0606 with Bartlett & West, Inc. in the not to exceed amount of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six and 00/100 dollars ($248,596.00) for engineering services for the Connecticut Avenue Widening project and authorizing the City Manager

or his designee to execute the same by and on behalf of the City of Joplin. Motion by Mr. Cortez, second by Mr. Lawson to pass Council Bill No. 2020-143 on Second Reading, advance to Third Reading, and pass. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Shaw, Stanley and Stinnett, 6. Nays: Monteleone, Reid Adams and Williams, 3.**Ordinance No. 2020-088.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The City Council took a break at 8:12 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

FY 2019 Year in Review Report – presented by Finance Director Leslie Haase

Our annual audit results in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report otherwise known as the CAFR. The CAFR was briefly presented to Council at a recent meeting. Council reviews the budget document during budget work sessions. Both documents are hundreds of pages full of numbers in the prescribed accounting format. Both documents are challenging to understand. For internal staff, city council and the public, the only real review of the city's finances is at budget time. Each September, we go through the proposed budget document for the next year, which does include a snapshot of the previous ten years of financial information. However, our focus during these meetings is naturally in the future rather than the past.

As a result, last year, we held the first fiscal year-end financial review prior to the budget work sessions for next year. This discussion serves as a bridge between each annual budget preparation on behalf of internal staff, council and the public. Monthly financials are prepared and submitted to the City Manager's office, while this presentation allows for a detailed public discussion about our annual financial reports. This report is not a year-to-year (multiple year) comparison, but rather a budget-to-actual comparison for fiscal year 2019.

While this report contains a lot of numbers, I would like to walk you through the financials in order to help understand our current financial standing. There will be some areas of discussion in preparation of finalizing the FY 2021 proposed budget. Any comments related to this report are not a reflection of the services being provided by departments or the value of those services but are strictly financial in nature. Please ask any questions that you have as we discuss this report as the goal is for everyone to have a good understanding of the city's finances. With that being said, I would like to briefly cover each fund and discuss the areas where staff needs some direction.

General Comments

- Budgets are prepared during the middle of the previous year
- Under charter regulations, expenditures within a department/fund can't exceed budget
- There is only one way to add to fund balance or net assets-revenue must exceed expenditures
- One-time revenues should add to fund balance or net assets, such as FEMA reimbursements
- As we move through the funds and departments, I encourage you to think about the purpose and services provided by each of them
- Describe the formatting of the report (IS first and then BS) (Headers)(Review Original Budget plus Encumbrances vs. Actual Amounts

FY 2020 Financial Projections

In February, the City's finances were definitely improving. The final FEMA reimbursements were received late last year, the voters of our community approved a ½-cent sales tax to close and fund our pension plan in order to improve our employee recruiting and retention efforts, and we were on the brink of paying off the Recovery TIF bonds. Unemployment in the United States was at a half-

century low of 3.5%. Then, in March, the world changed with the COVID-19 pandemic. As businesses closed and employees were laid off temporarily to help slow the spread of the virus, governments dependent upon sales tax or earnings tax as their major revenue source began to make short-term spending adjustments, including us here at the City. Since there is a two-month delay in sales tax collections, staff immediately began estimating the impact to sales tax and other revenues. While various city revenues have been impacted by this crisis, sales tax is our major revenue source. Tonight, we are going to discuss the fiscal year 2020 financial projections and the short-term solutions to offset the impacted revenue sources. Some funds will be impacted more than other funds, and as such, the projections only include operational-type funds. The revenue projections are solely based on forecasts, while Department Heads supplied expenditure reductions. These projections are being updated each month as sales tax information is received. It is safe to say the accuracy of the revenue projections is suspect, at best. With this pandemic, the likes of which hasn't been experienced in our lifetime, the unknowns far outweigh the knowns. Continued monitoring of our revenue sources, along with reduced expenditures is critical. While we are going to discuss some short-term solutions that have been implemented, it is equally important that the city prepare to react with longer-term solutions if the recovery doesn't occur as shown in these projections.
The projections are built on several assumptions:

- Estimated decrease in revenues impacted by COVID-19
- No cut in services outside of anything directly or indirectly related to COVID-19
- Some purchases will be delayed due to a reduced need as the result of COVID-19
- COVID-19 purchases and related reimbursement not included in these projections
- CARES grants for MAPS and Airport included
- Savings due to the reduction in police and fire pension expense as a result of closing the plan to new hires and funding the plan with the voter-approved ½-cent sales tax
- Savings due to Recovery TIF bond payoff

The short-term solutions table shows citywide solutions, as well as solutions for specific funds. Also shown is the estimated budget impact and the actual impact of the solution. While these solutions can be classified as "tightening our belt" on expenditures, there is an inherent impact or "cost" to these solutions. The solutions do impact the ability to provide quality services to our citizens, increase maintenance costs by postponing needed capital, and impact employee morale, and as such it is important to discuss the impacts of the solutions. With that said, businesses in our community, as well as across the country, have also been hard hit as a result of this pandemic. As mentioned in the Bloomberg report, most cities and states have laid off and furloughed employees, as well as adopted the short-term measures we are going to discuss. As we saw in the fiscal year 2019 year in review, while our reserves have begun to build back, reserves can only be used as a stop gap for ongoing expenditures for a limited time. Joplin is fortunate in that our economy is resilient and we have not had to enact longer-term solutions, such as layoffs or furloughs. However, also mentioned in the Bloomberg report, is the uncertainty of how COVID-19 will persist or if there will be a second wave that results in extending the economic impact. Additionally, with the upcoming end to the government added unemployment benefits and the question of exactly when and how jobs will recover, it is fiscally prudent for the City to continue to follow the short-term solutions throughout this recovery process. Throughout this recovery process, it is important for staff to continue to monitor our revenue and update the financial projections. As previously mentioned, as we move through the recovery process, it is important that staff remains prepared to address any unforeseen bumps in the road to recovery. In the meantime, the fiscal year 2021 budget is being prepared, with more unknowns than knowns. As a result, some decisions and projects may be required to be postponed until our revenue stream is back on track.

Health Department Update

Assistant Director of the Health Department Ryan Talken provided recent numbers of coronavirus cases in Joplin and stated that they've doubled in just two weeks. He also discussed the steady increase that Jasper County Health Department is experiencing, as well as neighboring Newton and McDonald Counties. We are seeing a spike right now and it's important that we stay the course to help lessen the spread of the virus. With these numbers rising, we need to get back to the basics of washing our hands, disinfecting common items shared by others at home or in the office, and of course to keep social distancing. Staying in this step sends the right message. By taking care of yourself, you are taking care of everybody else. Talken also stated that if people are feeling sick to stay home. While COVID-19 is spread from person to person, more than 80% of the patients who develop it will only become mildly ill. The concern is for patients with underlying medical conditions and the elderly, who are more likely to need hospital-level supportive care.

Recovery Plan Discussion

After hearing the update from Mr. Talken, the City Council discussed Missouri Governor Mike Parson's Phase 2 of the Show Me Recovery Plan, which goes into effect Tuesday, June 16. According to the plan, there will be no statewide public health order – Missouri will be fully open for business. Local officials will have the ability to put further measures or regulations in place, but from a statewide stance, all restrictions will be lifted. During the discussion, the city council expressed concern about the rise in the number of COVID cases. Mr. Lawson motioned to keep the City of Joplin at Phase 2, Step 2 of the City's Recovery Plan. Dr. Reid Adams seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0.

News from Public Information Officer, Lynn Onstot

The City will open the tree limb and brush drop-off site from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 20. The drop-off site is located at 1702 North Schifferdecker Avenue, six tenths of a mile north of Belle Center Road on the west side of Schifferdecker. This free drop-off service is for Joplin residents only and has no load limits. Leaves, grass clippings, trash, etc. will not be accepted. Commercial contractors will not be allowed to drop off tree limbs. This program is open the third Saturday of the month through October 2020, unless there is a weather event that warrants another date being set. For more information, call the Public Works Center at 417-624-0820 ext. 564 or the Recycling Division, 417-624-0820 ext. 501.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara J. Gollhofer, City Clerk