The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Thursday, April 30, 2026, for a Special 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 Weekley
Councilman McCarthy
Councilman Dennis
Councilman Moore
Councilman Cook
Councilman Belleville
Mayor Richards

Absent:
None

Also in attendance:
Public Works Director and Interim City Administrator Michael Christopher, City Clerk Leah Smith, Building and Planning Director Jim Walker, Police Captain Lewis Pippin, Fire Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Recreation and Tourism Director Barb Lowry, Finance Assistant Miranda O'Haleck, and City Attorney Brian Malone.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Recited

## II. Remarks of Visitors

a. Lori Merriman, 11530 Ten Point Lane – discussed annexing into city and moratorium for Ward 2 vacancy.
b. Cheryl Hagerty, 11755 Gamel Cemetery Road – asked to pause Ward 2 vacancy appointment and open discussion.
c. Bryan Basler, 1619 Dunaway Road – congratulated councilmembers on appointment and asked for where Ward 2 appointment stands on data center before council vote.

## III. Bids

**a. Evidence Locker Bid**

Police Captain Pippin reported that a tour was given to new council members and explained the needs of the department. Councilmen thanked them for the tour.

**Motion to approve the evidence lockers bid for $28,129.23 was made by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilman Dennis.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

## IV. Ordinances and Resolutions

Clerk Smith read the following:

**Bill No. 4877 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into and execute an Employment Agreement with Benjamin DeClue; incorporating said Employment Agreement as part of this ordinance; and establishing an effective date.**

Mayor Richards reported that negotiations with the contract have concluded, however, asks that the contract Section 8 to be amended to reflect 48 hours of sick time, per the Personnel Policy, instead of 40 hours of sick time.

Councilman Belleville shared that the City started with 34 applicants and the Council made the best decision possible. Councilman McCarthy shared that it was a unanimous decision (to extend an offer to DeClue)

**Motion to amend Section 8 of the employment contract with Benjamin DeClue to reflect 48 hours of sick time, was made by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilman Boyer.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |

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

Motion carried.

**Motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4877 a second time was made by Councilman Dennis and seconded by Councilman McCarthy.**

**Vote:**
Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Weekley: Aye
Councilman McCarthy: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Belleville: Aye

Motion carried. Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4877 a second time.

**Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4877.**

**Vote:**
Councilman Boyer: Aye
Councilman Weekley: Aye
Councilman McCarthy: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Belleville: Aye

Bill 4881 finally passed.

## V. New Business

### a. Festival Request – Eclectic Treasures "Treasure Fest" – May 23, 2026

Mayor Richards announced the City received a Festival Request from Eclectic Treasurers to shut down a street.

Interim City Administrator and Public Works Director Michael Christopher reported the matter needs further discussion and suggested it be located in a City park since road closures are allowed on City property, parks, or arterial roads, and wanted Council's input. The business owner mentioned vendors could use her yard if needed. Councilman Dennis shared the main concern was ensuring EMS access. Councilman Belleville suggested tabling the matter until Council could visit the property.

**Motion to decline the Eclectic Treasures Festival Request was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Moore.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

**b. Festival Request – Corpus Christi Parade on June 7, 2026**

Matt Surdyke requested approval for a short church procession from Sacred Heart to Our Lady, with approximately 50–60 participants, primarily walking and limited to two vehicles. Council discussed brief street closures and coordination with the Police Department, and the Mayor indicated approval pending final details.

**Motion to approve the Corpus Christi Festival Request was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman Moore.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

**c. Roadblock Request - VFW Ladies Auxiliary for September 19, 2026**

Councilman Belleville asked to table the request and asked future folks to come before Council with any requests.

**Motion to table the Roadblock Request for VFW Ladies Auxiliary was made by Councilman Boyer, seconded by Councilman Belleville.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

**d. Purple Wave Auction – Sale of Surplus City Assets**

Michael Christopher reported that s we have done over the last 5 years, the City is using an online bidding site called Purple Wave. This vendor uses an “eBay” style highest bidder no reserve auction to sell our goods and charges all the fees to the buyer. In 2022 we made $218,150.00 on the sale of our old trucks and equipment. The proceeds from these sales are distributed back to the owner of said items' budget.

**Motion to approve the Purple Wave Auction for sale of Surplus City Assets was made by Councilman Boyer, seconded by Councilman McCarthy.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

**e. City Councilman Ward 2 Nomination – Aaron Pashia**

Mayor Richards asked the Council to table this matter until May 26, 2026.

**Motion to table the City Councilman Ward 2 Nomination for Aaron Pashia was made by Councilman Boyer, seconded by Councilman Moore.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

## VI. Old Business

None

## VII. Mayor and City Council Reports

**Councilman Boyer** nothing to report.

**Councilman McCarthy** doing his best to fix issues residents have; trying to work together so please be patient.

**Councilman Dennis** reported that Michael is doing a good job and asked about the splash pad opening, to which Barb Lowry said June 1, 2026 for First Fridays.

**Councilman Cook** EWG approved West Main and Sunshine; clarified i5 discussions and provided answers.

**Councilman Weekley** nothing to report.

**Councilman Moore** appreciate the last three and a half weeks working on council and conversations that have been had.

**Councilman Belleville** appreciates everyone who reached out so far and is trying to answer everyone; city cell phone number is on the city website; trying to work together with council.

**Mayor Richards** congratulated the new City Administrator, looking forward to having him on board; he starts June 28, 2026. The Mayor shared he would also like to work together for the betterment of the City.

## VIII. Closed Session

Mayor Richards asked for a motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to Missouri Law for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to RSMo. 610.021 (1) legal actions, causes of action, or privileged communications between Council and legal counsel.

**Motion to enter Closed Session, was made by Councilman Boyer, seconded by Councilman Dennis.**

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |
| Councilman Cook: | Aye |
| Councilman Belleville: | Aye |

Motion carried.

Council entered Closed Session at 6:43 p.m.

Council returned from Closed Session at 7:45 p.m.

## IX. Adjournment

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

**Vote:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Councilman Boyer: | Aye |
| Councilman Weekley: | Aye |
| Councilman McCarthy: | Aye |
| Councilman Dennis: | Aye |
| Councilman Moore: | Aye |

Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Belleville: Aye

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

6/22/2026
Date - Approved by Council

Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri