

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
September 14, 2020**

Mayor Richards opened the public hearing for the setting of the tax rates for the City of Festus, Missouri for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The tax rates did not change from the previous fiscal year. No public comments were received. Mayor Richards closed the hearing.

**FESTUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri met in regular session on September 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present for roll call in the Council chambers: Boyer, Tinnin and Venz; and the following Council members were present via Zoom: Dennis, Wehner and Wilkey; Absent – Cook and Underwood. Mayor Samuel F. Richards presided over the meeting. Also present in the Council chambers were City Clerk Kerry Patek, Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham, Fire Chief Kevin Cremer, Police Chief Tim Lewis, Public Works Director Matt Unrein 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 \$533,802.66. Motion to approve the bills and minutes of the Council Meeting of August 24, 2020 was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman Wehner and approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Wehner, Wilkey, Dennis, Venz, and Tinnin; 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

Forward Slash Technology Virtual Meeting Equipment

Greg Camp presented a quote from Forward Slash, the city's managed services provider, to make the city's ability to zoom and live stream meetings permanent. Mr. Camp stated this is a non-budgeted item but it is eligible for reimbursement through CARES act funding from Jefferson County. The quote was for \$26,132.13.

Councilman Wehner made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Councilman Venz. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Wilkey, Wehner, Venz, Dennis and Tinnin; Nays – none.

Forward Slash Technology Telecommute Equipment Greg Camp presented a quote from Forward Slash for laptops for key city hall staff to have the ability to work remotely if necessary. Mr. Camp stated this is a non-budgeted item but is eligible for reimbursement through CARES act funding from Jefferson County. The quote is for \$7,761.68. **Councilman Boyer made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Councilman Tinnin. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Boyer, Wilkey, Wehner, Venz, Dennis and Tinnin; Nays – none.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 4595 ½ - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Festus, supporting the application to the Missouri Housing Development Commission by Snider Development, LLC for a 36 unit affordable senior multi-family housing on Brandon Wallace Way; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Resolution No. 4595 ½. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report.

Councilman Tinnin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4595 ½, motion was seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 4595 ½ was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Tinnin, Boyer, Wilkey, Dennis, Wehner and Venz; Nays - none.

Mayor Richards declared Resolution No. 4595 ½ passed.

Bill No. 4595 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; establishing an additional duty assignment as Assistant City Administrator; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4595 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report and asked for council consent to appointment Public Works Director Matt Unrein to the duty assignment of Assistant City Administrator. **Councilman Venz made a motion to read Bill No. 4595 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4595 for the second time. Bill No. 4595 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Tinnin, Boyer, Dennis, Wehner, Wilkey and Venz; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4595 passed.**

Bill No. 4596 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Approving the Festus Commerce and Business Center Plat 5; and establishing an effective date. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4596 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report. Mark Harris provided a written staff report. **Councilman Tinnin made a motion to read Bill No. 4596 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Boyer. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4596 for the second time. Bill No. 4596 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Tinnin, Boyer, Dennis, Wehner, Wilkey and Venz; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4596 passed.**

Bill No. 4597 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Levying and Authorizing the Assessment and Collection of a Tax for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 for Public Health Purposes, Public Library, General Revenue Purposes and City Parks; and fixing the time for the taking effect of this Ordinance. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4597 for the first time. Mayor Richards called for discussion. Greg Camp gave a staff report. **Councilman Dennis made a motion to read Bill No. 4597 for the second time, motion seconded by Councilman Venz. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Patek read Bill No. 4597 for the second time. Bill No. 4597 was approved by the following votes: Ayes - Council Members Tinnin, Boyer, Dennis, Wehner, Wilkey and Venz; Nays - none. Mayor Richards declared Ordinance No. 4597 passed.**

Bill No. 4598 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Festus, Missouri; Approving the Final Plat of Savannah Plat Plat 1; and establishing an effective date. **TABLED.**

New Business

Mead on Main Event

Erin Mercer and Four Brothers Mead requested permission to rope off the South Second Street parking lot owned by the City behind their business on Saturday October 3, 2020 for the Mead on Main event. Councilmembers expressed their concerns with holding any type of event during the pandemic. City Administrator Camp and City Attorney Brian Malone discussed aspects of denying such events being held by private businesses on their property. After a discussion of the request it was agreed upon that City Administrator Camp would send a letter to Mrs. Mercer/Four Brothers Mead expressing the City's concerns over the event. Mr. Camp stated the business owners do have liability insurance to cover the event and they are aware of CDC and Jefferson County Health Department guidelines. **Councilman Tinnin made a motion to approve roping off the city owned parking lot behind Four Brothers Mead for this event, seconded by Councilman Venz. Motion was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Tinnin, Venz, Dennis and Boyer; Nays – Wilkey; Abstain – Wehner.**

Halloween Trick or Treating

City Administrator Camp opened a discussion with Council regarding trick or treating on Halloween. Mr. Camp stated each year the City receives calls from residents on when trick or treating will be, etc. Mr. Camp stated that the City has never changed trick or treating that it has always been held on Halloween night (October 31st) and that the fire siren is sounded at 6:00 p.m. to start and then again at 9:00 p.m. to end. Mayor Richards stated he felt that this was not a City event and that the City cannot control what people choose to do, however, he suggested that if you do not want to participate in Halloween then leave your door closed and your porch light off. Council members agreed with Mayor Richards.

Old Business

Budget

Finance Director Stephanie Cunningham addressed the Council regarding the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget summary documents which she prepared for them. Greg Camp asked Council that if they had any questions regarding the documents provided to them to please give himself or Stephanie a call. Stephanie stated that the final budget along with the budget amendment will be prepared and presented to Council for approval at the next meeting.

Reports

Councilman Boyer – Welcomed new Public Works Director Matt Unrein. Stated that he received a call from the owner of Pine Mountain on Main Street regarding being notified of when the street will be shut down. Greg Camp stated that he spoke with the owner of Pine Mountain about communication with the City when businesses will be affected on Main Street.

Councilman Wehner – Welcomed Matt Unrein. Stated that Josh Whaley was doing a good job as the new park foreman that he is seeing improvements in the parks. Stated that Jim Berger with the pickleball association will be requesting to present his vision for the future for informational purposes only at the next council meeting.

Councilman Venz, Councilman Tinnin and Councilman Wilkey – Welcomed Matt Unrein.

Councilman Dennis – Welcomed Matt Unrein. Commended all the City staff on doing a good job during these trying times.

Mayor Richards – Commented on the bi-weekly police report notating how many calls, tickets, etc. the police department worked on and encouraged them to keep up the good work and commended their traffic control efforts on A Highway. Stated that after an intense last council meeting that he spoke with each councilman and wanted to relay to City Administrator Greg Camp that they have 100 percent confidence in him.

City Administrator Greg Camp – Provided council with an update on the Cromwell project stating that the contractor on the job has been fired and that he was asked to remove his equipment from the project site as of 9 a.m. this morning. Mr. Camp stated that Jokerst Paving will be completing the project starting this Wednesday and having the road open by the end of this week.

Adjournment

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