



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, March 30, 2026, for a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Festus High School Gymnasium located at 501 Westwind Drive, Festus, Missouri.

I. 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 via Zoom
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, and City Attorney Brian Malone.

Mayor Richards stated that for Remarks of Visitors at a special meeting, the Festus City Code requires that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the City Council approve a motion to add an agenda item for public comment. Mayor Richards asked for a motion to allow up to 2 hours of public comment, with 5 minutes per speaker.

Motion to approve allow up to 2 hours of public comment with 5 minutes per speaker was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton.

Roll Call 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.

City Attorney Brian Malone reported that the data center would generate over \$89 million for the City over 20 years. The agreement includes environmental studies and an amendment for expanding buyout, along with a cap max per day for water. Mr. Malone further reported that if the City Council should choose not to approve the agreement, the City would lose the tax revenue but could still move forward with the project.

II. Remarks from Visitors

1. Rick Belleville – Stated bad deal for Festus; doesn't understand JCPA involvement.
2. Alyssa Harris – Questioned tax abatement; current tax dollars should be managed better.
3. Chris Ganey – Stated CRG are expert salesmen, illegal loopholes and secrets.
4. Zachary Murray – Spoke of greed and corruption, bribes and opposition.
5. Sherman Doyle – Questioned closed sessions and sunshine requests.
6. Gwen Mercer – Stated no benefits for residents, only councilmembers and developer.
7. Michael Cheli – Questioned what money will be used on if all promises are true.
8. Mary Buckalew – Shared that the citizens have been robbed and duped.
9. Jesse Cordova – Stated city officials shut out residents and real stakeholders.
10. John Youmans – Visited property grave sites and believes Sheriff should have oversight.
11. Mary Fakes – Read document front to back; proud Union supporter.
12. Jessie Shepherd – Expected not to speak; asked to table ordinance or vote no.
14. Erica Carter – Spoke of agreement, money 6 years away; discussed recall petition.
15. Charles Holmes – Not against development, just poor planning.
16. Bryan Basler – Shared that it is not too late to save political careers.
17. Falyn Barnett – Stated that councilmen are amazing actors and ruined childhood.
18. Mary Youmans – Shared of hate for lying and bullying; lack of respect.
19. Judy Ivery – Asked why cats are in bags; resident concerns not heard.
20. Travis Layton – Spoke of lawyer terms used in agreement to confuse residents.
21. Matthew Ramsbottom – Shady deal; hopes all concerns are heard and addressed.
22. Vaughn Hogan – Shared that bitcoin site is constantly buzzing; worried about dangers.
24. Matthew Drinen – Inquired about complaints; no validation or diligence of numbers.
25. Lauren Albers – Spoke of no input in buyout; will never recover from selling home.
26. Rozilyn Daniels – Shared kids will not be able to play in street; no comparable homes.
27. Andrew Shelley – Thanked Councilman Cook on only response; ruined trust.
28. Cheryl Hagerty – Not getting what was promised; need stricter health guides.

III. Ordinances and Resolutions



Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4876 - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, to approve an Infrastructure Development and Funding Agreement with CRG Acquisition, LLC; incorporating such agreement by reference; and establishing an effective date.

Motion to amend the agreement (Exhibit A) letter G, #3, strike 12 months and replace with 36 months (to extend Voluntary Residential Buyout Program), made by Councilman Cook, 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.

Motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4876 a second time was made by Councilman Collier and 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. Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4876 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4876.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Bill 4876 finally passed.

IV. Adjournment

Councilman Boyer made a motion to adjourn, 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 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

4/27/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri