

**JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
MAY 20, 2019**

Tourism Update

CVB Director Patrick Tuttle gave an overview of the CVB Structure and Market. (Update attached).

5:23 PM: Emergency Evacuation: due to severe weather and the tornado sirens sounding, the council members, staff and guests were directed to take shelter in the basement of City Hall.

5:37 PM: The informal meeting resumed in the 5th floor Informal Council room.

Boards/Commissions Reappointments & Appointments

Reappointments:

Motion by Mr. Stanley, second by Mr. Lawson to approve the following reappointments. Motion passed 9-0.

JRC: Doug Doll 5/16/19

JRC: Bill Searce 5/29/19

Planning and Zoning: Wendy Brueckner-Sears 5/16/19

Appointments:

Centennial Celebration Commission: Mayor Shaw asked for nominations for the first position on this commission:

Dr. Reid Adams nominated Tabitha Leake

Mr. Stinnett nominated Ken Cox

Mayor Shaw nominated Barbara Hogelin

Mrs. Colbert-Kean nominated Betty Smith

Mr. Monteleone nominated Jessica Courier

The Council voted on the nominees and Barbara Hogelin and Betty Smith received the highest number of votes. The Council voted again on these two names and Betty Smith received the highest number of votes and was appointed to the first position of the CC Commission.

The council voted on the previous list of nominations for the second position. Barbara Hogelin received the highest number of votes and was appointed to the second position of the CC Commission.

At this time, Director Tuttle returned to the informal council meeting.

There was discussion on the challenges of getting attractions to Joplin, as mentioned in the tourism update. Director Tuttle replied a meeting space and or event space would help, and the City would have a part in that. If we could get an indoor sports arena, for instance, the City would be involved in that. A conference center with a hotel/restaurant partnership with the City would be another idea. A feasibility study would be helpful to see if these ideas would work.

Mr. Stanley asked about Airbnb's; Director Tuttle replied the state lodging association is working on this and the city attorney is being kept apprised of it. The lodging association is trying to get it passed in the House, and if so, we would have a model to follow for the City.

Mr. Stanley asked if the new hotels are the reason for low lodging results and Director Tuttle replied that it has an impact.

Mr. Stanley asked about the status of expanding the lodging tax. Director Tuttle stated the SWMO Lodging Association expressed opposition to the expanded tax and he understands it from Gary Burton (COJ's lobbyist) the Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association will oppose any such legislation if a local chapter of their organization does. Therefore, it would be challenged in Jefferson City. Director Tuttle feels Senator Bill White understands the need for the increase, so in order to be considered for any passage at the state level, city council would need to take a stronger stand before the next state legislative session. Mr. Stanley asked to see minutes of the SWMO Lodging Association meetings to see what has been discussed in order to have a better understanding of what's been put before their membership. We know if we want a conference center or indoor athletic center, the funding source for either one of these comes through expanding the lodging tax.

Mr. Stinnett stated that there are two different hotel segments out there that are trying to represent themselves, and we need to get behind the one who's going to get something done.

Director Tuttle stated the City has a tourism commission and sports authority board who are directly under the Council's direction. One thing that has been discussed is creating one single tourism board.

Due to time constraints, Mayor Shaw stated we would have to continue this discussion at a future meeting. He stated he has a meeting soon with Shelly Kraft with Vision 2022. That meeting could help determine if Vision 2022 thinks we are on the right track. He will have a report for Council after the meeting, and perhaps get some direction from Council on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk