

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Tinnin, Cook and Wehner; Absent – none. Mayor Samuel F. Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Administrator Greg Camp, City Clerk Kerry Patek, Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham, Police Captain Doug Wendel, Building Official Mark Harris, Public Works Director Matt Unrein, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Treasurer Lori Eisenbeis and City Attorney Brian Malone. Via Zoom - Parks Director Josh Whaley.

Council, staff, etc. then said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$521,179.21. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of March 27, 2023 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Boyer and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Correspondence

Clerk Patek read the results of the April 4, 2023 election which were as follows:

For Mayor	Sam Richards	758
	Robert "Bobby" Venz	375
Councilman Ward I	David E. Boyer	177
Councilwoman Ward II	Staci L. Templeton	194
Councilman Ward III	Kevin E. Dennis	243
Councilman Ward IV	Michael Cook	303

Proposition 1

Shall the City of Festus impose a sales tax of three (3.0%) on the sale of adult use marijuana within the City of Festus?

YES	835
NO	331

Councilman Venz made a motion to accept the results of the election, seconded by Councilman Wehner. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn Sine Die

Councilman Cook made a motion to adjourn Sine Die, motion was seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Patek gave the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Ward I David E. Boyer; Ward II Staci L. Templeton; Ward III Kevin E. Dennis; Ward IV Michael Cook and then to Mayor Elect Sam Richards.

Mayor Richards asked for nominations for Mayor Pro-tem. Councilman Dennis nominated Councilman Venz for Mayor Pro-tem, motion was seconded by Councilman Tinnin. Mayor Richards called for a vote on the nomination of Councilman Bobby Venz for Mayor Pro-Tem which were as follows: Ayes – Collier, Boyer, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none. Councilman Bobby Venz was declared Mayor Pro-tem.

Reconvene

Meeting reconvened with Mayor Richards presiding.

Visitors

Lynne Brown, resident of Gamel Cemetery Road, addressed the Council regarding the safety of Gamel Cemetery Road. Ms. Brown asked the Council to help curb the problems of speeding, have more police patrol the street and to place stop signs at Ashford and Greenbrier subdivisions. City Administrator Camp reviewed the street survey which was conducted listing Gamel Cemetery as a "collector street" and that no recommendations for change were listed in the traffic study. Mr. Camp also noted the fact that to get anything done would involve three entities (Festus Special Road District, Missouri Dept. of Transportation and the City of Festus). Mayor Richards and Councilmembers informed Ms. Brown that they would continue to work on a solution to her problems with Gamel Cemetery Road.

Bids

Police – Light Bar Purchase

Capt. Doug Wendel requested authorization to purchase 14 new light bars for patrol vehicles. Capt. Wendel stated the current light bars in excess of 10 years old and that the department has received an ARPA Peace Officer Grant for a 50/50 match. A bid was received from Public Safety Upfitters which is our local Code 3 distributor which their equipment is used in all our vehicles. Bid price is \$21,030.00 with \$10,515.00 being reimbursed from the grant. **Councilman Venz made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Collier, Boyer, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Police Department – UTV Purchase

Capt. Doug Wendel requested authorization to purchase a new UTV. Three bids were received as follows: Twin City Honda (could not bid due to supply chain issue); Surdyke Motorsports \$18,500 for a Polaris; and Midwest Motor Sports \$18,825 for a Kawasaki. After review staff recommends the Kawasaki which is available right now. **Councilwoman Templeton made a motion to approve the purchase from Midwest Motor Sports, seconded by Councilman Dennis. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Collier, Boyer, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4717 - An Ordinance of the City Council City of Festus, Missouri; Amending the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4717 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham gave a staff report. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4717 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Tinnin. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4717 for the second time. Bill No. 4717 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Wehner, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4717 passed.**

New Business

Twin City Little League Parade

Twin City Little League requested permission to hold their annual opening day parade and close Main Street on April 22, 2023 starting at 9:00 a.m. Captain Wendel said the police department has no issues with this parade. **Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion carried unanimously.**

Bottleneck Bridge Ride

Andrew Held, Jefferson County Growth Association, requested permission to hold the annual Bottleneck Bridge Ride on August 13, 2023 which would include the closure of Main Street during the duration of the event. Mr. Held provided event details and a course map to staff and Council. **Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously.**

Audit Approval

Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham presented the Audit for Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2022 for approval. Mrs. Cunningham reviewed some of the highlights of the audit with Council and thanked her staff Michelle Vaughn and Miranda O'Haleck for helping her prepare schedules, etc. for the auditors. **Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously.** Mayor Richards thanked Mrs. Cunningham and her staff for another sound audit for the City.

Old Business - none

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Congratulated all those newly elected. Nice to see all the growth and progress in the Festus/Crystal City areas. Stated that Councilman Collier and himself walked Main Street and visited businesses and, also some of the new businesses off the interstate such as Planet Fitness.

Councilman Wehner – Echoed Councilman Boyers sentiments. Thanked Finance Director Cunningham for a great job on the audit. Commented on the new roof at City Hall and the upcoming solar panels for that roof and the work at the Library. Thanked Library Director Elizabeth Steffens for her report with circulation numbers which were very impressive.

Councilman Dennis – Addressed Mrs. Brown on Gamel Cemetery Road stating that Council will continue to look at this situation to help the residents out in that area. Stated that he has been a Council member for the past 18 years and is very proud of what the City has been able to accomplish and that he looks forward to continued growth in Festus and that he is proud to be a part of this team.

Councilman Cook – Asked City Administrator Camp about the traffic study that was conducted and what it said about Gamel Cemetery Road. Mr. Camp stated the study listed Gamel Cemetery as a “collector road” between Highway 67 and A Highway and that the study did not indicate that any changes were necessary but the City has heard the complaint from residents along Gamel Cemetery and will continue to monitor the situation. Asked Public Works Director Matt Unrein about the piping project on Main Street. Mr. Unrein stated it was in the design phase and that we were waiting on MoDOT for the go ahead. Stated it was nice to see Councilman Dennis in person.

Councilman Collier – Congratulated all the newly elected officials. Thanked all the employees of the City and echoed Councilmen Boyer and Councilman Wehner sentiments.

Councilwoman Templeton – Commended Tourism Director Barb Lowry for her work with the City’s social media accounts and the calendar letting everyone know about upcoming events. Echoed the sentiments of the other Council members regarding the election, etc.

Councilman Venz – As Councilman Dennis stated he also has been on the Council a long time and has seen a lot of growth and progression in Festus and is proud to be part of this time. Commented on the traffic situation on Gamel Cemetery Road.

Councilman Tinnin – Congratulated the Mayor on his re-election and the other Council members who were re-elected.

Mayor Richards – Congratulations to everyone who was re-elected on Tuesday. Thanked all employees for contributing to the successful team that Festus has and that he hopes the next four years will be even better bringing even more improvements, businesses, etc. to the City of Festus. Informed Mrs. Brown that it may take some time but that the City will continue to try and fix the issues with Gamel Cemetery Road.

Adjournment

Councilman Cook made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Collier. On a call by the chair the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

