

FESTUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2023

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on August 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Venz, Cook, and Tinnin; Online – Dennis; Absent - Templeton. 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, Building Director Mark Harris, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Tourism Director Barb Lowry, 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 \$752,346.20. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of July 24, 2023 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Venz and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Correspondence - None

Visitors

Paul Sita, who was on the agenda requesting to speak was not in attendance.

Nathan Fischer, resident of 803 Edgewood Drive, addressed the Council regarding water quality issues at his residence and in his neighborhood. Mr. Fischer presented two samples of discolored water for Council to see. Mr. Fischer stated that he has lived at this location for 10 years and the last 2-3 years he has had the water quality issue. Mayor, staff and Council took Mr. Fischer's concerns under advisement and stated they are aware of these issues and are working to correct them.

Chris Hagan, owner of 101 E. Main Street, addressed the Council regarding stormwater runoff into his building at this location and that there is an AT&T manhole near that location that is contributing to his problem. Mayor, staff and Council took Mr. Hagan's concerns under advisement and stated they would look into it.

Makenzie Beckham, with the Compass Health Network, addressed the Mayor, staff and Council introducing herself and informing the City that Compass has partnered with Comtreia and they are converting the old Shop n Save building into a multi-use medical/dental/mental health/shelter facility and invited everyone to attend their fall festival at that location on November 9, 2023, for a preview of their newest location.

Bids - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Bill No. 4732 - 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; and establishing an effective date. City Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4732 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Mark Harris gave a staff report stating this was a lien to be placed on 406 N. Mill Street for property nuisance issues. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4732 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4732 for the second time. Bill No. 4732 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4732 passed.**

Bill No. 4733 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with Jefferson County, Missouri, the Clerk of Jefferson County, and the Collector of Jefferson County; and establishing an effective date. City Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4733 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. City Attorney Brian Malone informed Council this was an agreement for Jefferson County to continue to collect taxes on behalf of the City. **Councilman Collier made a motion to read Bill No. 4733 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Venz. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4733 for the second time. Bill No. 4733 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4733 passed.**

Bill No. 4734 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; amending Section 215.120, 215.170, and 500.187 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Festus regarding interest to be charged for nuisance abatements and dangerous building repairs/demolitions; repealing all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith; and establishing an effective date. City Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4734 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. City Attorney Brian Malone informed Council this change was to comply with interest rates charged by Jefferson County. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4734 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4734 for the second time. Bill No. 4734 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4734 passed.**

New Business

Appointment to Housing Authority

Mayor Richards stated there was a vacancy on the Festus Housing Authority and he would like to appoint Stephanie Rogers. **Councilman Cook made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Collier. Motion carried unanimously.**

Twin City Chamber of Commerce Event Request

The Twin City Chamber of Commerce requested permission to hold the annual Halloween event on October 28, 2023 and the annual Christmas parade on November 27, 2023, which involve the closing of Main Street for several hours for both events.

Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Councilman Collier motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Golf Carts and UTV's on City Streets and Highways

Council discussed the issue of allowing golf carts and UTV's/ATV's on city streets and highways. Police Chief Doug Wendel stated he was not in favor of allowing this in Festus due to the volume of traffic and commercial traffic on our streets and highways and felt it would be unsafe. Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh agreed with Chief Wendel. Mayor Richards asked each Councilmember their thoughts on this issue. Councilman Cook expressed his concerns and stated he would vote "no" at this time. Councilman Dennis requested they look into the state statute on this issue and also on special laws regarding the handicapped. Councilman Wehner expressed his concerns and stated he would vote "no" at this time. Councilman Boyer expressed his concerns and also the noise nuisance and stated he would vote "no" at this time.

Councilman Collier stated he would like more research on this issue and would like to see what other municipalities are doing and did express his safety concerns and stated that he would not vote on the issue at this time. Councilman Venz stated he definitely would not want to see golf carts on our streets but with fuel prices the way they are he could understand why some people want to use those type of vehicles but would like more research. Councilman Tinnin stated he would like more research to be done and that people are riding mini-bikes, go-carts, etc. in his subdivision and that the City could make the price of the permits higher so that only citizens serious about riding this type of vehicle would get one. Mr. Tinnin stated that also you can buy kits for these types of vehicles that make them street legal. Mr. Tinnin stated that he would like to have more discussion on this matter. City Administrator Greg Camp stated he would gather information for Council to review this issue. Mayor Richards stated he would allow two weeks for research into this matter and it would be put on the next Council agenda to be voted on.

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Commented on the success of the Bottleneck Bridge Ride and how many people it brought to Festus and Main Street. Asked the staff to look into the issue presented this evening by Chris Hagan for his building on Main Street.

Councilman Wehner – Commented on the water situation for residents on and near Edgewood Lane and mentioned that the Moore's have lived there over ten years, his son has lived there over 5 years and many of the residents in that area have had continual problems for extended periods of time. Asked if these residents experiencing this problem could get a discount on their water bill, give them bottled water, etc. Stated that something needs to be done about this situation.

Councilman Cook – Asked Greg Camp what the City is doing about the water situation. Greg stated he agreed the water quality is unacceptable and the City is doing everything they can to try and solve this problem, that they are taking steps along with the Jefferson County Water Authority to try and pinpoint this issue and fix it. Councilman Cook asked if Mr. Camp knew a time frame when this problem would be resolved. Mr. Camp stated he did not have a specific time frame and that the biggest piece of this puzzle is the new collector well and there have been delays on that project, but they will let everyone the status of the steps being taken to help resolve this problem. Councilman Cook asked if they could put Edgewood and St. Marys Lane in the upcoming fiscal year budget for main replacement.

Councilman Dennis – Stated that he serves on the Jefferson County Water Authority and they do care and are working on this issue and that a lot of time and money has been invested in trying to solve this problem and hopefully the new collector well will help solve these issues. Commended the city crews who have been replacing concrete pads on streets all around town and wanted to let them know what a good job they have been doing. Mentioned to Chief Wendel and incident involving a homeless man harassing a woman at Wal-Mart and asked if there is more we can do about the homeless situation. Chief Wendel stated that the homeless camp behind Wal-Mart is actually on the levee property and in Crystal City's jurisdiction, but there are daily calls regarding incidents with the homeless in and around our local businesses. City Attorney Brian Malone explained the issue with charging, holding, etc. certain individuals. Also asked about the status of a splash pad. Greg Camp stated that he had been working with Victoria Babb who works across the state with municipalities on making play areas accessible and he would keep Council up on the status of their work regarding setting up a foundation and getting funding for a splash pad.

Councilman Collier – Agreed with Councilman Cook that these water problems need to be addressed and a solution found. Stated that he reviewed the design of the I-55 cloverleaf proposal and that he felt it was a disaster. Reported that former Councilman Gary Underwood was doing well.

Councilman Venz – Stated he hated to hear the residents were having so many problems with the water quality and hopes that we can find a resolution soon. Asked Chief Wendel about speeding again on Horine Road and also about vehicles running red lights on A Highway. Chief Wendel stated they are doing what they can.

Councilman Tinnin – Stated he wanted the citizens to know that we are working on the water quality problem and that he would like to see some kind of restitution for the people affected. Also would like to see staff check into the stormwater runoff problem Chris Hagan brought to their attention this evening.

Mayor Richards – Informed the citizens that we are going to do what we can as quickly as possible to try and resolve their water quality problems and that we understand their frustrations. Mentioned there was a pretty substantial water leak in the library and commended the fire department for acting quickly to help get it stopped. Thanked Councilman Boyer and his wife Yvonne for coming to city hall and weeding and cleaning up the front of city hall. Asked everyone to keep the people of Maui in their thoughts and prayers.

City Administrator Greg Camp stated the budget work session would start at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023 prior to the Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Richards asked for a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Missouri Law for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to RSMo.610.021 (3)(13) personnel. Motion made by Councilman Collier, seconded by Councilman Cook to go into closed session. Motion approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Collier, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Cook and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Adjournment

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