

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Cook and Tinnin. Councilman Dennis was present via Zoom. Absent: None. Mayor Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Administrator Greg Camp, Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham, City Clerk Kerry Patek, Parks Director Josh Whaley, Fire Chief Travis Wood, Police Chief Tim Lewis, Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Treasurer Lori Eisenbeis, Public Works Director Matt Unrein 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 \$275,323.23. Motion to approve the bills, minutes of the Council Meeting of August 8, 2022 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Collier and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Dennis, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Tinnin and Cook; Nays – none.

Correspondence – None

Visitors - None

Bids

Public Works – 8” Sewer Main Repair

Public Works Director Matt Unrein requested approval of the bid from Jokerst, Inc. not to exceed \$33,000 to repair or replace approximately 60 feet of sewer main in the creek bed and under the BNSF railroad trussell. **Councilman Venz made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Collier, Boyer, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Collier. Nays – none.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4692 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Authorizing the issuance of Special Tax Bills under Chapter 215 of the City of Festus, Missouri Municipal Code; certifying said special tax bills to the Collector of County of Jefferson to be collected with the City of Festus real estate tax bills; and establishing an effective date. **Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4692 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp stated this was the annual delinquent weed cutting bills. Councilman Boyer made a motion to suspend the rules and read Bill No. 4692 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Collier. Bill No. 4692 passed by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Bill No. 4692 Passed.**

Bill No 4693 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; to establish a procedure to disclose potential conflicts of interest and substantial interests for certain municipal officials. **Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4693 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Clerk Patek stated this was the annual requirement from the Missouri Ethics Commission. Councilman Cook made a motion to suspend the rules and read Bill No. 4693 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Wehner. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4693 for the second time. Bill No. 4693 was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4693 passed.**

Bill No 4694 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Authorizing the Mayor to enter in to and execute a new engagement letter with Lashly & Baer, P.C. to serve as City Attorney and Prosecuting Attorney; incorporating said engagement letter as a part of this Ordinance; and establishing an effective date. **Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4694 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp stated it has been 10 years since Lashly & Baer has been representing the City and their fees have not changed in that time. City Attorney Brian Malone stated the new fees would be as follows: hourly rate changes from \$165 to \$205 per hour; monthly retainer would remain at \$1,900; and PA fees would change from \$2,100 to \$2,900 per month as the work for PA has become more time intensive with changes in the laws, etc. Councilman Cook made a motion to suspend the rules and read Bill No. 4694 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4694 for the second time. Bill No. 4694 was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4694 passed.**

New Business

Preliminary Budget Discussion

Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham presented Council with preliminary budget figures on the following spreadsheets: Budget Highlights, ARPA Reimbursement Tracking, 3 year Capital Plan, All Fund Capital Assets Summary and Preliminary Budget Summary for fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. Mayor Richards asked that Council review the documents and they would discuss them again in September in preparation for the final budget.

Old Business

City Administrator Camp informed Council that the City received a request for support for the 40 unit senior housing complex proposed by Ventura Industries, LLC of Jackson, Missouri and that he would prepare such a letter. No questions from Council were received.

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Asked Barb Lowry if she could put in the next newsletter to ask residents to bring their trash cans in after the trash has been removed and to not leave them sitting on streets and sidewalks. Stated the S. Mill Project was looking good with the new sidewalks.

Councilman Wehner – Commended Finance Director Cunningham on the three year capital plan she prepared. Asked about the next budget meeting – response was at the next Council meeting on September 12th. Stated Mill Street was looking good. Asked about when the traffic study at Collins/W. Main/Sunshine area was going to get started. Mr. Camp stated that a price was received from CBB Engineering and it will be brought to Council for review. Asked about health and wellness incentives for employees. Mr. Camp informed Council of what the City does currently for employees.

Councilman Dennis – Asked about the City owned property next to the Library and if the City has considered retail space there. Mr. Camp explained the structural issues with the building and that they were working on it.

Councilman Venz – Commented on the Mill Street project looking good. Commented on the success of the Bottleneck Bridge Ride.

Councilman Cook – Commented on the Mayor's participation leading the Bottleneck Bridge Ride in his Mustang.

Mayor Richards – Commented on the Bottleneck Bridge Ride and how many people it brought to town and that he was very pleased with the event.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Boyer made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Missouri Law for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to RSMo. 610.021 (2) real estate and (3) personnel. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tinnin and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Tinnin and Cook; Nays – none.

Adjournment

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