

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
September 12, 2022**

Mayor Richards opened the public hearing for the setting of the tax rates for the City of Festus, Missouri for the 2022-2023 fiscal year at 5:50 p.m. The tax rates did not change from the previous fiscal year. No public comments were received. Mayor Richards closed the hearing.

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on September 12, 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; 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 Clerk Kerry Patek, Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham, Police Chief Tim Lewis, Parks Director Josh Whaley, Public Works Director Matt Unrein, Fire Department Chuck Boyer, Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Treasurer Lori Eisenbeis and Building Official Mark Harris. City Attorney Brian Malone was 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 \$964,196.54. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of August 22, 2022 and the Work Session of September 6, 2022 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Wehner and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Correspondence - none

Visitors

Dan Luck/Four Brothers Mead had a request to speak for approval of an upcoming event. Councilman Cook asked if this should be moved to New Business, City Attorney Brian Malone stated it should be since there was a requested action.

Bids

2022 Street Project Change Order

Public Works Director Matt Unrein asked for approval of a change order for \$33,251.89 due to a difference between the estimated bid per square foot and the actual square foot amount. Mr. Unrein stated that the original contract price was for \$682,247.30 and that Council had authorized an additional cap not to exceed total project cost of \$760,000 (includes engineering fees) to be added for additional concrete slabs to be poured where needed. With the change order the total additions to the contract amounted to \$109,204.55. Council expressed concerns over the extra amount being paid by the city. Mr. Unrein stated the calculations the city used for bidding were not what the contractor calculated and therefore the discrepancies in cost. Mr. Unrein stated it was a learning experience and that this won't happen again. Mr. Unrein stated his department has received advice from an engineer on how to avoid this from happening in the future and how to calculate correctly. **Councilman Venz made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Councilman Wehner. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4695 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Amending the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4695 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Finance Director Stephanie Cunning gave a staff report. No comments or questions were received from Council. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4695 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4695 for the second time. Bill No. 4695 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4695 passed.**

Bill No. 4696 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Levying and Authorizing the Assessment and Collection of a Tax for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for Public Health purposes, Public Library, General Revenue purposes and City Parks; and fixing the time for the taking effect of this Ordinance. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4696 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Finance Director Cunningham stated this was the annual tax levy the city is required to do each year. No comments or questions were received from Council. **Councilman Collier made a motion to read Bill No. 4696 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4696 for the second time. Bill No. 4696 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4696 passed.**

New Business

Mead on Main Event

Dan Luck of Four Brothers Mead requested permission to close South Second Street from Behring east 200 feet prior to Witte Jewelers and the adjoining park ground owned by the City behind their business on Saturday October 1, 2022 for the Mead on Main Viking Festival. **Councilman Collier made a motion to approve Four Brothers Mead for this event, seconded by Councilman Dennis. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business

Proposed Budget Summary

Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham presented Councilmembers with a proposed budget summary for the upcoming fiscal year. Stephanie thanked all the department heads and Council for participation in the budget work session and explained the budget changes based on decisions coming from the work session. No comments or questions were received from Councilmembers.

Reports

Councilman Boyer – congratulated the Festus cornhole team for winning the championship over Crystal City. Appreciated the big turnout for Twin City Days. Stated his 1957 Chevy won first place at the car show. Thanked Barb Lowry for putting it all together and to everyone involved.

Councilman Wehner – Ditto to everything said by Councilman Boyer. Thanked everyone who put Twin City Days together.

Councilman Cook – Stated that he made a bet with the Crystal City Mayor over the cornhole game and that the Crystal City Mayor owes Festus Mayor Richards a lunch at a restaurant in Festus. Great job on Twin City Days. Concerned about the \$107,000 overage on the street project and wants to make sure this type of thing does not happen again and that we should look into our bidding process. Public Works Director Unrein agreed and stated that this would not happen again.

Councilman Collier – Commented on a great Twin City Days. Asked about the vacant lot on Main Street. Councilman Boyer stated at one time it was going to become a parking lot. Stated he received a call from a Festus school bus driver about not being able to turn at Roy and Mueller because of all the cars parked along the street and not being able to access the bus route. Asked if it would be possible to make Mueller one side parking only and that the current situation is not safe for the children.

Councilwoman Templeton – Compliment on Twin City Days and would like to see the police department purchase another 4x4 vehicle for events, etc.

Councilman Venz – Kudos on Twin City Days. Asked if the portable speed limit sign could be placed on West Main Street. Mr. Unrein stated that the City has a traffic calming policy and residents can fill out the forms through his office.

Councilman Collier – Stated the lights on Pounds Road were not lighting up. Mr. Unrein stated he would check it to see if there was a problem.

Councilman Tinnin – Commented on a great Twin City Days. Glad to have Mayor Richards back from Hawaii.

Mayor Richards – Good work on Twin City Days to all the workers, Barb Lowry, on this event, the Christmas Parade.

Barb Lowry – Reminded the Mayor and Council that the City does not do Twin City Days or the Christmas Parade and that she did not get the band, etc. that all this was done by the Chamber of Commerce staff. Chief Lewis stated Barb was on the Chamber committee and helped.

Councilman Venz – Asked about a potential railroad strike and if it would affect the project they have here in Festus. Mr. Unrein stated that he thought it was the engineers, but hoped it would not affect our project.

Mary Evans/Friends of the Library – Wanted the Council to know that the Festus High School Football team along with Coach Eric Allen (40+ boys) came to the Library and moved boxes of books, etc. for the staff and that they were very appreciative and that community and school working together was very nice to see.

Adjournment

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