



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, December 22, 2025, for a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall located at 711 West Main Street, Festus, Missouri.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Boyer 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:

City Administrator Greg Camp, City Clerk Leah Smith, Finance Director Michelle Vaughn, Building and Planning Director Mark Harris, Police Chief Doug Wendel, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Public Works Director Michael Christopher and City Attorney Brian Malone.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recited

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes

a. December 8, 2025 – Regular Meeting

2. Approval of Bills

Mayor Pro Tem Boyer asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Boyer announced the bills were in the amount of \$766,993.98.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, the bills, and minutes of the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2025, was made by Councilwoman Templeton, 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.

3. Correspondence

III. Remarks of Visitors

None

IV. Bids

None

V. Ordinances and Resolutions

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4870 - An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Festus, Missouri; Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into And Execute An Agreement For Professional Services With Bond Architects, Incorporated; Incorporating Said Agreement As Part Of This Ordinance; And Establishing An Effective Date.

City Administrator Greg Camp acknowledged six submittals for the Red Barn Phase 2 Architect RFQ and interviewed 3. The recommendation was to continue with Bond Architects who completed Phase 1.

Motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4870 a second time was made by Councilman Venz and 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. Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4870 a second time.

Mayor Pro Tem Boyer called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4865.

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 4870 finally passed.

VI. New Business

a. Move City Council Meetings due to holidays

City Administrator Camp asked the Council to consider a request from staff to move Council Meetings (May and October) that fall on Holidays to the following day, Tuesdays.

Motion to approve moving Council Meetings that fall on a holiday to the following day, was made by Councilman Collier, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton.

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.

VII. Old Business
None

VIII. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Wehner reported that he is a nearly 70-year Festus resident and 10–11 year Council member, spoke about his deep personal commitment to the city, emphasizing that his decisions are guided by public service, quality oversight, and residents' interests rather than revenue or personal gain. He shared that he researched data centers firsthand during a recent visit to Las Vegas and found fewer on-site jobs than projected but heard no concerns from nearby residents regarding utilities, property values, or quality of life, aside from occasional noise. He expressed support for AI infrastructure as a matter of national security and stated that the proposed project could be transformational for Festus and the region by providing tax relief, enhanced city services, and improved schools.

Councilman Dennis apologized for missing the previous meeting due to a recent hospitalization and noted his long tenure on the City Council. He stated that he has always acted with the intent to avoid harm and emphasized the need to proactively address major infrastructure demands, including potential future needs for additional fire facilities and staffing, noting no proposals are yet in place. He stated that he lives in the community and is doing his best, congratulated the three new firefighters, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Cook discussed data centers in Altoona and other AI-related developments, noting that conversations with administrators and residents revealed no concerns related to water, pollution, or noise. He asked the City to consider hiring a PR Firm to address citizens concerns. He stated that questions can be addressed by those directly involved and expressed support for forming an Economic Development Advisory Committee to advise Planning & Zoning and the City Council, broadening the review process while recognizing that some development discussions are not always publicly disclosed. He noted that rules and restrictions are being refined to ensure accuracy before being presented, with hope for a workshop in January. In response to a question regarding water capacity, Public Works Director Michael Christopher reported that current usage is approximately 1.3 million gallons per day, the plant is rated for 3 million gallons per day, wells have never been required to meet demand, and there are no concerns as long as usage remains within permitted limits.



Councilman Collier stated that he has not yet toured any AI facilities due to a recent surgery but plans to do so after recovery; in the meantime, he has been researching the issue to be prepared to make informed decisions in the best interest of the city. He congratulated new hires, officers, and first responders, highlighted the SWAC Christmas event that served 602 children with many officers volunteering their time. He also thanked Luke Adams for stepping up to assist with homeless outreach, encouraged additional volunteers, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Templeton stated that the Council is not comprised of data center experts and emphasized the responsibility to seek education, counsel, and insight while evaluating the matter objectively. She noted that all discussions remain hypothetical at this time, with no formal proposal before the Council, and that the City is currently limited to its existing rules, ordinances, and governing processes. She acknowledged both the excitement and concerns expressed by the public, thanked police and fire personnel and officers for their service, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Venz noted his 20 years on the Council and lifelong residency in the city, aside from military service, emphasizing that no one on the Council has any reason to be dishonest and that nothing is being handled secretly. He shared that he was fortunate to visit a data center, observing one that had been in operation over 10 years and still looked brand new, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Tinnin shared that he visited data centers in Nebraska and Altoona and, like others, came in with no special knowledge but kept an open mind. He noted that what he observed differed from his expectations: the facilities were on similarly sized land as proposed locally, included first-class operations like Google's, used closed-loop water systems without drilling, employed around 700 full-time staff, ran 24/7, and spanned four buildings on 20 acres with a resort-like campus. He also mentioned that Ameren representatives were part of the tour and were able to clarify some electrical questions regarding data centers.

City Administrator Camp noted that he is aware of citizens working to submit a petition under RSMo 78.573, however, this does not legally compel the city to act and is subject to council review, rather than automatically implementing any proposal. In its history, Festus has not codified those powers, which means RSMo 78.573 does not apply to Festus.

Mayor Pro Tem Boyer noted his eight years on the Council and expressed that the current Council is the best Festus has ever had. He emphasized the importance of learning firsthand rather than relying on media, encouraged anyone considering running



for Council to share the same dedication and love for the city, and stated that the Council's focus is always on doing what is best for residents.

IX. 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 7:06 p.m.

2/9/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri