

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on February 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Templeton, Venz, Tinnin, Cook and Wehner; Absent – Collier; and the following Council members were present via Zoom: Dennis. 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, Police Chief Tim Lewis, Building Official Mark Harris, Public Works Director Matt Unrein, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Treasurer Lori Eisenbeis and City Attorney Brian Malone.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$1,226,055.09. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of January 23, 2023 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Boyer and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Wehner, Dennis, Templeton, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Correspondence - none

Visitors

Ernest Brown, Sr. addressed the Council to request permission to hold a Juneteenth Celebration in S. Adams Park on in June and also to be allowed to have a fireworks display at the end of the event. Liability insurance for the fireworks display was discussed along with extra port-a-potties, added police patrol during the event and coordination with the local first responder agencies on the position of the first aid tent. Greg Camp stated he would get with Mr. Brown to work out all the details.

Councilman Wehner made a motion to allow fireworks at this event, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously.

Carmelita Davidson, with the Ozark Food Pantry, addressed the City Council requesting the gravel behind the building be repaired. Matt Unrein stated he would take a look at it. Ms. Davidson stated the food pantry had received \$250,000 from the Jefferson County Economic Development Commission but they would need more to upgrade their facility and solicited suggestions from the City.

Bids

Matt Unrein requested permission to purchase a new utility locator from Ditch Witch in the amount of \$6,031.62. **Councilman Dennis made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4713 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; authorizing the Mayor to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Festus, Missouri and the Festus R-VI School District for the School Resource Officer Program; incorporating said Agreement as a part of this Ordinance; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4713 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Chief Tim Lewis and Captain Doug Wendel a staff report. **Councilwoman Templeton made a motion to read Bill No. 4713 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Dennis. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4713 for the second time. Bill No. 4713 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Wehner, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4713 passed.**

Bill No. 4714 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; maintaining its tax rate on the gross receipts of Gas and other Public Utility Corporations conducting business within the City; repealing all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4714 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. City Attorney Brian Malone gave a staff report. **Councilman Venz made a motion to read Bill No. 4714 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Tinnin. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4714 for the second time. Bill No. 4714 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Wehner, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4714 passed.**

New Business

Dan Luck of Four Brothers Mead requested use of the parking lot on S. Second Street and the closure of Second Street from Behring east 200 feet just prior to Witte Custom Jewelers and usage of the park grounds behind the old Ball Barn building on Saturday April 22, 2023 from noon to 9:00 p.m. **Councilman Dennis made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously.**

Denny Foster requested a Liquor License for 6 Main Cocktails & Spirits at 6 Main Street and for Main & Mill Barrelworks Tap Room at 10 East Main Street. **Councilwoman Templeton made a motion to approve this liquor license, seconded by Councilman Wehner. Motion carried unanimously.**

Greg Camp stated he had received a quote from Woods Basement Systems in regards to the foundation repair needed at the 406 W. Main building owned by the City. Greg stated the quote was for \$36,491.45 and that he was requesting a budget of \$40,000 out of the general fund reserve for this project and that it would have to be bid out. Councilman Cook asked if we should have an engineer look at it for a Geotech report. Councilman Tinnin offered input on repairing these types of foundation cracks and that an engineer would cost too much and was not necessary. Greg felt confident that he could get several bids for this repair work. **Councilman Dennis made a motion to approve this expenditure, seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Old Business - none

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Commented on the new railroad trestle. Thanked the Police Department for patrolling on Main Street, asked about having an officer walk the downtown business area to deter crime. Asked about using a drone for police assistance. Asked about doing something with the homeless in town.

Councilman Wehner – Thanked Chief Lewis for the police presence downtown. Thanked Councilman Boyer for his participation. Commented on the new place owned by the Fosters (Barrelworks). Asked about emergency management manuals. Asked about helping the Ozark Food Pantry and getting volunteers.

Councilman Cook – Asked Stephanie Cunningham for a budget update for Council members so they could see where the City as a whole is and where each department is.

Asked Mary Evans from the Friends of the Library about the Souper Bowl Trophy. Mary explained that Festus beat the other competing libraries in the most food collection and donations. Asked if all easements had been obtained for the West Main Street project. Greg Camp stated Matt Unrein had secured all the needed easements and gave an update on where the project stands currently. Asked Captain Wendel if he could check with the school and see if the A+ students could volunteer at the Ozark Food Pantry as part of their volunteer hours. Kudos to Barb Lowry on the Facebook updates and pictures as the train trestle was under construction and finished.

Councilman Dennis – Liked the police presence in the downtown area. Stated that the homeless is a problem. Asked about the Emergency Operations Center in the basement of City Hall. Greg Camp informed him that it was used for training by the police and it was in need of updating. Railroad trestle looks great. Asked about the property behind JPAD that the City owns and if there were still plans for a future fire house.

Councilwoman Templeton – Good job on Main Street trying to deter crime. Stated that Herculeum leaves a little tag on business doors to let them know they were there to check and see if it was locked. Asked Matt Unrein about accessible playgrounds.

Councilman Venz – Asked about the sidewalk under the railroad trestle, Greg Camp stated that after some street repairs are made there sidewalks will be put in. Also asked about the storm drain gate needing to be fixed. Asked where the tractor with the cutter was at. Matt Unrein stated he would get an update on it.

Councilman Tinnin – Mentioned the police presence on Main Street, the railroad trestle, the dark area on Hawk Pointe and it's need for lighting, concrete bleachers at the tennis courts at Sunset Park and also that the latches on the gates were broken.

Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh – Mentioned future plans for the fire department. Stated that 2023 was the 125 year of the fire department and they would like to have a celebration at some point this year and they have ordered a banner for the fire house, also mentioned possible coins, etc. to commemorate the year.

Mayor Sam Richards – Things are going well in the City and thanked Matt Unrein and Greg Camp for their work the last three years on the railroad trestle project

Councilman Boyer – Asked about CPR training, Chief Broombaugh said JPAD will be doing the instruction and he is coordinating with them. Councilmembers Boyer, Templeton and Wehner stated they interested in taking the CPR class.

Adjournment

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