



Mayor  
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem  
James E. Jenkins

Council Members  
Phil Carter  
Tim James  
Hunter Sox

City Manager  
Tracy Hegler

Deputy City Manager  
Jim Crosland  
Assistant City Manager  
Michael Conley

**City of Cayce  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

The August Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem James Jenkins and Council Members Phil Carter, Tim James and Hunter Sox. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Deputy City Manager Jim Crosland, Assistant City Manager Michael Conley, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Police Chief Chris Cowan, Fire Chief Steve Bullard and IT Director Jamie Beckham were also in attendance.

Mayor Partin 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 Partin called the meeting to order and Council Member Sox gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

No one signed up for Public Comment.

**Presentations**

- A. Recognition of City Employee's 35 Years of Employment with the City of Cayce

Mayor Partin asked City Parks Manager Mr. James Denny to join her at the podium. She stated that Mr. Denny had been employed with the City for 35 years. She stated that he started with the City in February 1986. She stated that he was currently the manager of the City Parks Department and he had a true passion for serving the City and his country. She stated that Mr. Denny served as an Equipment Operator in the United States Navy Reserves from 1985 to 2000. Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Denny completed command system courses through FEMA and was a licensed arborist for the City. She stated that Christmas in Cayce, the City's Riverwalk areas and the City's neighborhood parks and roadways would not be the same without Mr. Denny and his crew. Mayor Partin stated that he had received numerous accolades and Whole Sole awards for his big heart and the 35 years he has served the citizens of Cayce. She stated that the City was blessed to have Mr. Denny as part of the City of Cayce family. Mr. Denny thanked Mayor Partin and stated that it had been a blessing to be with the City for so long.

**B. Recognition of La Estrella for Supporting the Cayce Police Department and the Community**

Chief Cowan stated that the Cayce Police Department had started a new recognition program to recognize personnel and team members. He stated that they had also expanded the recognition into the community and to identify people in the community that have been tremendous supporters of the operations and the capabilities that the Police Department was providing in the community. Chief Cowan stated that before he even started with the City, he had lunch at La Estrella with Deputy City Manager Crosland and the very first business owner in Cayce that he met was Ms. Dory Benitez. He stated that he and Mr. Crosland were discussing what his first steps would be as the Chief of the Police Department. He stated that he asked Ms. Benitez if she would be willing to hold his very first community function at her business. Chief Cowan stated that Ms. Benitez immediately agreed to host it. He stated that since that time Ms. Benitez had been a rock for the department. He stated that she provided food for the Police Department's Christmas banquet and provided support during the Department's tragedy in April. He stated that she had provided support for almost every single community function the Department held and provided any help that was needed. Chief Cowan stated that Ms. Benitez epitomized what the City of Cayce was all about. He stated that he wanted to recognize her formally by presenting her the Community Service Award thanking her for everything. He stated that the Department gave out the award to citizens and to officers in the performance of their duties and they consider Ms. Benitez one of them. He stated that she was part of the Police Department and she was what it meant to be a community policing agency. Ms. Benitez thanked Chief Cowan and stated that Police Officers worked so hard and sacrificed so much for their jobs and she wanted to help any way she could.

**Ordinances**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2022-12 Annexing Properties Located Adjacent to 1244 Boston Avenue (TMS#005699-03-035) and Adjacent to 1252 Boston Avenue (TMS#005699-03-036) into the City Limits Under the Provisions of South Carolina Code Section 5-3-150(3) – Second Reading

Council Member James made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-12 on Second Reading since there were not any changes between First and Second Reading. Mayor Pro Ten Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2022-13 Amending the Zoning Map and Rezoning Property Located at *Unnumbered* Fish Hatchery Road and Further Identified as Tax Map Number 006896-02-035 – Second Reading

Council Member James made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-13 on Second Reading. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Items for Discussion and Possible Approval**

#### **A. Discussion and Recommendations Regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending and State Grants**

Ms. Hegler stated that as Council knew, and just for reiteration for the public, the City had been awarded \$6.9 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She stated that the money would be received in equal tranches, the first tranche was received in October 2021 and the second tranche was expected in October 2022. She stated that eligible uses of the funding included replacing loss of public sector revenue, providing premium pay for essential workers, investing in water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure and responding to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Ms. Hegler stated that Council had already allocated the first tranche of \$3.4 million dollars and those final allocations were included in the adoption of the FY23 City budget.

Ms. Hegler stated that staff and Council had been committed to leveraging the second tranche against other ARPA dollars, particularly State grants and Federal grants, as they are released. She stated that specifically staff had been working with American Engineering on identifying good sources of funding for the City's infrastructure needs which would include sewer and water upgrades and address ongoing drainage issues. She stated that the State had created the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) to be administered by the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) with whom the City had a frequent and successful past with. Ms. Hegler stated that RIA was responsible for dispersing \$783 million dollars in competitive grants across the state, particularly of interest for the City were those in the Community Impact Grant Program which has \$683 million dollars. She stated that water, wastewater and stormwater projects were eligible, the maximum grant request was \$10 million dollars and the local match was 15%. She stated that they were also requiring a 25% construction contingency on top of that. Ms. Hegler stated that the deadline for those applications was Monday, September 12, 2022. She stated that the grant was prioritizing projects in the following order; those that are regional solutions, those that affect water quality, resilience and storm protection and other aging infrastructure and capacity.

Ms. Hegler stated that the RIA selection factors they would use for applications would be to prioritize needs, the transformational impact on communities, applicant's readiness to proceed and meet a deadline, project feasibility and geographic diversity. She stated that the RIA needed to spend the money quickly and they want to make sure they spread the wealth across the state. She stated that any additional leveraging if

there are other partners that can help will also factor into their decision. Ms. Hegler stated that staff had identified several items that would qualify for this funding and staff had also been approached by other partners that would like the City to either apply on their behalf because it is infrastructure the City owns or they simply want the City to partner with them. She stated that American Engineering had been in close communication with the RIA and had thoroughly reviewed the grant guidelines. She stated that American Engineering felt that the RIA was major proponents of stormwater projects, especially those that are as well studied as the City's.

Ms. Hegler stated that after reviewing the RIA's priorities, it implied that the City would likely not be awarded more than one grant, if even that. She stated that with that in mind, she would like Council's guidance on how to proceed. She stated that the grant window was closing and she recommended that the City only submit one (1) project. She stated that she would recommend that the project be the Avenues Stormwater Project because it had the greatest potential of being funded and it had a funding match from the DOT. She stated that additionally, it had potential funds that could come from the Office of Resilience. Ms. Hegler stated that they also had ARPA dollars that they were extending towards stormwater projects and staff had already met with them. She stated that they loved the Avenues project and how well designed it was and how well planned it was. She stated that she would like Council's guidance and wanted to make sure that was the direction they wanted staff to go in. She stated that it would help staff respond to the other requests they had received and make sure that the preferred project is the one that is submitted on the City's behalf.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to proceed with the Avenues project. Council Member James seconded the motion. Council Member Carter asked where the money for the 15% match would come from. Ms. Hegler stated that the City partnered with the DOT a few years ago and had an agreement with them as projects are presented. She stated that they had committed up to approximately \$6 million dollars in stormwater projects for the Avenues and staff was hoping that would qualify as the match. She stated that if it did not qualify, then the 15% would come from the City's ARPA dollars. Ms. Hegler stated that staff had been trying to use the second tranche to help the City's money go further against these other grants.

Council Member Carter asked if Council passed the motion to limit the City's application to within the corporate limits of the City would that prevent developers or other municipalities who are in the City's books as unincorporated areas proceeding with projects. Ms. Hegler stated, no, that the direction tonight would not prevent actual project work from proceeding. She stated that it was simply related to this grant and funding source as being identified for this project. Council Member Carter asked if the City received the grant money if the money would be for design or for design and implementation. Ms. Hegler stated that it would be used for some design and implementation. She stated that the City had the Avenues Stormwater Study which was fairly detailed. She stated that the City had to do the real engineering work and part of

that was currently underway on Blake Drive. She stated that next it would be in that part of the Avenues so conceivably, if the City went for the full \$10 million dollars from SCIP and possibly some follow up from the Office of Resiliency, the City could get really far through the Avenue Study Project. Council Member Carter asked if that meant that staff did yet know the value or the amount of money the City was going to request. Ms. Hegler stated that the cost of the project was approximately \$25 million dollars so staff would ask for the full \$10 million dollars. Council Member James asked where the City's stormwater project would fall in the priorities and regional solutions. Ms. Hegler stated that resilience and storm protection were ranked number three. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**B. Discussion and Motion to Ratify Action of City Manager for Emergency Sewer Repairs**

Ms. Hegler stated that staff was asking for Council's ratification of an agreement that was approved by the former City Manager. She stated that Council was granted emergency powers in the City's code, Section 2-146. She stated that the City had an agreement with TNT Inc. that dated back to October 8, 2015 and was for a repair of a sewer line that had collapsed in Riverland Park right after the 2015 floods. She stated that staff entered into an emergency agreement because the sewer line had to be repaired immediately. Ms. Hegler stated that staff did not have record of Council ratifying that project. She stated that TNT provided a quote and all the insurance needed for the project and the process was followed properly up to the point of Council's ratification. Ms. Hegler stated that the quote was for \$380,770 and the work was completed on November 9, 2015. She stated that FEMA was involved in the project and had reimbursed the City for that funding. She stated that FEMA approved it as well along with the City. She stated that the work was done well and to satisfaction. She stated that the emergency contract just needed to be ratified. Ms. Hegler stated that Council had in their agenda packet a certificate that the City used in the process for signing and was using as proof of the transparency of the project.

Council Member Carter made a motion to ratify the actions of the prior City Manager or her designee concerning the agreement with TNT Inc. as described in the certificate for \$380,770. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Committee Matters**

- A. Appointments and Reappointments**  
Planning Commission – One (1) Position  
Standard Technical Codes Board of Appeals – One (1) Position

Council Member James made a motion to appoint Ms. Patty Foy to the Planning Commission. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Member James

stated that the resident stepping down from the Planning Commission had served the City very well for 20 plus years and if it were not for his illness, he was sure he would continue serving for many years. He stated that he wanted to applaud him for what he had done and thank him. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to reappoint Mr. Lawrence Gardner to the Standard Technical Codes Board of Appeals. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**B. Discussion and Approval of Waiver of Attendance Policy for Museum Commissioner**

Ms. Hegler stated that the City had a policy on attendance requirements for representatives that Council appoints to Boards, Commissions and Foundations. She stated that the policy offered Council, in its discretion, to waive that policy for issues beyond the control of the members such as illness or death of a family member. She stated that Ms. Mary Sharpe, a long-standing Museum Commissioner, had asked her to see if Council would consider such a waiver for her. She stated that Ms. Sharpe was experiencing some health concerns that were preventing her being able to attend all of the monthly meetings of the Museum and Historical Commission. Ms. Hegler stated that Ms. Sharpe was still very committed to the Commission and did not want to resign. She stated that she just needed a slight leave of absence. Ms. Hegler stated that Ms. Sharpe had been an extremely active, responsive and present member and had been on the Commission for 28 years. She stated that as long as she had worked with Ms. Sharpe she had been very active and very present. She stated that Ms. Sharpe was asking for the leave of absence ahead of time very proactively because she respects Council's policy. Ms. Hegler stated that if Council elected to offer the waiver via a motion, she would recommend that it be revisited in four (4) months and check in on her and see how she was doing at that time.

Council Member James made a motion to waive the attendance policy for Ms. Sharpe. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Sharpe was being proactive. She stated that the City encouraged attendance and participation because there are people like Ms. Pamme Eades and Ms. Kay Hutchinson and others who work so hard. She stated that Council wants to ensure that they have the support to do the good work that they do in the City. Mayor Partin stated that she looked forward to having Ms. Sharpe back in person as soon as she could get there. She called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**City Manager's Report**

Ms. Hegler stated that the City had successfully completed the Community Rating System recertification. She stated that CRS was a volunteer incentive program

that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management best practices. She thanked the City's Building Official Mr. Stuart Jones for keeping the City compliant with that and getting that every year. She stated that the Parks crew had started their yearly ritual of hanging Christmas lights. She stated that the City had its first ever female supervisor in the firehouse, Battalion Chief Caroline Martin who comes to the City with over 10 years of experience with the City of Columbia. Ms. Hegler stated that Battalion Chief Martin was also a certified paramedic which will give the City immediate expert help on first responder calls. She stated that everyone was excited to welcome her to the team. Ms. Hegler stated that Council were introduced to the City's new K9 Hudson that night. She stated that he was at Busbee Middle School keeping those students happy and was also on call for wherever he is needed throughout the City. She stated that longtime employee and lead mechanic Jeff Lawhon was retiring on August 31. She stated that he had been with the City since 1994. She stated that she wanted to make note of that and thank him for his longtime dedicated service to the City's citizens.

Ms. Hegler stated that Corporal Drew Barr was being honored at an upcoming Fireflies baseball game. She stated that the Public Safety Foundation purchased tickets for members of the Police Department to attend as well as Corporal Barr's family. She stated that the City's Animal Services Officer, Ms. Leigh Summers, recently retired from the Police Department. She stated that the Department was using that as an opportunity to revise that role a bit. She stated that the Animal Services job duties would be absorbed by the City's really great Park Officers which would effectively give the City more consistent coverage seven (7) days a week. She stated that the extra position would add another Park Officer to the City's system. Ms. Hegler stated that it was a good opportunity to make that efficient change and staff would be working with the City's Public Relations Consultant to relay that effort and its benefits to the public.

Ms. Hegler stated that the Police Department was in the final phases of reaccreditation. She stated that it had to be done every three (3) years and staff was working really hard on getting that accomplished. She stated that she would follow back up with Council as that gets completed. She stated that she had two (2) staff kudos. She stated that she received an email that was sent to Ms. Hutchinson and the Utility Department that read "I do not know the name of the young man who came up to mark the City of Cayce waterlines before AT&T buried new cable. But I would like to acknowledge how nice, professional and polite he was. He was a very soft-spoken young man and just exactly what the City of Cayce needs for good PR. He came up Monday morning, he did the job swiftly, efficiently and was a very pleasant and respectful person. I think it's important to acknowledge when people do a good job, because most times you'll only hear when they do a poor job. So, kudos to this young man and the water department for hiring him." Ms. Hegler stated that the employee

was Mr. Jeremy Minor. She stated that she also had a nice handwritten note from two (2) new residents who came in a few months ago and were a little bit panicked because they were being required by their landlord to quickly move the water account into their name and they did not know how to do that. Ms. Hegler stated that they also were having some high-water volumes and City employees Ms. Ginger Weaver and Ms. Kayla Malloy helped them very nicely, very efficiently with great customer service. She stated that these nice ladies brought the note to Ms. Weaver saying that they had brought her favorite white chocolate mocha to her but she was on vacation so they left her a nice handwritten note. Ms. Hegler stated that these were more kudos to the great work that staff does.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Partin stated that she had seen so many fun comments on the Next Door app about the City's Police Officers delivering the shirts created to honor Corporal Drew Barr to people at their homes. She stated that everyone was so delighted. She stated that she ordered her husband a shirt and she was in the kitchen and someone knocked on the door and there was one of the City's Officers with a big smile on his face and he handed her the shirt. She stated to him that was really service with a smile and he said "from the best-looking officer in the City too." She stated that the Officers were really delighting people with hand delivering the shirts. Mayor Partin thanked the Police Department for putting that fundraiser together and the shirts and for the delight it was bringing citizens around the City who ordered those shirts.

### **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
- B. Discussion of matters relating to the proposed expansion of services in Saxe Gotha Industrial Park

Council Member James made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins 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 Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session other than to adjourn and resume the Regular meeting.

### **Adjourn**



Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON A MATTER APPEARING ON THE MEETING AGENDA, PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.\* THANK YOU.**

## COUNCIL MEETING SPEAKERS' LIST

***Date of Meeting***               August 17, 2022          

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>

**\*Appearance of citizens at Council meetings - City of Cayce Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-71.** Any citizen of the municipality may speak at a regular meeting of the council on a matter pertaining to municipal services and operation, with the exception of personnel matters, by notifying the office of the city manager at least five working days prior to the meeting and stating the subject and purpose for speaking. Additionally, during the **public comment period** as specified on the agenda of a regular meeting of the council, a member of the public may speak on a matter appearing on the meeting agenda, with the exception of personnel matters by signing a speakers list maintained by the city clerk prior to the start of the public comment period. The number of speakers at a council meeting may be limited in the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer, the length of time for any speaker's presentation is limited to a maximum of five minutes, and a presentation may be curtailed if determined to be uncivil, contentious, or disruptive in the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer or by majority of vote of council.