



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met during a Work Session on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Festus City Hall located at 711 West Main Street, Festus, Missouri.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Richards called the Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Councilman Boyer via Zoom (arrived 5:35pm)

Councilman Weekley

Councilman McCarthy

Councilman Dennis via Zoom

Councilman Moore

Councilman Belleville

Mayor Richards

Absent:

Councilman Cook

Also in attendance:

Mayor Samuel F. Richards, City Clerk Leah Smith, City Administrator Ben DeClue, Public Works Director Michael Christopher, Police Chief Doug Wendel, Finance Director Michelle Vaughn, Fire Department Chief Jeff Broombaugh, Recreation and Tourism Director Barb Lowry, and City Attorney Brian Malone.

II. Mayor & City Council Discussion

a. Gamel Cemetery Commercial Traffic Ordinance Review

City Administrator Ben DeClue explained that the Gamel Cemetery traffic ordinance is a routine item to exclude heavy vehicle traffic through Gamel Cemetery Road. Public Works Director Michael Christopher included the exemption for authorized City and utility vehicles. City Attorney Brian Malone further clarified that this would be in effect other than when there is no other viable route on Gamel Cemetery from Pounds to Highway CC.

b. Data Center Online Survey Results Handout (Councilman Belleville)

Councilman Belleville reported on an informal resident roundtable regarding the proposed data center and summarized results from a community survey from community concerns into six categories, including health, environmental impacts, water and electricity usage, property values, and effects on wildlife and livestock. He stated that the Missouri Attorney General's Office advised his informational email to the



Council did not violate the Sunshine Law and requested additional work sessions and a proposed 12-month moratorium to allow the Council adequate time to review and address residents' concerns before taking action on the project.

III. Adjournment

Councilman Moore moved to close the Work Session and was seconded by Councilman Boyer.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye
Councilman McCarthy:	Aye
Councilman Dennis:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilman Cook:	Absent
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

7/27/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri