



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, March 9, 2026, for a Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. followed by 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. Regarding re-zoning parcel 18-1.0-12.0-0-005-016 (11355 Pounds Road) from N-1 Non-Urban to B-2 Community Retail

Mayor Richards opened the Public Hearing for the rezoning at 5:50 p.m.

Building and Planning Director Jim Walker reported that the rezoning at 11355 Pounds Road will match zoning of adjoined property and was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. This was slated to be heard on January 26, 2026, but due to inclement weather, it was postponed to today's meeting to meet the notice deadlines.

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

After hearing none, Mayor Richards asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Boyer and seconded by Councilman Venz.

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.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:55 p.m.

5-minute recess

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 via Zoom
Councilman Venz
Councilman Cook
Councilman Tinnin
Mayor Richards

Absent:

None

Also in attendance:

Public Works Director and Interim City Administrator Michael Christopher, City Clerk Leah Smith, Finance Director Michelle Vaughn, Building and Planning Director Jim Walker, Police Chief Doug Wendel, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Parks Director Josh Whaley, Recreation and Tourism Director Barb Lowry, 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. February 23, 2026 – Regular Meeting
- b. February 26, 2026 – Special Meeting
- c. March 2, 2026 – Community Benefits Work 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 \$1,124,290.50.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, the bills, and minutes was made by Councilman Venz, 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

None

IV. Remarks of Visitors

- a. Zach Murray, 11780 Kingston Drive – requested no tax incentives and reported temperature changes related to data centers.
- b. Austin Jackson, 141 Dublin Lane – shared the data center would expand technology, business, and opportunities keeping kids here for jobs.
- c. Erica Carter, 14 Ashford Place – reported noise from a data center will disrupt the adjacent subdivision and remarks made by the Mayor.
- d. Lori Merriman, 11530 Ten Point Lane – spoke of annexation and questioned how a data center will affect health conditions.
- e. Mary Fakes, 9 Cedarbrook – spoke of the First Amendment and the Marine Corps Code of Conduct.
- f. Cody Vogel, 6704 Sycamore Landing – shared potential benefits and commended Council.
- g. Alexander Bischoff, 884 Woodridge Drive – shared data regarding water and information regarding PILOT's.
- h. Kirk Hilzinger, 5225 Fairview Avenue – spoke of experience visiting data centers and shared information on utility to data centers.
- i. Hunter Williams, 7499 Gravois Road – shared reasons for support of data center and SB1790.
- j. Austin Williams, 7015 Meadow View Drive – discussed positive impacts to data centers.
- k. Sherman Doyle, 6 Glenkee Court – spoke of petition, RSMo Chapter 78 and plans to override Planning and Zoning decisions.
- l. Scott Rupp, 203 Charging Bear Drive – spoke of over decade on Public Service Commission and as chairman; SB4, tariffs and unpopular decisions.



- m. James Chris Gerding, 468 Huntington Trails – thanked Council for hard work and discussed revenue during construction and after completion.
- n. Drew Kavanagh, 6144 Sunset Drive – discussed the long term future benefits for the City and essential services.

V. Bids

None

VI. Ordinances and Resolutions

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4871 - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, rezoning a parcel within the City of Festus located at 11355 Pounds Road (Jefferson County Parcel Identification Number 18101200005016) from the N-1 Non-Urban District to B-2 Community Retail District; directing the City Clerk to update the Zoning Map of the City; and establishing an effective date.

Building and Planning Director Jim Walker reported that the proposed rezoning at 11355 Pounds Road would align with the zoning of the adjoining property and has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The item was originally scheduled for the January 26, 2026, meeting but was postponed due to inclement weather and rescheduled for today's meeting in order to meet required notice deadlines.

Motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4871 a second time was made by Councilman Dennis and seconded by Councilman Venz.

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. 4871 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4871.



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 4871 finally passed.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Boyer nothing to report.

Councilman Wehner nothing to report.

Councilman Dennis nothing to report.

Councilman Cook nothing to report.

Councilman Collier nothing to report.

Councilwoman Templeton nothing to report.

Councilman Venz nothing to report.

Councilman Tinnin nothing to report.

Mayor Richards nothing to report.

X. Closed Session



Mayor Richards announced the City of Festus City Council will go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 610.021 paragraph (1) of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri for the purpose of discussing legal actions, causes of action, or privileged communications between Council and legal counsel; and paragraph (12) for negotiations of a contract prior to execution.

Motion to enter Closed Session, was made by Councilman Cook, 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.

Council entered Closed Session at 7:16 p.m.

Council returned from Closed Session at 9:04 p.m.

XI. 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 9:06 p.m.



3/23/2026
Date - Approved by Council

4/13/2026
Date - Amended by Council



Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri