



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, July 13, 2026, for a Regular Meeting including a Closed Session 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 via Zoom
Councilman Weekley
Councilman McCarthy
Councilman Dennis via Zoom
Councilman Moore
Councilman Cook via Zoom (arrived 7:35pm)
Councilman Belleville
Mayor Richards

Absent:

None

Also in attendance:

City Administrator Ben DeClue, City Clerk Leah Smith, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recited

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes

- 1. Regular Meeting - May 11, 2026**
- 2. Work Session & Regular Meeting - May 26, 2026**
- 3. Work Session, Closed Session & Regular Meeting - June 8, 2026**
- 4. Regular Meeting - June 22, 2026**
- 5. Special Meeting & Closed Session - June 29, 2026**

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 \$741,681.33.



c. Correspondence

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

III. Remarks of Visitors

a. Requests to speak:

1. Sharon Valish spoke in opposition of a data center.
2. Anthony Pousosa expressed support for a moratorium on a data center.
3. Gabe Cotton spoke of the Declaration of Independence.
4. Mary Fakes spoke of Mayor Richards.
5. Kevin Gardner spoke in opposition of a data center.
6. Mary Youmans spoke in opposition of a data center.
7. Julie Schulte spoke in opposition of a data center.
8. Erica Jokerst spoke in opposition of a data center.
9. Travis Layton spoke in opposition of a data center.
10. John Youmans spoke of City communications.
11. Gwen Mercer asked for grass to be cut for the Farmer's Market and spoke in opposition of a data center.
12. Sarah Doenges spoke of City communications and records.
13. Matt Drinen spoke of the data center.
14. Rozilyn Daniels spoke in opposition of a data center.
15. William Wolf spoke in opposition of a data center.
16. Judy Ivery spoke in opposition of a data center.
17. Laura Harris spoke in opposition of a data center.
18. Christy Stites spoke of traffic on Gamel Cemetery.
19. Andrew Smreker spoke in favor of a moratorium on a data center.
20. Jeannine Crider spoke in opposition of a data center.



21. Luke Adams spoke in opposition of a data center.
22. Cheryl Haggerty spoke in opposition of a data center.
23. Jesse Cordova spoke in opposition of a data center.
24. Nancy Withinton spoke in opposition of a data center.
25. Jeremy Parker spoke in opposition of a data center.
26. Dana Bowers spoke in opposition of a data center.
27. Bryan Basler spoke in opposition of a data center.
28. Michelle Watters spoke in opposition of a data center.

IV. Bids

a. Ridge Avenue Retaining Wall Replacement

Public Works Director Michael Christopher reported the retaining wall on Ridge Avenue is moving and dangerous. Councilman Belleville questioned how long the wall will hold and potential damages to which Mr. Christopher stressed the importance of the replacement.

Motion to approve the Ridge Avenue Retaining Wall Replacement bid TREKK Design Group for \$52,600.00 was made by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilman Dennis.

Vote:

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

Motion carried.

V. Ordinances and Resolutions

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4885 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, annexing to the City certain real property located at 11670 County Road CC, with the Jefferson County Parcel Identification Numbers 18601300005001, 19401800003007, & 19401800003008, generally located south of County Road CC to the west of Interstate 55, determining that said annexation is contiguous and compact to the existing city limits, and will redound to the benefit of the City of Festus; specifying the



new boundary lines to which the city limits are extended by reason of said annexation; and establishing an effective date.

City Administrator Ben DeClue reported that this is a voluntary annexation by Larry Goodwin. Councilman Belleville questioned what Mr. Goodwin would develop to which Mr. DeClue reminded him that it is voluntary and the City is unaware of any future development plans by Mr. Goodwin; the land would need to come before Planning and Zoning for a zoning change first, then City Council.

Mayor Richards asked for a motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4885 a second time. Councilman Belleville asked for the bill to be carried over to the next City Council meeting. Due to a lack of unanimous consent, **Bill No. 4885** will be read for a second time at the next Council Meeting.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4886 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; authorizing the Mayor to enter into and execute an agreement with TREKK Design Group, LLC, for Ridge Avenue Retaining Wall Replacement; incorporating said agreement as a part of this ordinance; and establishing an effective date.

Councilman Dennis made a motion to suspend rules to read Bill No. 4886 a second time, 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:	Nay

Due to a lack of unanimous consent, **Bill No. 4886** will be read for a second time at the next Council Meeting.

VI. New Business

a. Temporary Liquor License for Twin City Days (Twin City Chamber of Commerce) on September 12, 2026.

Barb Lowry reported that this event is for the Twin City Days event at Crites Park during the concert. Chief Wendel has no objections.



Motion to conditionally approve a. Temporary Liquor License for Twin City Days (Twin City Chamber of Commerce) on September 12, 2026, pending approval from the State of Missouri, was made by Councilman Weekley, 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

None

VIII. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Belleville asked for the City Counselor's memorandum be put on the City's website.

Motion to make Brian Malone's Confidential Memorandum on the City website, was made by Councilman Belleville, 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.

Councilman Moore shared his love for the county and community. Demands CRG come down to Festus and answer questions regarding the Data Center.

Councilman Weekley inquired about the stop sign down, it was fixed.



Councilman Dennis nothing to report.

Councilman Boyer nothing to report.

Councilman Cook did not appear on camera; nothing to report.

Mayor Richards nothing to report.

IX. Closed Session

Mayor Richards asked for a motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to Missouri Law with matters relating to RSMo. 610.021(1) of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri for the purpose of discussing legal actions, causes of action, or privileged communications between Council and legal counsel, and RSMo. 610.021(2) leasing, purchase, or sale of real estate.

Motion to enter Closed Session, 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:	Absent
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

Council entered Closed Session at 8:55 p.m.

Council returned from Closed Session at 10:05 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Councilman Belleville made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Moore.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye

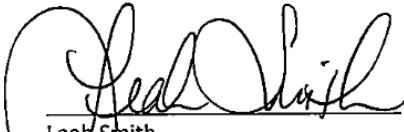


Councilman McCarthy: Aye
Councilman Dennis: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilman Cook: Aye
Councilman Belleville: Aye

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

7/27/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri