

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2020
5:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on May 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Underwood, Boyer, Cook and Gray; and the following Council members were present via Zoom: Wehner, Tinnin and Dennis; Absent – Wilkey. Mayor Samuel F. Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Administrator Greg Camp and City Clerk Kerry Patek. City Attorney Brian Malone was present via Zoom.

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

Mayor Richards asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Larry Crites, Parks Superintendent. Mayor Richards stated Larry had been a City employee for the last 39 years and dedicated his life to the Festus Parks. Mayor Richards stated what a dedicated public servant Larry had been and that his presence will truly be missed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$506,099.00. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of April 22, 2020 was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman Boyer and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Underwood, Boyer, Wehner, Dennis, Gray, Tinnin and Cook; Nays – none.

Visitors

No visitors were allowed in the building due to the emergency order regarding the coronavirus and no visitors requested to be heard via live streaming.

Bids - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4576 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, MO.; Amending Section 115.120 Regular Meetings in the Municipal Code of the City of Festus, Missouri; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4576 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report. **Councilman Wehner made a motion to suspend the rules and read Bill No. 4576 for the second time in title only, motion seconded by Councilman Underwood. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4576 for the second time. Bill No. 4576 was passed by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Underwood, Wehner, Tinnin, Dennis and Gray; Nays - Cook. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4574 passed.**

Bill No. 4577 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, MO.; Approving an Agreement with the Law Firm of McCarthy, Leonard and Kaemmerer, L.C. to serve as Special Prosecutor on cases in which the City’s Prosecuting Attorney has a conflict; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4577 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Brian Malone gave a staff report. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to suspend the rules and read Bill No. 4577 for the second time in title only, motion seconded by Councilman Dennis. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4577 for the second time. Bill No. 4577 was passed by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Underwood, Wehner, Tinnin, Dennis, Gray and Cook; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4577 passed.**

New Business

Clerk Patek asked for approval of the annual liquor license renewal list which was on Page 1 of the Council packet. Clerk Patek stated Chief Lewis had reviewed the list and gave his approval. **Councilman Dennis made a motion to approve the annual 2020 liquor license renewal list, seconded by Councilman Cook. Motion carried unanimously.**

Old Business - None

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Stated that he was informed that Pine Mountain Mercantile on Main Street was for sale and that it was such a great addition that he hopes someone will buy it and keep it opened. Asked about the park restrooms and playgrounds be re-opened. Greg Camp stated the parking lots were opened on Monday and social distancing signage has been placed in the parks, but restrooms and playgrounds will remain closed for the time being. Asked about who will take Larry’s place and Greg Camp replied that would be a discussion for another time and that things are being taken care of. Stated he would like to see some type of dedication for Larry Crites. Asked about city employee work schedules. Greg Camp explained that Governor Parsons extended the emergency order to June 15th and due to several factors they are looking at June 22nd for a full re-opening.

Councilman Cook – Asked Greg Camp to put the issue of re-opening the city facilities and returning the employees to full schedules on the May 27th agenda. Councilman Cook stated that Jefferson County re-opened on Monday and all county employees are back to work as usual.

Councilman Gray – Asked why the City was not opening along with the County when all the businesses are allowed to re-open and County employees are back to work but not the City employees and he doesn’t feel this sets a good example to the citizens of Festus.

Councilman Underwood – Commented on the passing of Larry Crites, that he will be missed.

Councilman Wehner – Stated Larry Crites will be missed and asked about the expanding of the position when the City starts looking for a replacement. Asked about re-opening the restrooms in the parks.

Councilman Dennis – Stated Larry Crites would be missed. Asked if there was enough room in the council room for social distancing when regular meetings start being held again. Greg Camp explained how they would handle that. Councilman Dennis stated that he felt Illinois COVID-19 numbers were much higher than Missouri due to the amount of testing that was being conducted.

Councilman Gray – Suggested City employees go back to work full-time and possible work two five hour shifts each day with half an hour in between to keep employees socially distanced. Councilman Gray stated City employees should be working as others in the community are being asked to work full-time.

Councilman Cook – Stated that it showed what type of person Larry Crites was that his obituary stated donations could be made in his memory to the Festus Parks and that it was a very touching tribute.

Councilman Cook – Asked Greg Camp about the County reimbursing expenses. Stated he would like Council to discuss an alternative plan on re-opening and that he thought Festus would follow the County along with their plan. Asked how the Memorial Day holiday would be handled for City employees. Greg Camp stated he would gather information for the Council and that they could discuss these matters at the May 27th meeting.

Councilman Tinnin – Gave a tribute to Larry Crites. Stated that he gets asked about City of Festus employees working less hours than other essential workers. Stated that in his opinion doesn't think we are ready to open the City wide open, however, on the other hand is scared about the economy, a recession or depression. Asked if sales tax revenues were down.

Greg Camp – stated the City's sales tax numbers are solid and year to-date numbers are 4% over budgeted amount. Councilman Cook stated the County's numbers were up 4%. Greg stated he would like to see what the June numbers look like and that the big retailers are doing well.

Councilman Dennis – stated we are all wanting to get back to normal but we don't even know what normal is going to be anymore and that he can see both sides of the argument and that people still have fear.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Cook made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Missouri Law for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to RSMo.610.021 (1) legal matters. Motion seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes: Underwood, Boyer, Wehner, Tinnin, Gray, Dennis and Cook; Nays – none.

Mayor Richards stated that it would take a few minutes to transition into closed session from the live feed.

Adjournment

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