



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, July 27, 2026, for a Public Hearing at 5:50 p.m. and a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall located at 711 West Main Street, Festus, Missouri.

I. 5:50 PM – Public Hearing

A public hearing to seek public input regarding a Preliminary Plat Plan at 2351 Buck Creek Road.

Mayor Richards opened the Public Hearing for Preliminary Plat Plan at 2351 Buck Creek Road at 5:50p.m.

Mayor Richards asked if there were any citizens who wished to speak. Natalie Winnett and Matt Drinen spoke in opposition.

Mayor Richards closed the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

II. 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 via Zoom

Councilman Moore via Zoom

Councilman Cook via Zoom

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.

Note: Councilman Cook had technical difficulties throughout the meeting.



Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes

1. Work Session, Regular Meeting & Closed Session – July 13, 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 \$334,930.22.

c. Correspondence

Motion to approve the consent agenda, the bills, and minutes 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:	Absent
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

IV. Remarks of Visitors

a. Requests to speak:

1. Travis Layton spoke of zoning ordinances and annexations.
2. Dana Bowers spoke in opposition of a data center.
3. Mary Fakes spoke of trust, transparency and administration.
4. Peggy Smart spoke in opposition of a data center.
5. Mary Youmans spoke of concerns of a data center.
6. Rhonda Brackett spoke in favor of a data center moratorium.
7. Jesse Cordova spoke in favor of a data center moratorium.
8. Erica Carter spoke in favor of a data center moratorium.
9. John Youmans spoke about the proposed Rules of Decorum changes.
10. Julie Schulte spoke of healthy spirituality.
11. Gabe Cotton spoke about the Mayor and Council.
12. Ann Moloney spoke of her election campaign and legislation.



13. Mary Buckalew spoke in opposition of a data center.
14. Laura Harris spoke in opposition of a data center.
15. Gwen Mercer spoke in opposition of a data center.
16. Andrew Smreker spoke in opposition of a data center.
17. Christopher Reineck spoke in favor of a data center moratorium.
18. Lindsey Holman spoke in opposition of a data center.
19. Sherman Doyle spoke in favor of a data center moratorium.
20. Judy Ivery spoke of the proposed Rules of Decorum changes.
21. Sharon Valish spoke in opposition of a data center.
22. Jessie Shepherd spoke of her election campaign and data center.
23. Danielle Elliott spoke of her election campaign.
24. Christy Stites spoke of traffic studies and concerns on Gamel Cemetery.
25. Jeannine Crider spoke in opposition of a data center.

V. Bids

a. 2026 Street Striping

Public Works Director Michael Christopher presented a staff report regarding the 2026 street striping project, noting that America's Parking Remarking was the sole bidder in the amount of \$24,999.70 for striping at various streets and city locations.

Councilman Belleville questioned the advertising locations for bids. Councilman McCarthy inquired about adding wider line markings for street lines along Main Street, to which was agreed upon by Mr. Christopher.

Motion to approve the 2026 Street Striping bid with America's Parking Remarking for \$24,999.70 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.

b. Reclaim/Recirculation System Turtle Cove



Parks Director Josh Whaley presented a staff report regarding adding a reclaim and recirculation system to Turtle Cove, involving a budget amendment to eliminate adding awnings to the Main Stage and using those funds to purchase this system.

Councilman Belleville questioned on holding off purchasing the system until the next budget year being close to the end of the season and being under the minimum water usage for the City. Mr. Whaley shared that installing this system would take minimum down time and allow Turtle Cove to run longer into the season, pending warm enough temperatures.

Motion to approve the Reclaim/Recirculation System bid with Capri Pools & Aquatics for \$50,895.93, but not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the cost of the project, was made by Councilman Belleville, seconded by Councilman McCarthy.

Vote:

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

Motion carried.

VI. Ordinances and Resolutions

City Attorney Brian Malone clarified that, under the statute applicable to the City of Festus, a majority vote—not unanimous consent—is sufficient to conduct the second reading of an ordinance at the same meeting.

Motion to read Bill No. 4885 for a second time was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman McCarthy.

Vote:

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



Councilman Belleville: Aye

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.

Vote:

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

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 Belleville wanted clarification on who is liable to pay for the wall replacement, as he understands Missouri law to mean the homeowner covers those costs. City Attorney Brian Malone clarifies that if there's a dangerous condition on public property and it causes damage to someone that the city would be liable and it's sovereign immunity would be waived.

Motion to read Bill No. 4886 a second time 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:	Absent
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried. Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4886 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4886.

Vote:

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

Bill 4886 finally passed.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4887 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, amending Chapter 365 to enact a new section therein of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Festus regarding commercial vehicles, repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith, and establishing an effective date.

City Administrator Ben DeClue gave a staff report, explaining the ordinance will assist in regulating commercial traffic on Gamel Cemetery that will regulate weight and certain exceptions.

Motion to read Bill No. 4887 a second time was made by Councilman Boyer and 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. Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4887 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4887.

Vote:

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

Bill 4887 finally passed.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4888 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, approving a Preliminary Plat for 2351 Buck Creek Road; and establishing an effective date.

Building and Planning Director Jim Walker presented a staff report regarding the Preliminary Plat for a 129-home development at 2351 Buck Creek Road, noting that the proposal complies with the approved Planned Unit Development and City ordinances and was recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilman Belleville inquired with representatives of the K.A.B./Larry Barnes project, Attorney Bob Sweeney and Igor Gusev of Henaghan and Associates, about a road study and inclusion of sidewalks/easements. Mr. Sweeney clarifies that design concerns are addressed in the next step in the process; this is preliminary and ministerial. City Attorney Brian Malone confirmed that this act is ministerial in nature and if denied, the City would need to identify some way in which this does not comply with City ordinances.

Mayor Richards asked if any Councilmember would like this carried over to the next meeting, to which Councilman Belleville confirmed he would.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4889 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with America's Parking Marking, LLC, for Street Striping



Services; incorporating said agreement as part of this ordinance; and establishing an effective date.

Motion to read Bill No. 4889 a second time 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:	Absent
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried. Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4889 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4889.

Vote:

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

Bill 4889 finally passed.

VII. New Business
None

VIII. Old Business
None

IX. Mayor and City Council Reports
Councilman Boyer nothing to report.

Councilman McCarthy nothing to report.



Councilman Weekley inquired with Dana Bowers, if her City is under contract with the data center, in relation to putting a moratorium in place, to which the answer was no. Councilman Weekley asked the audience if they were attending Jefferson County Council meetings and expressing their concerns about data centers, also.

Councilman Belleville read letters of concerns from citizens regarding data centers.

Councilman Dennis nothing to report.

Councilman Moore inquired about bathrooms in Crites Park, to which Parks Director Josh Whaley shared the problems with gravity, grinders and how they were designed; equipment was ordered and is waiting on their arrival.

Mayor Richards nothing to report.

Councilman Belleville motioned to release the Confidential Memorandum from Special Counselor Matt Reh regarding Data Center Moratoriums. Motion lacked a second and died.

X. 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.

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 8:56 p.m.



Council returned from Closed Session at 9:41 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Councilman Boyer made a motion to adjourn, 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 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

8/10/2026

Date - Approved by Council
& Amended for scriveners error on 8/24/2026


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri