

FESTUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 26, 2023

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on June 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Venz, Cook, and Tinnin; Online – Dennis; Absent - none. Mayor Samuel F. Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Administrator Greg Camp, 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 \$789,658.51. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of June 12, 2023 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Boyer and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Correspondence - None

Visitors

Mayor Richards introduced State Rep. Ken Waller for attending. Mr. Waller commended the City for the best Firecracker Festival yet.

My Place Residential Care/Virginia Russell, 23 N. Sixth St., requested permission to hold a small fireworks display for their residents on July 1, 2023 and on July 4, 2023. Fire Chief Broombaugh requested they keep the display small due to the current drought situation. Ms. Russell stated it would be small and they wet the grass around the area. **Councilman Dennis made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously.**

Alicia Vazquez/Ozark Food Pantry, addressed the Council regarding a fundraising benefit for the pantry "Cruisin for a Cause Car Show" on September 30, 2023. Ms. Vazquez asked the City to allow a car cruise on Main Street after the car show in Crites Memorial Park. Ms. Vazquez also asked for participation by the City with some of their police and fire vehicles. Ms. Vazquez also asked for permission for a bounce house for the children. Parks Director Josh Whaley stated that there are no bounce houses allowed in the parks due to MIRMA insurance.

Councilman Wehner asked if they needed volunteers for this event. Ms. Vazquez stated they did and that they were hoping to get some of the kids from Festus High School such as sports teams, etc. to help them out. Ms. Vazquez was informed they would have to let her know about having a bounce house after they talk with the insurance company. **Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously.**

Teresa Kreitler/Birchwood Estates addressed the Council stating she heard the Council had discussed allowing UTV's, golf carts, four wheelers, to be driven in the City at the last meeting. Ms. Kreitler stated she was against allowing use of these types of vehicles on Festus streets and reminded Council of accidents involving these types of vehicles and the safety risk involved.

Bids - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 4724.5 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute a letter of intent to enter into an Agreement with the Jefferson County Public Sewer District, the City of Crystal City, and the Festus/Crystal City Sewerage Commission, to sell the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Jefferson County Public Sewer District. Clerk Patek read Resolution No. 4724.5. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Representatives for the Jefferson County Public Sewer District addressed the Council reviewing the proposed purchase of sewage system assets. Councilman Cook stated he would like to see representation from Festus on the board. Councilman Wehner asked about the financial state of the JCPSD. Representatives stated that all JCPSD records are open to the public including their audits which are on file with the state auditor and that they received funding from the federal government for projects and had to prove financial stability. Representatives from Missouri American Water, the Show Me Institute and Central States Water Resources all addressed the Council and expressed interest in bidding on the purchase of the sewer treatment plant and options. Ken Waller expressed his support for the Jefferson County Public Sewer District. Councilman Cook stated he would rather stick with a public entity rather than a commercial company for profit. **Councilman Cook made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4724.5, seconded by Councilman Wehner. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Venz, Dennis, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none. Mayor Richards declared Resolution No. 4724.5 passed.**

Bill No. 4725 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Approving the Conditional Use Permit for 1224 Horine-Minor Subdivision; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4725 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Mark Harris gave a staff report and stated that this request had been recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission. John Eisenbeis, owner of the property, also addressed Council. **Councilman Cook made a motion to read Bill No. 4725 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Wehner. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4725 for the second time. Bill No. 4725 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. 4725 passed.**

Bill No. 4726 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Approving the Major Improvement Preliminary Plat for 1800 West Main; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4726 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Mark Harris gave a staff report and stated that this was recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission. **Councilman Venz made a motion to read Bill No. 4726 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Tinnin. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4726 for the second time. Bill No. 4726 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Templeton, Wehner, Dennis, Venz and Tinnin; Nays - Cook. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4726 passed.**

Bill No. 4727 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Approving the Conditional Use Permit for 116 Main Street; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4727 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Mark Harris gave a staff report stating this was recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission and it would be a Latino/Mexican grocery store. **Councilman Collier made a motion to read Bill No. 4727 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4727 for the second time. Bill No. 4727 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. 4727 passed.**

Bill No. 4728 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Amending Section 210.1040 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Festus regarding vehicle tampering; repealing all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4728 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Police Chief Wendel gave a staff report.

Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4728 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4728 for the second time. Bill No. 4728 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. 4728 passed.

New Business

Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application

Curt Westrich, P.E., Heneghan and Associates, P.C. and Public Works Director Matt Unrein addressed the Council asking for approval for Mr. Westrich to prepare an application to request funding (80/20 – East West Gateway \$640,000 and City of Festus \$160,000) for a Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Mr. Westrich's fee for the grant application is not to exceed \$5,000. **Councilwoman Templeton made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

South 2nd Street Parking Lot Design

Public Works Director Matt Unrein addressed the Council and reviewed the plans to redesign the S. 2nd Street parking lot as part of the M2M: Twin Cities Great Streets Plan and requested approval of an engineering contract with Cochran Engineering for the design of this parking lot improvement. **Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve this engineering contract, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Special Legal Services

City Attorney Brian Malone requested that special counsel be retained for a particular case in the court system involving an individual. **Councilwoman Templeton made a motion to approve the hiring of special counsel, seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Templeton, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Old Business - None

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Commented on the improvements to Shropshire Park. Parks Director Josh Whaley gave an update on the improvements in this park. Commented on what a success the Firecracker Festival was this year.

Councilman Wehner – Thanked everyone on doing a great job with all the things going on in the city.

Councilman Dennis – Stated the Firecracker Festival was fantastic this year, thanked Matt Unrein for the sidewalks and the parking, thanked everyone for all their hard work. Asked about the new weed trimmer and Matt Unrein stated it had been delivered today.

Councilman Cook – Asked Matt Unrein for an update on the West Main Street project. Commended Josh Whaley for the great job with the festival. Thanked the staff for all the reports they give to the Council. Commented on hearing the Library Director Elizabeth Steffens on the radio. Asked what can be done about speeding going into the park on Sunshine Drive. Commented on the “jake braking” issue.

Councilman Collier – Commented on the nice job Jokerst Paving did on England Drive.

Councilwoman Templeton – Asked about the crosswalk on Mill Street near the Fire House and the gymnastics place and asked if something could be done to improve it. Commended Barb and Josh on a great Firecracker Festival and stated she received compliments on a great job by Barb. Thanked Matt Unrein for the tree removal on Ridge Avenue and Sunnyside. Thanked Mark Harris and staff for the letters sent to residents.

Councilman Venz – Stated the Firecracker Festival was fantastic and a great job to all those involved. Stated that people were speeding on Sunshine approaching the park and asked if the police could patrol that area more.

Councilman Tinnin – Stated the Firecracker Festival was great this year and that the traffic was much better than previous years. Commented that he was excited about the parking lot improvements on S. 2nd Street and the new mower for public works.

Mayor Richards – Stated that he received a lot of great comments on the Firecracker Festival and thanked all those involved including the Festus and Crystal City police and fire departments and Joachim Plattin Ambulance District. Stated that he appreciated everyone working together and is looking forward to Twin City Days. Mentioned the new fire truck.

Adjournment

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