



THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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BEEF: Import decision draws criticism from Kansas, Oklahoma. **4A** | **SOCCER:** Joplin hosts Neosho, Monett at jamboree. **1B**

Council tables fire, police overtime changes

Representative from Fraternal Order of Police recommends officials reject measure

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — After nearly an hour of discussion and debate at Tuesday’s regular meeting, the Carthage City Council voted to table a proposal that would change overtime rules for police officers and firefighters and possibly save the city more than \$96,000.

Ward 4 council member Alan Snow said the measure was designed to bring overtime rules for firefighters and police officers in line

with overtime rules for other city employees.

But Southwest Missouri Fraternal Order of Police Vice President Tom Bowin told the council that they were cutting the earnings of the people who keep Carthage safe.

“I’d like to address that this could save the city around \$96,000,” Bowin told the council during the public comment period. “That’s probably true, but that savings isn’t going to come from being more efficient, purchasing better, more efficient equipment, creating better workflow. It’s going to be saved by paying Carthage police officers and Carthage firefighters less for continuing to do the same work that they’re doing today. This bill would negatively impact your employees. I’m asking you to vote ‘no’ on it.”

This was the second reading for the council bill changing the overtime rules.

Snow said the council and the city’s human resources department put in a lot of work on the proposal.

He said the city researched what other cities — such as Nevada, Bolivar, Neosho, Nixa, Battlefield — were doing with the schedules for their firefighters and police officers and found that what the city was doing was in line with what those communities have done.

“We’re simply looking at getting our guidelines, making all of our employees across the board the same pay standard that are in line with the Fair Labor Standards Act,” Snow said. “It’s not like we’re doing

SEE **TABLED**, 2A

BUILT TO SERVE



Neosho police Chief Peter Russell speaks at Wednesday’s groundbreaking for the \$16 million, 29,000-square-foot public safety center that will house both the police and fire departments when finished in 2028.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Officials break ground on future Neosho public safety building

BY JOHN HACKER
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NEOSHO, Mo. — The police and fire departments in Neosho have spent most of their history operating out of older buildings that were built with a different purpose and remodeled to meet their needs.

That ends in the fall of 2028 when the two departments move into a brand-new 29,000-square-foot public

safety building built specifically to house the two departments at the corner of Coler and Washington streets in Neosho.

Neosho city leaders, police officers and firefighters and officials with the contractors on the \$15 million building gathered Wednesday in what is now an empty gravel lot to break ground on the building that has been decades in the making.

SEE **NEOSHO**, 2A



Neosho fire Chief Aaron Houk speaks at Wednesday’s groundbreaking about how the new public safety building will help his firefighters be better ready to help Neosho residents when called to an emergency.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Joplin property taxes to remain same

\$1.36 million for city, \$1.69 million for library expected

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Joplin property owners will see no increase in Joplin property taxes this year.

The tax levy for the city will be 17.10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and the levy for the Joplin Public Library will be 23.82 cents. That makes the total levy 40.92 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. That will result in a total of \$77.75 on a property valued at \$100,000. That is unchanged from last year, according to the city of Joplin’s finance director, Leslie Haase.

Property taxes are expected to generate \$1,364,508 for the city and \$1,694,006 for the library, according to city documents.

The tax levy will increase revenue for the city by \$17,456 compared with last year as the result of the increase in new construction properties and any annexed territory.

The library’s property tax revenue will increase \$21,426 as a result of new construction and territory, while revenue also will increase \$6,031 due to the amount allowed for reassessment under the approved consumer price index rate.

Joplin’s new construction and territory is valued at \$10,633,440, and the value of property within the library’s district is \$9,369,790.

According to preliminary assessment valuations, assessed valuation in Jasper County has increased by \$648,965,528, up from last year at \$633,930,737. Assessed valuation of Newton County properties is \$831,205,324, up from \$818,089,467 last year.

Haase said property tax rates are to be set by the end of August under state law. She provided the details of this year’s tax levies during a special meeting Monday of the Joplin City Council.

SEE **ACCESS**, 2A

Neosho water system sale closes fishing access point

Missouri American says it will determine future of public at Lime Kiln later

BY JOHN HACKER
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NEOSHO, Mo. — The pending sale of Neosho’s water and wastewater systems to Missouri American Water Co. means the Missouri Department of

Conservation will close a fishing access point on Shoal Creek.

The department announced on Tuesday that it will no longer manage the Lime Kiln Access point due to “a change in property ownership.”

The city of Neosho currently owns the land around the Lime Kiln Access.

“City officials notified MDC by letter on July 28 that the lease for Lime Kiln Access along Shoal Creek would be terminated effective Aug. 27 due to the intended sale of the property,” the department said in a written release. “MDC began leasing the access

area in 1978 from the city of Neosho. MDC is thankful for the nearly 50 years of lease cooperation MDC has had with the city of Neosho while managing the access area.”

Jessica Johnson, public information officer for the city of Neosho, confirmed that the property transfer mentioned in the Missouri Department of Conservation’s news release was

Neosho’s sale of its water and wastewater systems to Missouri American Water Co., which should be finalized Sept. 2.

The Missouri Department of Conservation said its signage would be removed Thursday.

Missouri American said in a statement that a “comprehensive safety and