



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, October 27, 2025, for a Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. and a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall located at 711 West Main Street, Festus, Missouri.

I. 5:50 PM - Public Hearing

- a. Proposed Zoning Code Revisions to Amend Chapter 405 of the Code of Ordinances to enact regulations relating to Data Centers

Mayor Richards opened the Public Hearing for Floodplain Management Regulations at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Richards asked if there were any citizens who wished to speak.

The following citizens spoke of Zoning Regulations and concerns regarding Data Centers:

- Gary Kappler, 822 Joachim Street, Hematite
- Jennifer Balicki, 7425 Avondale Park, Barnhart
- Doug Duvall, 200 Dietrich Lane, Festus
- Gwen Mercer, 121 Blue Ridge Trace, Festus

Mayor Richards closed the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

II. Call to Order

Mayor Richards called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Councilman Boyer
Councilman Collier
Councilwoman Templeton
Councilman Wehner
Councilman Dennis
Councilman Venz
Councilman Cook
Councilman Tinnin

Absent:

None

Also in attendance:



Mayor Samuel F. Richards, City Administrator Greg Camp, City Clerk Leah Smith, Finance Director Michelle Vaughn, Building and Planning Director Mark Harris, Parks Director Josh Whaley, Recreation and Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Police Chief Doug Wendel, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Public Works Director Michael Christopher, Deputy City Clerk Jen Filkins, Finance Assistant Miranda O'Haleck and City Attorney Brian Malone.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recited

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes

a. October 14, 2025 – Work Session

b. October 14, 2025 – Regular Session

2. Approval of Bills

Mayor Richards asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$481,040.18.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, the bills, and minutes of the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes on October 14, 2025, was made by Councilman Venz, seconded by Councilman Cook.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Collier:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman Wehner:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Venz:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Tinnin:	Aye

Motion carried.

3. Correspondence

IV. Remarks of Visitors

Justin Lenhard and his family expressed their appreciation to Recreation and Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Parks Director Josh Whaley, and their staff for welcoming the family and the light show to the City, helping with set up. They stated that they felt right



at home and shared that this sense of community was a major reason they chose to move to the City.

V. Bids
None

VI. Ordinances and Resolutions

Deputy Clerk Filkins read the following:

Bill No. 4858 - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, amending Chapter 405 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Festus, Missouri, to enact regulations relating to Data Centers; repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; and establishing an effective date.

Building and Planning Director Mark Harris reported that the proposed ordinance establishes definitions and regulations for data centers to safeguard the City and its residents. The item was reviewed by the City Attorney and unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Attorney Brian Malone reported that the ordinance includes amendments recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilman Cook discussed misinformation on social media, suggested environmental reviews and possible incentive restrictions, and emphasized transparency, clarifying that the proposed data center would not use large amounts of water. Councilwoman Templeton asked about addressing other potential impacts beyond sound, enforcement procedures, and corrective actions. Malone explained that lighting is also regulated, and that water and electric concerns could be addressed in future amendments, with enforcement measures including periodic sound reviews, corrective plans, and potential suspension of operations for violations. Director Mark Harris added that the zoning code already contains provisions addressing similar nuisance factors such as smoke.

Motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4858 a second time was made by Councilman Collier and seconded by Councilman Tinnin.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Collier:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman Wehner:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Venz:	Aye



Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Tinnin: Aye

Motion carried. Deputy Clerk Filkins read Bill No. 4858 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4858.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Collier: Aye
Councilwoman Templeton: Aye
Councilman Wehner: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Venz: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Tinnin: Aye

Bill 4858 finally passed.

Deputy Clerk Filkins read the following:

Bill No. 4859 - An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Festus, Missouri; Establishing A Four-Way Stop On Sunshine Drive At The Intersection Of National Guard Drive; And Establishing The Placement Of Sign Enforcing Said Stop Sign; And Establishing An Effective Date.

Public Works Director Michael Christopher reported that a stop sign was placed on Sunshine Drive at the main entrance of Larry G. Crites Memorial Park at the request of the City Council. Councilman Boyer remarked that this was needed with the new Splash Pad and playground that will increase traffic.

Motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4859 a second time was made by Councilwoman Templeton and seconded by Councilman Boyer.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Collier: Aye
Councilwoman Templeton: Aye
Councilman Wehner: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Venz: Aye



Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Tinnin: Aye

Motion carried. Deputy Clerk Filkins read Bill No. 4859 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4859.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Collier: Aye
Councilwoman Templeton: Aye
Councilman Wehner: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Venz: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Tinnin: Aye

Bill 4859 finally passed.

VII. New Business

a. Discuss Friday, December 26

Mayor Richards noted that City employees already have December 24 and 25 off for the Christmas holiday and suggested that, as December 26 falls on a Friday, little activity is expected. He recommended that the Council consider a motion to grant employees the day off on December 26 as well.

Motion to approve an additional day off for Employees on December 26, 2025, was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Wehner.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Collier: Aye
Councilwoman Templeton: Aye
Councilman Wehner: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Venz: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Tinnin: Aye

Motion carried.



VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Wehner expressed concern about ongoing congestion and safety issues along I-55, suggesting a coordinated enforcement effort among local law enforcement agencies to increase visibility and safety during peak times.

Councilman Dennis commended the new salt storage facility near the park, noting its cost savings and efficiency. He praised the Fire Department's training efforts and the success of the holiday light show, suggesting future consideration of a grass-paver surface for the event field.

Councilman Cook discussed potential for additional data center restrictions, emphasizing the importance of research and continued education, and noted that utility shutoff authority could serve as an enforcement tool.

Councilman Boyer stated that while data centers are new to him, regulation is key to maintaining control, and he thanked staff for their work on the light show.

Councilman Collier emphasized the need for proactive research and ordinance preparation to stay ahead of industry changes, and commended the light show team. He also inquired about the Quality Inn, and staff confirmed a name change only.

Councilwoman Templeton thanked the City Attorney for information on data centers, praised the light show, and thanked Parks staff for use of the barn for homecoming photos. She also asked about progress on the North Mill alert sign, and Councilman Cook reported it is being fabricated in-house.

Councilman Venz noted additional stop signs being installed throughout the City to improve safety.

Councilman Tinnin echoed prior comments, commending the salt storage project, parking lot improvements behind Main Street, and continued focus on data center regulation.

Mayor Richards remarked that recent rainfall was beneficial for local fields and announced he will be out of state beginning December 1 while his wife donates a kidney to her brother at the Mayo Clinic. Mayor Pro-Tem Dave will assume duties during his



absence. The next Council meeting will be held on November 10, coinciding with the 250th Marine Corps birthday.

X. Adjournment

Councilman Cook made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Collier.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Collier:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman Wehner:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Venz:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Tinnin:	Aye

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

11/10/2025

Date - Approved by Council



Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri