

FESTUS CITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2020

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on August 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Cook, Underwood, Tinnin and Venz; and the following Council members were present via Zoom: Dennis and Wehner; Absent – Wilkey. Mayor Samuel F. Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Clerk Kerry Patek, City Treasurer Lori Eisenbeis, Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham, Police Chief Sgt. Jessica Griffaw, and City Administrator Greg Camp. City Attorney Brian Malone was present via Zoom.

Council, staff, etc. then said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Richards announced the bills were in the amount of \$507,161.35. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of July 27, 2020 was made by Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Boyer and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Underwood, Wehner, Dennis, Venz, Tinnin and Cook; Nays – none.

Correspondence - none

Visitors

No visitors were allowed in the building due to the emergency order regarding the coronavirus and no visitors requested to be heard via the City website.

Bids - none

Ordinances and Resolutions - none

New Business

Stormwater Variance – Pashos Realty

A stormwater variance was requested for 501 Brothers Avenue. Carol Onest from Govero Land Services presented the request on behalf of her client Michael Pashos, both who were present via Zoom for the meeting. Council discussed the request and due to several concerns Councilman Cook brought up regarding the variance he made a motion that this matter be tabled until the August 24, 2020 meeting. Councilman Boyer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Pashos stated that ever since

the Total Access Urgent Care facility went in across the street from his building he has experienced stormwater problems.

Budget Discussion

City Administrator Greg Camp addressed the Council regarding the upcoming fiscal year budget. Mr. Camp asked Council to provide him with some ideas they had about the direction they wanted the City to take.

Councilman Dennis stated he would like to see the upcoming fiscal year be a maintain year to see how the City's finances have been affected by the pandemic. He stated he would like to see in the future a community center that has something for everyone.

Councilman Wehner mentioned the train derailment in Larry G. Crites Memorial Park today. Councilman Wehner stated he provided a handout to Council and asked that they read it individually and that it discussed enhancing the downtown area and that there were several areas of concern with the downtown area such as sidewalks, flooding, lighting, etc.

Councilman Tinnin stated he would like to see more activities for the youth and adults in Festus and that he would like to see certain projects that were started in the parks be finished. Stated he would like to look for property for a splash pad. Stated that finishing Collins on through would be a great enhancement and help with traffic flow. Stated he also was thinking of ways to enhance the downtown Main Street area.

Councilman Venz stated he would like to see the bike trail all the way through to Blue Ridge Trace. Stated that he would like splash pad in the City something similar to what Cape Girardeau and Ste. Genevieve have. Stated the lighting throughout town needs to be looked at and improved. Stated that towns smaller than Festus have digital speed signs and feels Festus should have them.

Councilman Boyer stated he agreed with Councilman Wehner on the downtown area. Stated the grates need to be cleaned out throughout town. Mentioned the flooding in the downtown area. Stated he would like to see a gazebo at Schneider Park where people, musicians, etc. could gather. Stated there were chunks of missing concrete on Main Street in certain areas that need to be repaired. Stated that he thought the back of Crites Park could be designated for kids.

Councilman Cook stated his idea of looking at this would be to do it in two lists – one for improvements and one for future projects to capture people to Festus. He stated that for improvements to sidewalks, lighting, stormwater, etc. the City has grants available they can apply for. Stated he would like to do something for family medical.

Mayor Richards stated he heard a lot of good ideas from the Council and that we will see what we can come up with to accomplish some of these goals. Stated there was an 8 car derailment in Crites Park and that the rail cars were filled with rock and that the tracks are very torn up and that he spoke with the person in charge of the cleanup and they are working as fast as possible.

Greg Camp addressed everyone thanking them for providing him and staff with the Council's direction which helps him do his job.

Old Business - none

Reports

Councilman Cook – Stated he would like to look into the family medical insurance for employees.

Councilman Boyer – Asked if the potholes throughout town could be fixed.

Councilman Dennis – Stated that Sunnyside from Mill to Virginia needs some asphalt patching and areas near Hickory and the radio station do also. Stated that the drainage ditch behind the maintenance shed needs to be cleaned out that there is standing water. Asked if the police report could be in the packet instead of being presented the night of the meeting. Asked about a pavilion for a farmers market.

Councilman Wehner – thanked everyone for their input. Also mentioned road maintenance and grate cleaning that needs to be done. Stated he thought the City was doing a good job.

Councilman Underwood – Stated he thought the City was doing a good job. Asked Greg Camp about hiring of certain positions, Greg replied that it was in his report to Council and that hopefully by the next Council meeting he will have something to tell the Council.

Councilman Venz – Asked about the public works director position. Greg Camp stated there were two more interviews tomorrow and that on the position of the water/sewer foreman that he was waiting until a new public works director was hired so that he could have his input.

Greg Camp informed the Council that if they see something around town that needs to be repaired to give him a call and he will see that it get's taken care of.

Adjournment

Councilman Cook made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Underwood. On a call by the chair the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

