



Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
Tim James

Council Members
Phil Carter
Hunter Sox
Byron Thomas

City Manager
Tracy Hegler

Deputy City Manager
Jim Crosland
Assistant City Manager
Michael Conley

**City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

The March 20, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Pro Tem Tim James and Council Members Phil Carter, Hunter Sox and Byron Thomas. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Assistant City Manager Michael Conley, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Police Chief Chris Cowan, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Utility Director Betsy Catchings and City Attorney Danny Crowe were also in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem James asked if members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the FOIA. Ms. Corder confirmed they were notified.

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem James called the meeting to order and Council Member Sox gave the invocation. Fire Chief Steven Bullard led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

Committee Matters

- A. Discussion of, and Motions Approving, Service of Council Members on Designated External Boards and Commissions

Ms. Hegler stated that this item was on the agenda at Mayor Pro Tem James' request. She stated that it was something that had been done in the past and it was typically done after there has been a Mayor Pro Tem change. She stated that these were external boards and committees that operate outside of those that Council had set and established for the City. She stated that in the past, it was treated as a best practice to disclose what board and committees Council serves on and what they were doing in the capacity of representing the City. Ms. Hegler stated that she did not manage these boards nor did she manage Council's time on them.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that after some questions and concerns it did arise that after a new Mayor Pro Tem was voted, usually external boards at that time were

also reviewed. He stated that he met with Mayor Partin and Ms. Hegler the prior week in reference to that and requested for this item to be on the agenda. He stated that Council Members were and could be assigned to those external groups, but a great level of importance and commitment came with that in the fact that the information needed to flow back to the City Manager, the Mayor and Council. He stated that there were several different commissions and committees that one could be assigned to and as he spoke with Mayor Partin about, he would not commit to one until he knew exactly when they met, because it might coincide with something else that he had going on, and therefore he would not have time to be able to invest to it. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that as Council moved forward, he asked that they take into consideration if they had the time to serve when that particular entity was meeting and the importance of bringing that information back to Council, which he thought was equally important.

Council Member Carter thanked Mayor Pro Tem James and Ms. Hegler for putting this item on the agenda. He stated that he thought it was important that it was acknowledged that Council had some very committed and very talented and very worthy Council Members that could add a lot to the external boards and commissions. He stated that part of Council's service to their constituents was to represent them and the City as a whole so he welcomed the new appointments.

Council Member Sox asked for the times that the external board and committees met. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that the River Alliance did not have a standing meeting date but when they did meet it was on Thursdays and normally in the morning hours. He stated that the Central Midlands Council of Governments met on Thursdays as well and it was a mid-day meeting. He stated that the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission met the second Wednesday of the month. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that the previous Mayor Pro Tem served on the League of Cities which was not local, but it was something that was recognized as important for the City to be represented on and receive their trainings.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem James to the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Council Member Carter to the Central Midlands Council of Government. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Council Member Sox to the River Alliance. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Carter made a motion that the City continue its membership with the National League of Cities and appoint Council Member Thomas to the National

League of Cities. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James asked Council Member Thomas if he was able to take on that responsibility. He answered that it would be his honor to follow in the footsteps of the honorable Skip Jenkins. Mayor Pro Tem James called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Sox stated that Council Member Carter had done a great job representing Council so far with the Lexington County road maintenance and CTC discussions and he felt that Council should formally appoint him to continue representing them in these discussions. He made a motion to appoint Council Member Carter to represent Council through the continuation of these discussions to be the point person and report back to Council with intel from these meetings. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he thought that was the majority of the external committees that Council had to review however, if there were others, they could come back before Council as needed.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hegler stated that the most important thing the City had going on that week was preparing for the Soiree on State being held that Saturday. She stated kudos to staff for all their hard work on it. She stated she did not think anyone realized how much work goes into planning that day. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Ms. Rowan did a radio talk show through the Chamber and did an amazing job. He stated that you could feel her enthusiasm through the radio.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas thanked the Beautification Foundation for beautifying the City's welcome sign on 12th Street Extension. He also thanked Parks staff for being able to help with that project. He stated that he wanted to say a special thank you to Councilman Hunter Sox for pledging \$1,000 to help him give a \$1,000 scholarship to students at BC High School in honor of the Honorable Skip Jenkins. He stated that a male student would receive \$1,000 and a female student would receive \$1,000 as well. He stated that the scholarship was all about community service so students that attended BC High School should get with their guidance counselor about the scholarship. He stated that the scholarship was for graduating seniors and the deadline was April 17. He stated that he and Council Member Sox wanted to do their best to invest in the future of Cayce. Council Member Thomas stated that he ran into the Mayor of Greenville over the weekend and he gave him some good advice about economic development. He asked Ms. Hegler what the process was for citizens, businesses, and nonprofits to rent out the Art Lot in the City's River Arts District. Ms. Hegler stated that there was not a fee to rent the Art Lot and it could be reserved by

calling City Hall and speaking to Ms. Rowan or Ms. Corder. Council Member Thomas stated that he was blessed to share that area with Mayor Pro Tem James with the first district. He stated that he was a big believer that if the City started to have more fun events in the Art Lot that would continue to bring Cayce residents out into the community as well as attract tourists into the community, which hopefully meant more tax flow for the City. He stated that he really encouraged the business community and nonprofits in the City to think about how the City could start putting more fun traffic in that area. He stated that lastly, he wanted to thank everyone that came to the Council Meeting.

Council Member Carter stated that he took a weekly ride around the City and recently he came across an incident on Highway 321 where a man on a moped had an accident. He stated that the City's first responders were there quickly and took care of the young man. He thanked them for what they do so well.

Mayor Pro Tem James thanked Utilities staff for representing the Utility Department in the presentation of the draft budget in the budget work session. He stated that if one sits through one of those presentations, you recognize how fortunate the City is to have great leaders in place to build and make things happen. He stated that he made the comment earlier that when he woke up that morning, he was able to brush his teeth with clean water and that meant that the City had a Utility Department that was working extremely hard. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Council received information that week from Ms. Hegler regarding two (2) tragic situations in the City. He stated that the City's Police Officers and Fire Officers had to respond to tragic situations every single day, and then go home and hug their children and be a person. He asked everyone to keep them in their prayers because it was a very hard job and to have to balance what they see and do every single day and then to live a life as well. He stated that he appreciated what they did every single day and he hoped that would be relayed to them on behalf of Council to all the men and women in public safety. He stated that was not to delete anything else that everybody else in the City did to work hard every single day. He stated that he thanked them too.

Executive Session

- A. Receipt of legal advice relating to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege

Council Member Sox made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Sox made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Pro Tem James announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session other than to adjourn and resume the Regular meeting.

Possible actions in follow up to Executive Session

There were no actions in follow up to Executive Session.

Adjourn

Council Member Sox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Tim James, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

