

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on July 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Venz, Cook, and Tinnin; Online – Dennis; Absent - Wehner. Mayor Samuel F. Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Administrator Greg Camp, Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham, Police Chief Doug Wendel, Parks Director Josh Whaley, Public Works Director Matt Unrein, Building Director Mark Harris, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Tourism Director Barb Lowry, 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 \$970,948.04. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of June 26, 2023 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Venz and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Correspondence – None

Visitors

Shelly Silvey, owner of 730 Warne Street, addressed the Council requesting a demand letter from the City to her insurance company regarding compliance with City code's. Ms. Silvey stated this problem arose from a water leak in her home. Ms. Silvey stated this problem has been going on for the past nine months, she has been unable to live in her home and she is requesting help. Mayor Richards stated the City would take her request under advisement.

Bids – None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4730 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; approving the Personnel Policy of the City of Festus, MO.; incorporating attached Exhibit "A" as a part of this Ordinance; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4730 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report stating that this was the update to the Employee Personnel Policy and thanked Matt Unrein for spearheading the group along with the committee members to get this completed and that it was. Mayor Richards commended the committee for getting this done for the employees. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4730 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4730 for the second time. Bill No. 4730 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Dennis, Venez, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4730 passed.**

Resolution 4730.5 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an Amendment of the Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Jefferson County Public Sewer District, the City of Festus, the City of Crystal City, to sell the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Jefferson County Public Sewer District. Clerk Patek read Resolution No. 4730.5. Mayor Richards called for discussion. City Attorney Brian Malone explained the need for the Resolution to the Council. **Councilman Collier made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4730.5, motion seconded by Councilman Venez. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 4730.5 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Dennis, Venez, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Resolution No. 4730.5 passed.**

Bill No. 4731 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Authorizing the issuance of a special tax bill under Section 110 of the 1998 property maintenance code adopted by the City of Festus, Missouri; certifying said special tax bill to the Recorder of Deeds of the County of Jefferson as a lien against said property; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4731 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report stating this was to place a lien on 410 S. Fourth Street, which the City had to expend funds to board it up due to illegal activity and a pending foreclosure. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4731 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4731 for the second time. Bill No. 4731 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Dennis, Venez, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4731 passed.**

New Business

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

The following appointments were made:

		<u>Expires</u>
Board of Adjustment	Marcus Shepherd	2028
	Danny Lipina	2028
Planning & Zoning Council Representative Mayor	Dale Persch	2027
	Jim Tinnin	
	Sam Richards	
ICC Appeals Board	Marcus Shepherd	2027
Park Board	Tim Wade	2026
	David Davis	2026
	Ken Stratham	2026
	Bob Swyers	2026
	Gina Otto	2026
Library Board	Steve Stoll	2026
	Mark Peckham	2026
	Vicki Cummings	2026
	Courtney Wisely	2026
Tourism Commission	Pat Parsons	2026
	Mike Cage	2026
Police Board	Kim Wehlerman	2026
Festus Housing Authority	Dale Persch	2027
	Andrew Hapgood	2027

Old Business – None

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Stated he was excited to see a restaurant going into the former Champions Mercantile location. Glad to see the new Culver's opening in Crystal City it will be a benefit to the entire area.

Councilman Dennis – Commended Barb Lowry for the Swingin under the Stars concert in Crites Park. Mentioned the homeless situation in our parks. Asked about what building codes the City is using and, also about the ATV issue on City streets.

Councilman Cook – Glad to see the new employee personnel policy adopted and thinks the longevity benefits will be good to retain employees and it shows the employees the City cares about them. Asked what building code the City was using. Mark Harris stated his office is using the 2009 Property Maintenance Code and Greg Camp stated the City would be reviewing and upgrading those codes. Councilman Cook also asked City Attorney Brian Malone about the demand letter request Ms. Silvey made regarding her insurance company and Mr. Malone stated he could review the situation.

Councilman Collier – Stated he agreed with Councilman Cook's statements and asked Matt Unrein about Mueller Road to which Mr. Unrein replied. Asked about the turn lane onto the development site off Highway 61-67. He was informed this was approved by MoDOT but that we have not received information on what businesses would be located there.

Councilwoman Templeton – Expressed her concerns about the issues brought to the Council by Ms. Silvey. Mentioned the Shop with a Cop fund raiser being held at Texas Roadhouse tomorrow from 4-10.

Councilman Venz – Asked about one-sided parking on Rankin and informed John Eisenbeis that he would have to discuss this with the Police Chief and Mr. Camp stated he would need to get with Matt Unrein on this matter and look at our traffic calming policy.

Councilman Tinnin – Thanked everyone who worked on the new employee handbook. Asked about the ATV issue on public streets and stated he would like to have a work session to discuss this. City Administrator Camp stated that due to a recent tragedy involving an ATV and a small child he thought it may be best to put this matter off for a while and that he can set a work session for a later date. After discussion, Council agreed to put this matter on the next agenda.

Councilwoman Templeton left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Richards – stated that the ATV discussion would be put on the next agenda under old business. Thanked Barb Lowry for a good job with the concert Sunday evening and thanked all the staff committee who got the new employee handbook completed.

City Administrator Camp – Discussed the new tech info regarding emails and the new site festusmo.gov and that outlook needs to be downloaded on their devices. Mr. Camp stated that the .gov sites are more secure which limits data being moved around within it and that this will happen before the end of the year.

Adjournment

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