



REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Persons wishing to address Council should complete this form and give it to the City Clerk prior to the start of the meeting, which is 6:00 pm.

When your name is called, approach the podium and state your name and address clearly for the record. You will have five (5) minutes to state the purpose of your request.

Date: 6-26-2018

I would like to address the Joplin City Council at the July 2 meeting on
(date)
the following subject:

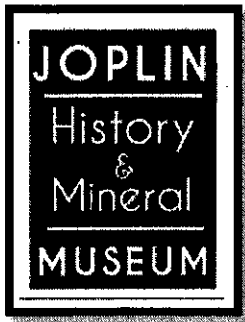
TO ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS THAT COUNCIL MAY
HAVE CONCERNING THE MUSEUM'S BUDGET

Name: CHRISTOPHER WISEMAN / JOPLIN MUSEUM

(Please print)
Address: 504 SCHIFFERDECKER AVE.

Daytime Phone: 417-623-1180

Phone No.: 417-623-1180



June 21, 2018

Joplin City Council Member;

First, I would like to commend Leslie Haase. Her recommendations certainly left no stones unturned in looking for ways to reduce spending. Leslie is a true professional who did the difficult job that was asked of her. A job she obviously did to the best of her ability.

Second, I would like to take this opportunity to better inform the council on the museum's budget.

While it is understandable that city spending cannot continue at current revenue levels, the proposed cuts to the museum's budget seem overly drastic.

The museum has been part of the City of Joplin since opening in 1931, providing service for the city and the community for 87 years.

The museum currently receives \$190,131 in funds from the City of Joplin. This amount is down for the last two fiscal years due to the museum cutting its own budget and limiting spending when the first wave of lower revenues began to affect City funds.

Based on Year To Date totals, of the money received from the city, 94% goes to salaries , insurances , and payroll taxes. All additional funds are provided by the Joplin Historical Society, or raised by museum staff.

The museum's budget has remained unchanged for the last 5 years, except for a voluntary decrease for the last and current fiscal years. It was unchanged for the three years preceding the current level of funding.

The motive force behind all increases has been the drastic rise in health care costs.

Cost increases in health insurance are usually announced in June. Any increase is not included in the YTD figure above.

Due to budget constraints there is no retirement plan for museum staff. This lack of a basic benefit makes it increasingly difficult to attract professional staff.

In recent years, staff has been reduced to offset these increases. Current staff is two full time and two part time positions. In 2010, staff was 4 full time and 1 part time positions. At that time two of the full time employees received health care from their spouse's plans.

Other City museum costs relate to utilities, heating and air conditioning repairs, roof leaks, and in 2016 making the museum restrooms ADA compliant. In 2013-14 improper construction during the upgrade of Schifferdecker pool caused the museum's basement collections storage to flood multiple times.

The museum is in a city owned building. Are there other departments housed in city owned buildings that are required to raise outside funds to repair and maintain their buildings?

In order to be better stewards of the city's resources, the museum has been allocating funds from the Joplin Historical Society to replace lights with higher efficiency LED bulbs to help control utility costs.

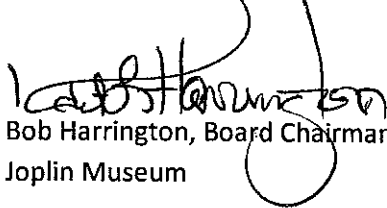
In the same past 10 years, as seen on pages 72-73 of the Financial Sustainability Report, the city has approved pay raises; 8% in step increases, 2% in inflation adjustments, 20.5% across the board increases. These payroll increases have never had any effect on the museum's budget or pay levels, but they illustrate that basic operating costs have risen in that 10 year time frame. Percentage wise, the increase in museum funding (22% increase in city funds) is lower than the city mandated pay raises (34%).

If you would like to discuss the museum's budget, or how the museum can better serve the citizens of Joplin, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Chris Wiseman, Director
Joplin Museum



Bob Harrington, Board Chairman
Joplin Museum



Nancy Messick, Board Secretary
Joplin Museum



Brad Belk, Board Member
Joplin Museum



Kyle Denham, Board Member
Joplin Museum



Mike Knight, Board Member
Joplin Museum



Allen Shirley, Board Member
Joplin Museum