



The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, met on Monday, August 10, 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
Mayor Richards

Absent:

None

Also in attendance:

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 was recited.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes

1. Work Session, Regular Meeting & Closed Session – July 27, 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 \$1,912,645.60.

c. Correspondence

Motion to approve the consent agenda, the bills, and minutes was made by Councilman Cook, 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. Jordan Compton spoke in support of data center moratorium.
2. Will Sago spoke in opposition to Bill No. 4888 - Buck Creek Preliminary Plat.
3. Erica Carter spoke of Ord. 4858 and violations regarding such.
4. Mary Fakes spoke in favor of a data center moratorium stay.
5. Jesse Cordova spoke in opposition to Bill No. 4888 - Buck Creek Preliminary Plat.
6. Travis Layton discussed Statute 405.185 & Ord. 115.090 violations; annexing land.
7. Dana Bowers discussed data center property annexations.
8. Cheryl Hagerty spoke of issues and questions on data center that are still not answered from CRG.
9. Peggy Smart spoke in opposition to Resolution No. 4892.5 regarding Rules of Decorum and accommodation.
10. Mary Youmans discussed citizens' concerns about the data center and recall petition.
11. Gabe Cotton spoke of Resolution No. 4892.5 - Rules of Decorum and secret meetings.
12. Judy Ivery discussed city properties, bathrooms and stop signs.
13. Natalie Winnett spoke in opposition to Bill No. 4888 - Buck Creek Preliminary Plat.
14. Matt Drinen spoke in opposition to Bill No. 4888 - Buck Creek Preliminary Plat; and in favor of a data center moratorium.
15. Andrew Smreker spoke in opposition to Resolution No. 4892.5 regarding Rules of Decorum; in favor of a moratorium



16. Ann Moloney discussed her plans to change data center and recall petition laws when she is elected State Representative.
17. Sherman Doyle spoke in opposition to Resolution No. 4892.5 regarding Rules of Decorum.

IV. Bids
None

V. Ordinances and Resolutions

Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4888 for a second time:

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 gave a staff report about the preliminary plat for 129 homes at 2351 Buck Creek Road, explaining it is unoccupied and undeveloped and approved by Planning and Zoning and Council in September 2025. There was clarification from Councilman Cook that this is regarding lighting, sidewalks and 28-foot streets, to which Mr. Walker confirmed. Councilman Belleville questioned the traffic study completion by the Festus Special Road District, measurements and fundamental problems with the plats submitted.

Motion to approve Bill No. 4888 was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman Cook.

Vote:

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

Bill 4888 failed.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4890 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, amending Section 610.110 of the City of Festus Municipal Code relating to City Tourism License Fee; and establishing an effective date.



Finance Director Michelle Vaughn gave a staff report to explain the need to amend the code to clarify the language regarding the approved tax and modify enforcement procedures to align with the City's current administrative operations.

Motion to approve Bill No. 4890 on the first reading was made by Councilman Moore 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.

Councilman Moore made a motion to read Bill No. 4890 a second time, motion was 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.

Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4890 a second time.

Mayor Richards called for a vote to finally approve Bill No. 4890.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye



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

Bill 4890 finally passed.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4891 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, annexing to the City certain real properties located at 1766 & 1788 US Highway 61, with the Jefferson County Parcel Identification Numbers 19402000000047, 19402000000046, 1940200000004501 & 1940190000000802, generally located east of US Highway 61 and 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.

Building and Planning Director Jim Walker presented a staff report regarding the voluntary annexation request for four parcels with a combined 15.66 acres south of the City of Festus, located on Highway 61 attached to the Interstate 55 corridor.

There was Council discussion regarding utilities and location. There was further discussion regarding the airport and past litigation regarding territory between Festus and Crystal City.

Motion to approve Bill No. 4891 on the first reading was made by Councilman Boyer and seconded by Councilman Cook.

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 Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4891 a second time; motion was seconded by Councilman Cook.

Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4891 a second time.

Councilman Cook motioned to finally approve Bill No. 4891, 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

Bill 4891 finally passed.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Bill No. 4892 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, annexing to the City certain real property located at 11303 Pounds Road, with the Jefferson County Parcel Identification Number 18101200005001, generally located south of Veterans Boulevard and to the west of Pounds Road, 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.



Building and Planning Director Jim Walker presented a staff report regarding the voluntary annexation request for one parcel that was intended to be annexed with two other adjacent parcels that belong to the Festus R-VI School District.

Motion to approve Bill No. 4892 on the first reading was made by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilman Cook.

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 Boyer made a motion to read Bill No. 4892 a second time; motion was 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.

Clerk Smith read Bill No. 4892 a second time.

Councilman Moore motioned to finally approve Bill No. 4892, seconded by Councilman Cook.

Vote:

Councilman Boyer:	Aye
Councilman Weekley:	Aye



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

Bill 4892 finally passed.

Clerk Smith read the following:

Resolution No. 4892.5 – A resolution of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri, amending the Rules of Decorum and amending the Request to Speak Form; adopting such amendments; and establishing an effective date.

City Attorney Brian Malone reported that the general consensus at the previous work session is reflected in the resolution; the Council can continue to discuss and change going forward. Mayor Richards clarified that the main changes are giving the public more time to sign up to speak and puts the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as Sergeant at Arms.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 4892.5 was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilman Dennis.

Vote:

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

Motion carried. Resolution No. 4892.5 has passed.

VI. New Business

a. Downtown Festival Request for the 11th Annual Bottleneck Bridge Ride on October 10, 2026 (Jefferson County Growth Association)

Andy Held shared this is the 11th Annual Bottleneck Bridge Ride and has moved the ride to October in conjunction with StreetFest.



Motion to approve the Downtown Festival Request for the 11th Annual Bottleneck Bridge Ride on October 10, 2026, was made by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilman Weekley.

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. Temporary Liquor License Request for Mead on Main on October 3, 2026 (Four Brothers Meadery)

Vince Borgmann of Four Brothers shared the event is the same as past years; closing 2nd Street to Behring Street with access still to 3rd Street, and McCullough Park utilization.

Motion to conditionally approve the Temporary Liquor License for Mead on Main (Four Brothers Meadery) on October 3, 2026, pending approval from the State of Missouri, 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:	Aye
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

c. New Liquor License Request – Festus Hospitality LLC at 1331 Shapiro Drive

Clerk Smith reported that this is a new liquor license request for the new Hampton Inn to sell liquor at their location and have met all criteria for conditional approval.



Motion to conditionally approve the New Liquor License for Festus Hospitality LLC, 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:	Absent
Councilman Belleville:	Aye

Motion carried.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. Mayor and City Council Reports

Councilman Belleville made a motion to publicly release the Confidential Memorandum from Special Attorney Matt Reh regarding a data center moratorium, seconded by Councilman Moore.

Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Councilman Boyer reported good concrete work throughout the city.

Councilman McCarthy nothing to report.



Councilman Dennis expressed good work by Jokerst; shared the background on work being done at 406 Main to which Public Works Director Michael Christopher confirmed the roof, HVAC, water, sprinkler and ADA issues at the location.

Councilman Cook agreed with discussing code changes for variances and setbacks, maybe at a future work session; wants to move forward with e-bike policy.

Councilman Weekley echoed discussing building code change discussions.

Councilman Moore expressed a need to move work sessions to an hour instead of half hours to allow more work and discussion; would like to re-write hiring and firing department heads and discuss it further in future; working with City Clerk and City Administrator for more transparency, including live streaming meetings; believes data center regulations need to be clarified to know what needs improvements.

Councilman Moore made a motion to direct City Attorney Brian Malone to report on his findings on issues that were raised regarding the data center on July 13, 2026, during closed session and present them at the next Council Meeting closed session, seconded by Councilman Belleville.

Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Councilman Belleville asks to discuss a manufacturing category for zoning at an upcoming work session; read a letter of concern from a citizen regarding data centers.

Mayor Richards clarified for the record that there was never any secret meetings with CRG.

IX. Adjournment

Councilman Dennis made a motion to adjourn, 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 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

8/24/2026

Date - Approved by Council


Leah Smith
City Clerk
City of Festus, Missouri