

**JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
JANUARY 16, 2024**

Mayor Lawson called the January 16, 2024, Joplin City Council informal meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Charles Cople, Keenan Cortez, Josh DeTar, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Gary Shaw, Phil Stinnett, and Christina Williams. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

Absent: Mark Farnham

Sales & Use Tax Update

Leslie Haase, Finance Director presented.

We have sales tax tonight. I have good news, hopefully it will be popular tonight. January sales tax which is from sales in November. As you can see from January 2024 it is up 5.5% over January 2023. So, for the year we are up almost 2.5%.

We have the quarterly information before you tonight, quarterly graphs. So, this will be first quarter November – January. 2023 is in pink, 2024 is in blue; generally, the mall did not fare as well in 2024 as it did in 2023 or at least the top 100 businesses. Discount stores better, grocery stores are about the same, furniture stores are up. Again, this can be a little bit misleading as this is only the top 100 businesses. Restaurants did a little bit better, we're sure that's higher prices. Home improvement and construction is up. Motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts up significantly. Telephones and utilities about the same, convenient stores way down. North Park Crossing was a little bit down, 1717 up, general retail significantly up, and the year to date looks just the same.

Great month for use tax compared to 2023. We are up 60%. January 2023 was a really small month. There were some timing issues in 2023. Still a great month, for the year we are up almost 29% so that's fantastic. Use tax since inception we have collected over \$10,000,000. Tremendous revenue source for the city, and you know all the good that those monies are helping us with.

Marijuana – this is our second month of collections for marijuana sales tax. You can see a little bit more than December, but it looks like this will be the ballpark that we are in every month.

RAVENii Update

Tyler Lavette from RAVENii presented.

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Time and Attendance Implementation Update

Leslie Haase, Finance Director presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Holly Nagy, City Clerk, MRCC