



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, April 13, 2026, 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 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
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

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approve Revised March 9 Meeting Minutes to Correct Scrivener's Error

b. Approval of Bills

Mayor Richards asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$1,282,955.14.



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

c. Correspondence

1. 2026 General Municipal Election Results

City Clerk Leah Smith read April 7, 2026, Certified General Municipal Election Results. The results are as follows:

Councilman Ward 1

Karl Weekley	209
Jim Collier	112

Councilman Ward 2

Allen Joseph McCarthy	312
Matt Stout	36
Brian Wehner	90

Councilman Ward 3

Tim Bennett, Jr.	25
Jesse Cordova	151
Robert (Bobby) Venz	96
Dan Moore	273

Councilman Ward 4

Jim Tinnin	158
Charles Underwood	104
Luke Adams	14
Rick Belleville	527

Motion to accept the election results 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.

III. ADJOURN SINE DIE

Motion to Adjourn Sine Die was 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

a. Swear in Newly Elected Officials

Clerk Smith gave the Oath of Office to Councilman Ward 1, Karl Weekley, Councilwoman Ward 2, Allen McCarthy, and Councilman Ward 3, Dan Moore and Councilman Ward 4 Rick Belleville.

IV. RECONVENE

A motion to reconvene was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Boyer.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye



Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Belleville: Aye

Motion carried.

a. Elect Mayor Pro-Tem

Mayor Richards asked for Mayor Pro-Tem nominations.

Councilman Moore made a motion to nominate Councilman Belleville as Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Councilman Weekley.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer: Nay
Councilman Weekley: Aye
Councilwoman Templeton: Nay
Councilman McCarthy: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Nay
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilman Cook: Nay
Councilman Belleville: Aye
4 Aye, 4 Nay - Tiebreaker:
Mayor Richards: Nay

4 Aye, 5 Nay – Motion failed.

Councilman Boyer nominated Councilman Cook as Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Weekley: Nay
Councilwoman Templeton: Aye
Councilman McCarthy: Nay
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Moore: Nay
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Belleville: Nay
4 Aye, 4 Nay - Tiebreaker:



Mayor Richards: Aye

5 Aye, 4 Nay – Motion carried.

V. Remarks of Visitors

- a. Mary Fakes, 9 Cedarbrook – spoke of the Municipal Election April 7th and Mayor complaints.
- b. Alexander Bischoff, 884 Woodridge Drive – Congratulated new councilmembers and discussed the technological war against China.
- c. Sherman Doyle, 6 Glenkee Court – spoke of Council Meeting minutes and CRG Bob Clark's comments.
- d. Mike Teeple, 143 Twin City Villa – Spoke of disabled crosswalk safety and signage.
- e. Crosby Doyle, 6 Glenkee Court – Shared how kids will be impacted by data center.
- f. John Youmans, 921 N 4th Street – Discussed voter turnout at the election and the Treasurer position.
- g. Clayton Kaimann, 12407 Red Lantern Lane – New to the data center fight; corruption.
- h. Mary Youmans, 921 N 4th Street – Congrats on new councilmembers, history made.
- i. Gabe Cotton, 11764 Kingston Drive – Congratulated new councilmembers; real power is in hands of the people.
- j. Travis Layton, 2916 High Ridge – spoke of Planning & Zoning complaint letters and no transparency.
- k. Sarah Doenges, 503 Skyview Terrace – discussed resident concerns and legal concerns.
- l. Matt Drinen, 1332 Melvin Drive – asked for more transparency and respect; concerns with Treasurer position.

VI. Bids

a. Evidence Locker Bid

Chief Doug Wendel reported that the current evidence lockers are original to the building. The state bid with Bradford includes new refrigerated lockers with locks on six lockers instead of one, which are scaled back on size that saves a significant amount of budgeted money.

Councilman Belleville asked to table the bid, as he and Councilman Moore were not allowed to visit the evidence area to understand the need for lockers. Chief Wendel and City Attorney Brian Malone agreed that the area is a secure location and not typically open for citizens to view.



Motion to table the evidence lockers bid was made by Councilman Belleville and seconded by Councilman Moore.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

VII. Ordinances and Resolutions

None

VIII. New Business

Mayor Richards announced the first request was from Twin City Chamber of Commerce.

a. Festival Requests – Twin City Chamber of Commerce

- 1. Twin City Days – September 12, 2026 (5:00am-4:00)**
- 2. Main Street Trick or Treat Spooktacular – October 24, 2026 (9:00am-12:00pm)**
- 3. Christmas Parade – November 30, 2026 (6:00-8:00pm)**

Motion to approve the three Twin City Chamber of Commerce Festival Requests was made by Councilwoman Templeton, seconded by Councilman Boyer.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye



Motion carried.

b. Festival Request – Festus Main Street Association – Festus Art & Music Festival, May 2-3, 2026

Michelle Hohmeier of the Main Street Association described the two day event with music on Saturday and Art on Sunday. Councilman Dennis asked if the Church on Main Street had been notified, to which Ms. Hohmeier confirmed.

Motion to approve the Festus Art & Music Festival Request was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilwoman Templeton.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

c. Liquor License Transfer Request – 2 Express Mart Locations (999 Gannon Drive & 801 Collins Drive)

Mayor Richards reported that the Home Service Oil Company ownership has changed with David Mangelsdorf selling 100% of his controlling share to Zachary Mangelsdorf, which impact the two locations. Councilman Belleville questioned why the owners are coming to the City if the business was sold in July 2025, to which Chief Wendel explained that liquor licenses do not expire until June of this year.

Motion to approve the Liquor License Transfer Request for 2 Express Mart Locations was made by Councilman Weekley, seconded by Councilman Boyer.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye



Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

d. New Liquor License – Prime Time Sports Pub

Owners of Prime Time Sports Pub at 420 West Main Street are requesting a new liquor license; they also own another pub in Imperial. Chief Wendel has no issue with the request and has met with the owners in advance. Councilman Belleville asked what time liquor must end inside the City, to which Chief Wendel said the City follows state law which is 1:00 a.m.

Motion to approve the New Liquor License Transfer Request for Prime Time Sports Pub was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Dennis.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

e. Festus Main Street Association – Main Street Banner

Tom Vogel of the Main Street Association shared that they would like to hang a banner across Main Street from building to building on a cable that is already located there. Interim City Administrator and Public Works Director Michael Christopher shared that they City does not typically allow this due to exceeding heights and insurance purposes. Councilman Cook suggested having someone look at it, to which Building and Code Enforcement Director Jim Walker shared that it should be above 20 foot for electrical standards and will look into it.

No action or vote was taken.



f. Picnic Liquor Request – Edg-Clif Winery for Festus Art & Music Festival (May 2, 2026)

Mayor Richards read the request and Councilman Dennis asked if the business was out of Festus, to which Michelle Hohmeier of the Festus Main Street Association answered Potosi.

Motion to approve the Picnic Liquor License for Edg-Clif Winery at the Art & Music Festival was made by Councilwoman Templeton, seconded by Councilman Boyer.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

g. Presentation and Acceptance of FY2025 Audited Financial Statements

Finance Director Michelle Vaughn reported the audited financial statements for FY2025 have been completed by the independent auditors and are being presented for review, discussion and formal acceptance. Councilman Belleville suggested the City consider a State Audit at the Council's request, to which Ms. Vaughn responded that they can be costly. Councilman Cook suggested further discussion, perhaps at a future work session.

h. City Treasurer Appointment – Lori Eisenbeis

Brian Malone provided background on the Treasurer Appointment and explained that the Mayor has the authority to put up a nomination with the advice and consent of the Council to approve or disapprove the nomination. City Clerk Smith apologized for the error in not placing the City Treasurer appointment on the ballot.

Motion to approve the City Treasurer Appointment for Lori Eisenbeis was made by Councilman Boyer. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion to table the City Treasurer Appointment for Lori Eisenbeis was made by Councilman Dennis and seconded by Councilman Moore.



Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

IX. Old Business

None

X. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Boyer congratulated the new councilmen. The Water Department is doing a good job replacing the water lines in town.

Councilman McCarthy nothing to report.

Councilman Dennis shared that police cars are being keyed and city staff are being spit on needs to stop. The Police Department has issued 214 tickets and is doing a fine job with traffic control.

Councilman Cook agreed with the public frustration not knowing the end user for the agreement. Will look into stop signs. The City Administrator hiring process has started. Need to get a ladder truck ordered for the Fire Department. Asked staff to look into helping Mr. Teeple and his ADA access around the City, to which Michael Christopher shared that the Safe Streets for All grant could assist with that, including sidewalks and a transition plan.

Councilman Weekley nothing to report.

Councilwoman Templeton thanked Michelle Vaughn for her report.

Councilman Moore thankful to be here and promised to address the Data Center and lack of transparency, including bringing closed session minutes to light. Plans to invite Bob



Clark to answer questions directly and work with the City Attorney Brian Malone to bring more things forward for the Council.

Councilman Belleville thanked Clerk Smith for the apology regarding the Treasurer. Tired of hearing Sunshine Law violations and the new four councilmen are requesting training. Asked for the packet to be published 7 days earlier.

Mayor Richards thanked the previous council for their years of service; they did a good job. We all need to work together for the City of Festus.

XI. Adjournment

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

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilwoman Templeton:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

5/26/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri