

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on March 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Underwood, Templeton, Venz, Wehner, Cook and Tinnin. Councilman Dennis present via Zoom. Absent: none. Mayor Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Clerk Kerry Patek, Public Works Director Matt Unrein, Parks Director Josh Whaley, Building Official Mark Harris, Fire Chief Travis Wood, Police Chief Tim Lewis, Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Treasurer Lori Eisenbeis and City Administrator Greg Camp. City Attorney Brian Malone present via Zoom.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$128,077.73. Motion to approve the bills, minutes of the Council Meeting of February 28, 2022 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Underwood, Dennis, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Tinnin and Cook; Nays – none.

Correspondence - none

Visitors - none

Confirmation of Fire Chief

Mayor Richards appointed Travis Wood as the new Festus Fire Chief. Councilman Cook made a motion to confirm the appointment of Travis Wood, motion was seconded by Councilman Boyer and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Underwood, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none. Mayor Richards then presented Travis Wood with the Festus Fire Chiefs helmet.

Bids

Purchase of Brooms for the Street Sweeper

Matt Unrein asked for approval to purchase a pallet of weed cutter brooms from Red Equipment at a cost of \$11,060.00. Mr. Unrein stated there was only one bid as this was a sole source for the Ravo Street Sweeper. **Councilman Tinnin made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Dennis, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – None.**

Ordinances and Resolutions - none

New Business

Appointment to Library Board

Library Director Elizabeth Steffen stated that the Library Board lost a member, Charlotte Zimmerman, because she moved out of the city. The board recommended Vicki Greminger to take her place. **Mayor Richards appointed Vicki Greminger to the Library Board. Councilman Cook made a motion to approve this appointment, seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion carried unanimously.**

Special Event Request – Show Me Snakes LLC

City Administrator Greg Camp stated that the City had received a special event request from Show Me Snakes LLC to hold a Midwest Venomfest at the Quality Inn on March 26 & 27, 2022. Mr. Camp stated that he and City Attorney Brian Malone reviewed the request and the City Code regarding such events. Mr. Camp stated that the City Code does not allow residents to own or harbor exotic pets which includes snakes and reptiles. Therefore, if Council were to allow this event the animal control officer would have to monitor who is purchasing the snakes/reptiles and there would have to be some method in place to prohibit sales to Festus residents, which would be very difficult to do. Micky Meyer, owner of Show Me Snakes LLC addressed the Council and stated that he ran into this same problem in Greenville, South Carolina and they allowed him to hold the show but prohibited sales to their residents and that an ID was required for purchase. Many Councilmembers expressed concerns regarding this show and the sale to residents and safety concerns. Mayor Richards asked for a motion to approve this request. **Request was denied due to lack of motion.**

Old Business – None

Reports

Councilwoman Templeton – Stated she had received complaints about dead tree limbs/debris around town. City Administrator Camp stated the dead tree/brush and damaged fence on West Main Street near the 55 overpass is on MoDot right of way and they have been contacted about removing it. Mr. Camp stated the other areas of concern Councilwoman Templeton addressed he will have the public works department look at.

Councilman Tinnin – Welcomed new Fire Chief Travis Wood.

Councilman Boyer – Congratulated new Fire Chief Travis Wood. Stated he had been receiving a lot of calls regarding the potholes around town.

Councilman Wehner – Congratulated new Fire Chief Travis Wood.

Councilman Dennis – Congratulated new Fire Chief Travis Wood and wished him the best on moving the Fire Department forward and getting it to the next level.

Councilman Cook – Congratulated new Fire Chief Travis Wood. Thanked Brian Malone and Greg Camp for researching the Show Me Snakes request to hold a show in Festus.

Mayor Richards – Stated that the City had been going through some very interesting times the last few months and that things were getting better with the Covid numbers decreasing and that we may finally be crossing the hump. Congratulated the new Fire Chief Travis Wood. Happy to mention that major league baseball is back.

Adjournment

Councilman Cook made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Boyer.