



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met during a Work Session on Monday, July 27, 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
Councilman Weekley
Councilman McCarthy
Councilman Dennis via Zoom
Councilman Moore via Zoom
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. Review of Rules of Decorum

City Attorney Brian Malone reported a summary of proposed changes to the Rules of Decorum that explained maintaining two separate submission deadlines was not workable and recommended a single deadline of 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. He stated that redlined versions were not provided with the initial draft, but would include redlined copies showing all proposed changes when the final draft is presented. Additional revisions included designating the Police Chief as Sergeant-at-Arms and primary enforcer of meeting rules, prohibiting firearms at meetings regardless of concealed carry permit status, and reducing the public comment time limit from five minutes to three minutes.

Councilman Boyer noted that surrounding municipalities limit public comments to three minutes but questioned whether now was the appropriate time to implement the



change. He recommended more specific language regarding personal attacks and vulgar language and emphasized the importance of maintaining order and an appropriate environment for conducting City business. Councilman Belleville agreed that many surrounding municipalities have adopted a three-minute public comment limit but expressed concern that the proposed limit, certain language restrictions, and the 60-minute public comment cap could disadvantage speakers and raise First Amendment concerns, and he suggested considering separate votes on the proposed rule changes.

City Attorney Malone summarized the Council's consensus to revise the public comment deadline to 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, require comments to be germane to City business, designate the Sergeant-at-Arms as the primary enforcer of meeting rules, prohibit firearms to align with Missouri law, leave the five-minute speaking limit unchanged, defer language regarding disruptive speech for further review, and present a revised draft for additional discussion at a future meeting.

III. Adjournment

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

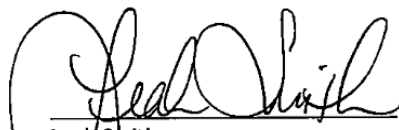
Vote:

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 5:50 p.m.

8/10/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri