



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, May 11, 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 Weekley
Councilman McCarthy
Councilman Dennis
Councilman Moore
Councilman Cook
Councilman Belleville

Absent:

Mayor Richards

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, Recreation and Tourism Director Barb Lowry, and City Attorney Brian Malone.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recited

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes

1. April 6, 2026 – Special Meeting & Closed Session

b. Approval of Bills

Mayor Pro Tem Cook asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Cook announced the bills were in the amount of \$418,404.05.

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

III. Remarks of Visitors

a. Festus Special Olympics Team Proclamation

Mayor Pro Tem Cook presented a proclamation to the Festus R-VI Special Olympics Team.

b. MIRMA Grant Award Presentation – Jeff Arp

Jeff Arp of MIRMA presented a Grant Award worth \$23,2479.00 to the City of Festus to purchase a sewer camera, fire hose roller, police driving instructor training, stop sticks and tasers.

c. Tammy Smith, 11616 Gamel Cemetery – Spoke of the recall petition and Gamel Cemetery traffic.

d. Mary Fakes, 9 Cedarbook – Discussed hiring an outside attorney to handle the recall petition.

e. Gabe Cotton, 11764 Kingston Drive – Spoke of winning the fight and Council will not be sitting in their seats much longer.

f. Erica Carter, 14 Ashford Place – Established a “citizen led government” in November with no blowback; special election is on the way.

g. Andrew Shelley, 730 Vine Street – Inquired about the Ward 2 vacancy; city not transparent enough.

h. Judy Ivery, 1952 Anchorage – Tired of council going against wishes of residents; will not stop until this is gone.

IV. Bids

V. Ordinances and Resolutions

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4878 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, authorizing and directing the mayor to execute an engagement letter on behalf of the City of Festus with Armstrong Teasdale, LLP, to act as special counsel for the city; incorporating said engagement letter as a part of this ordinance; and establishing an effective date.



City Attorney Brian Malone provided a staff report.

City Attorney Brian Malone reported to Council on the recall petition and potential legal risks involving CRG, recommending the hiring of special counsel to provide an independent perspective. He explained that once the petition is confirmed by the County Clerk, Council will need to review it and that simply voting to reject it may not be a simple process. Attorney Matt Reh introduced himself and shared his background in municipal and court law.

Councilman Belleville asked Mr. Reh about any familiarity or professional relationships related to the matter, and Mr. Reh stated he had none and would conduct a conflict check with his firm to confirm. Belleville suggested tabling the discussion until the May 26 work session for further review and transparency, while Councilman Dennis questioned the delay. Mr. Malone noted there is no immediate deadline, but the matter could move quickly.

Motion to table Bill No. 4878 was made by Councilman Belleville and 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 and Bill No. 4878 was tabled.

VI. New Business

a. Festival Request – Buren Chapel, Youth Convention on May 16, 2026

Interim City Administrator and Public Works Director Michael Christopher reported on a youth convention requesting use of the route from the church to the park on South Adams between 3rd and 4th Streets from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Doug Wendel noted the area already has a stop sign and suggested an alternative of using crossing guards in safety vests rather than blocking the street. Councilman Dennis raised concerns about conflicts with the Saturday farmers market and potential EMS access issues, while Councilman Cook expressed concern about



setting a precedent and suggested discussing the matter further at a future work session. Mr. Christopher noted the street could be blocked if connected to Main Street and suggested moving the route to 4th Street instead.

Motion to conditionally approve the Buren Chapel Festival Request pending coordination with the Street Department, was made by Councilman Boyer and 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 – Budweiser Folds of Honor Parade on July 23, 2026

Jeromie Cupp presented plans for a scholarship fundraising event through Folds of Honor during the Jefferson County Fair, featuring Clydesdales traveling down Festus Main Street for a special presentation. Doug Wendel reviewed the event logistics, including unloading at Sunset, stopping at businesses, and ending at the edge of the Crystal City. Council discussed the procession format and the possibility of including police, fire, and military vehicles.

Motion to approve the Budweiser Folds of Honor Festival Request on July 23, 2026, 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.



VII. Old Business

a. Roadblock Request – VFW Ladies Auxiliary on September 19, 2026

Gale French spoke on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, sharing the group's mission to improve the lives of veterans, their families, and the community. She highlighted recent efforts including providing Christmas gifts to hospital patients, supporting deployed service members through care package collections and shipping, and offering nail care services at Crystal Oaks. She also announced a Memorial Day program to honor veterans, and Police Chief Wendel noted there were no issues as the event falls under a normal roadblock request.

Motion to approve the Roadblock for VFW Ladies Auxiliary on September 9, 2026, was made by Councilman Dennis 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.

VIII. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Boyer nothing to report.

Councilman McCarthy nothing to report.

Councilman Dennis addressed the regarding damage on Gamel Road and asked when repairs would be made, specifically between Gamel and Lowes near the three-way stop. Michael Christopher explained the area was damaged after installation and noted the original traffic study had recommended increasing the speed limit due to commercial traffic. Council discussed concerns about truck traffic and possible traffic calming measures, with Councilman Cook recommending a new traffic study and Mr. Christopher stating a proposal could be obtained immediately, with results typically within one to two months.

Councilman Weekley nothing to report.



Councilman Moore stated that the Council should revisit the Treasurer appointment and discuss the matter at a work session, noting it does not reflect well to leave the item tabled indefinitely and emphasizing the position involves more responsibilities than signing checks. Brian Malone advised that the appointment would require action by ordinance but could be discussed further during a work session.

Councilman Belleville discussed adding several items to a future work session, including a community survey to be included with water bills to help identify resident priorities. Councilman Dennis expressed concern with the first page of the survey but agreed the remaining content was acceptable, noting it needs formatting and final Council approval, while Councilman Belleville suggested including a QR code option for online responses. He also noted that several ordinances are in progress and should be reviewed in a work session for Council feedback prior to formal consideration, with a suggestion to post draft ordinances on social media to gather public input in advance.

Mayor Pro Tem/Councilman Cook discussed using social media for public engagement but noted concerns about control of comments from individuals outside city limits; it was suggested comments and messaging be disabled and residents directed to contact the City by email instead. Councilman Cook expressed interest in a work session focused on the budget in a more open, educational format, potentially at a special location and lasting up to two hours, while Finance Director Michelle Vaughn noted timing considerations. Additional discussion included the need for a ladder truck within the next three years and whether to proceed with early coordination under a single-manufacturer bidding process, with the City Attorney noting action may not be required unless expenses are incurred, along with brief comments on improving ISO ratings, and 911 system coordination.

IX. Adjournment

Councilman Boyer made a motion to adjourn, 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 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



7/13/2026

Date - Approved by Council



Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri