JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
DECEMBER 17, 2018
602 S. MAIN ST.
JOPLIN MO 64801

Mayor Shaw called the December 17, 2018 Informal Meeting of the Joplin City Council to order at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Taylor Brown, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Mayor Gary Shaw, Ryan Stanley, Phil Stinnett, and Jim West. Also, in attendance were City Manager Sam Anselm and City Attorney Peter Edwards. Absent: Melodee Colbert-Kean.

Update on Employee Wellness Program

Finance Director Leslie Haase introduced the co-presenters for the wellness program update: Health Director Dan Pekarek is the Co-Chair of the Employee Health Committee (Health Nuts); Jillian Doherty (Health Dept. Community Health/Planner); and Kelsey Ferguson who was an intern at the Health Dept. this semester and earned her master's degree in Public Health from MSU.

Leslie gave some historical information beginning with when the City of Joplin became self-insured in 2011. An employee health committee was formed and branded the Joplin Health Nuts. Various employee surveys were designed to encourage employees to "know your numbers (blood pressure, cholesterol, etc.), have a primary care physician and understand the Employee Assistance Program. The committee conducted an annual "Lose Some Win Some" weight loss program; established the exercise facility in the basement of City Hall for city employees (and covered dependents); and began developing an over-arching Wellness Program.

Dan Pekarek discussed the percentage of medical claims paid during 2011-2017 for average chronic conditions claims. He then discussed the leading cost factors and the 2011-2017 average lifestyle claims paid. This information was provided Anthem, the City's insurance provider. The goal is to reduce the number of chronic conditions and top lifestyle claims to lower total medical claims, and the wellness group hopes to achieve this by focusing on improving individual health through awareness and education with the WOW program.

Jillian and Kelsey explained the WOW program for 2019. It is made up of monthly challenges covering different topics each month. Points will be earned for various activities related to each topic. The top point winner will win a monthly prize. Employees may pick and choose which months they would like to participate in or they can participate in every month. The monthly points will be accumulated for a yearly point total. The top 3 yearly winners will win grand prizes. The goal of the Wellness Program is to help all employees be as healthy and active as possible. Jillian Doherty will head the wellness initiative.

Discussion on Creating an Arts District Downtown

Linda Teeter, owner of Urban Art Gallery and founder of Joplin's Third Thursday and First Thursday ArtWalk, asked to present a request to the city council to consider establishing an arts district in Downtown Joplin.

The proposed vision is "…to initiate a permanent and thriving art community with an eclectic enclave of boutique shops, one-of-a-kind restaurants, creative businesses, studios and art galleries."

The proposed location is from B Street south to 12th Street, and from Wall Street east to Pennsylvania

The request is a resolution approved by council designating the area as an arts district. Future approval by the city for signage on Main Street (signs would be privately funded)

Mr. Lawson asked if an arts district limits certain types of businesses in that district. Mrs. Teeter replied that would have to be a city zoning issue.

Mr. Stanley stated he supports the idea of an arts district, but feels it needs to have a branding.

City Manager Sam Anselm replied that after talking with CVB Director Patrick Tuttle and planning director Troy Bolander, designation of an arts district by the city could open the door for future funding opportunities for projects, through grants or otherwise, that may not be available currently. In addition, on a recent trip to Kansas City to talk about Joplin's Smart Cities initiative, it was learned that Smart Cities follow the arts community closely to identify areas for redevelopment.

Mayor Shaw thanked Mrs. Teeter for her presentation and stated he would have staff look into any questions the city council has that would need to be addressed as a city.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Submitted,

Barbara J. Gollhofer, City Clerk