

**JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL  
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES  
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

Mayor Lawson called the October 16, 2023, Joplin City Council informal meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Charles Copple, Kate Spencer.

**Sales and Use Tax Update**

Leslie Haase, Finance Director presented.

For the month we are down almost 15.4% from the same month last year. Which brings us to a year end basically flat with last year, up 1.3%. We can break that down if we look at the quarterly reports.

This is just the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, August through October. Most categories are down, a few are up. Construction and Home Improvement are way down for the quarter from last year. Motor Vehicle is up, telephone and utilities way down. Convenient stores are way up. 1717 is up, but the most are down or flat.

The mall is down from 2022, discount stores are up. These are just the top 100 businesses. That actually captures a large majority of our sales tax. Grocery stores are almost even, furniture stores are down, restaurants are up. Construction and Home Improvement are down for the entire year. Motor vehicles and utilities are down. Hotels and motels up a little bit, convenience stores up a lot. North Park Crossing is down, 1717 is up. General retail is down just a little bit and other is down.

Use Tax: October this year compared to last year we are up 59.7%, that's a large increase. We ended the year with \$5.5 million. We budgeted 4.9 million for next year. If 2023 holds into 2024 we will beat our budget.

**RAVENii Update**

Mark Morris, Information Technology Director and Tyler Lavette from RAVENii presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Holly Nagy, MRCC, City Clerk