

**JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2019
602 S. MAIN ST.
JOPLIN MO 64801**

Mayor Shaw called the February 4, 2019 Informal Meeting of the Joplin City Council to order at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Taylor Brown, Melodee Colbert-Kean, 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 Assistant City Attorney Jordan Paul.

Connect2Culture discussion of a museum and cultural district:

Clifford Wert, President and CFO of Connect2Culture requested a partner action with the City of Joplin to make a one-word change to the existing Missouri Museum and Cultural District Act as found in Missouri State Statutes Sections 184.88 through 184.880; specifically, in Section 184.815, paragraph 1, to change the number of “five” years to a number that is not greater than “fifteen” years. This would allow C2C the opportunity to establish a possible funding and investing mechanism for our community’s future. Mr. Wert plans to go to Jefferson City to meet with area legislators to extol the benefits of the arts and the activities of the Missouri Arts Council. He thinks it will be a great opportunity to educate our area legislators on this simple, yet straightforward one-word change to the existing Missouri Statutes.

After discussion, Mr. Stanley made a motion to ask city staff to work with the lobbyist, Gary Burton with Burton & Liese to pursue the change in the state statute. Mrs. Colbert-Kean seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Council Members: Brown, Colbert-Kean, Lawson, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett, and West, 9. Nays: 0.

Centennial Celebration Discussion: Patrick Tuttle, CVB Director

Director Tuttle, speaking on behalf of Brad Belk and Chris Wiseman of the Joplin Museum, informed the City Council that in a few short years Joplin and Missouri will have keen opportunities to celebrate a 5-year collection of milestone centennials.

- Missouri Bicentennial (200th) - August 10, 2021
- City of Joplin Sesquicentennial (150th) - March 23, 2023
- United States of America Sestercentennial (250th) - July 4, 2026
- Route 66 Centennial (100th) - November 11, 2026

With these in mind, the City would like to ask Council’s direction regarding the formation of a Centennial Celebration Commission (2019 thru 2026) to be the nucleus for, but not limited to:

- a) Identify related centennials events, and milestones of Joplin entities that serve the interest of the citizens of Joplin such as

- i. Joplin organizations
 - ii. Historical buildings
 - iii. Significant birthday, anniversaries, or death of prominent citizens
 - iv. Historical events or interest
- b) Determine which milestone events have significance to the widest majority of the citizens of Joplin as historical, memorable, and educational.
 - c) Be the central voice of the *Official Centennial Celebrations* for the City of Joplin.
 - d) Establish a format for selecting those events that offer the best value, in terms of cost, memorable experience, and widest public interest that should mark the historical significance for each centennial.
 - e) The Commission is not expected to be the central body to run every event, but seek individuals, businesses and/or organizations who will plan/arrange, fund and execute the events.
 - f) The Commission will seek financial support from outside the COJ to initially fund events. The Joplin CVB will provide grant funding up to \$15,000 per year as a 2-1 matching reimbursement (for every \$2 raised for official events, the fund will match with \$1).
 - g) The Commission will develop a Marketing Committee who will be the collective voice to market the collective group of events throughout the duration of the Commission's existence. This will include the establishment of a single web site, along with complimentary social platforms. This marketing effort will be for, but not limited to, events sanctioned by the Commission.

Prior to the 1973 Joplin Centennial such a committee of civic and business leaders was formed, and in 1997, council appointed Brad Belk, Meredith Williams and Patrick Tuttle to serve as co-chairs for the events that were arranged to commemorate Joplin's 125th birthday celebration in 1998.

In addition to the broader centennials mentioned above, more local events could include:

- 2021 Joplin will mark the 10th year of the May 22nd tornado
- April of 2024 another solar eclipse will pass over Missouri,
- Several Joplin civic organizations are hitting the centennial mark already - American Legion Post 13 (founded 1919) and Joplin Scottish Right (founded in 1922) to mention just two,
- Joplin buildings hit 100-years in age; the Scottish Right Cathedral in 2023 and Memorial Hall in 2025, and
- Jasper County turns 180 in 2021, Newton County will reach 190 in 2028, plus the Missouri Emancipation Proclamation marks 160 years in August 2023.

To say the least, there are many opportunities on the horizon that could mold civic pride for decades to come.

Who should serve a Centennial Celebration Commission?

- History (Museum, Post Library)
- Education, (MSSU, Joplin Schools)

- Medical (Freeman, Mercy, KCMU)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Tourism (CVB, JSA, Parks)
- Downtown Joplin Alliance / Historical Preservation
- Arts (Spiva, C2C, Local Theatre Groups)
- George Washington Carver National Monument
- Department of Natural Resources (Friends of the Glades)

Brad Belk was present and spoke in favor of forming a commission.

Mr. Stinnett stated he thought this was a good idea and that it is important for the City to stay involved in the nucleus of it. He suggested Director Tuttle, City Manager Anselm and Finance Director Haase put the commission suggestion in a formal proposal for Council to consider. He thought it would be appropriate for them to bring recommendations on the number of people who would be on the commission, and the various identifications of the number of people and what they represent, but he would like the Council to be involved in selecting the members for the commission.

Mrs. Reid Adams stated she was involved in the 1973 Centennial celebration and that it was a great celebration for the City. She's excited for all the anniversaries that are coming up.

Mayor Shaw stated he was involved in the Jasper County 1894-1994 Centennial celebration and it too, was quite a celebration.

Mr. Stanley agreed that a formal presentation with more details regarding the size of the commission and terms for the members should be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Other business

Mayor Shaw acknowledged an invitation from On the Border Restaurant. The store manager, Michael, invited the City Council members and administration for a dinner to try to get to know their local government officials.

Mr. Stanley suggested we ask On the Border to extend the dinner invitation to Jasper and Newton County officials, as well as a few surrounding municipalities such as Duquesne and Leewood, for a "meet and greet" to get to know those officials as well since we live and work closely together with them.

City Clerk Barbara Gollhofer stated she would reach out to Michael at On the Border.

Mr. Stinnett asked about a street light map. Mr. Anselm stated he would contact Brent Baker at Empire/Liberty to work on getting the map with locations and date of installation. Mr. Stinnett noted there are 7 street lights out between 8th and Main St. and to 15th and Main St. Mr. Anselm replied that Liberty is replacing old mercury vapor lights with LED lights as the old lights go out.

Mr. Stinnett wants a better understanding of where our street lights are in relationship to how many we said we would provide under the public safety tax, as well as a better record of having working lights (Utility's responsibility) because we're paying monthly for every street light whether it's working or not, and it's just not fair to be paying for non-working lights.

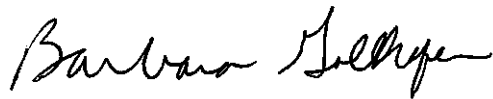
Mr. Anselm stated he would work on a timeline and report back to Council.

Mrs. Reid Adams stated there are 14 street lights out from Main Street & Murphy Blvd to 32nd St.

Mayor Shaw stated he attended a ribbon cutting for the new Nixon Math Center at MSSU on Thursday, January 31. And on Friday, February 1, he met with Governor Parson near the bridge on South Rangeline to discuss ways to improve our roads and bridges, which our assets for our state and we need to protect them.

Mayor Shaw stated he and City Manager Anselm met with the new Chief Operation Officer of Liberty Utility. Liberty looks forward to keeping Empire/Liberty a part of our community.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Gollhofer".

Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk