



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, November 15, 2023

The November 15, 2023, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin and Council Members Phil Carter, Tim James, Hunter Sox and Byron Thomas. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Deputy City Manager Jim Crosland, Assistant City Manager Michael Conley, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Assistant Police Chief Shawn Grant, Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gates, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley and Utility Director Betsy Catchings 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 Carter gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- B. Oath of Office Administered by Judge Bryan Jeffries
Mayor
- Oath of Office Administered by Judge Bryan Jeffries
Council Member District 2
- Oath of Office Administered by Council Member Tim James
Council Member District 4

Judge Bryan Jeffries administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Elise Partin who was recently reelected to office. South Carolina State Attorney General Mr. Alan Wilson administered the Oath of Office to Council Member-elect Byron Thomas who was recently elected to office. Council Member Tim James administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Phil Carter who was recently reelected to office. After everyone took their Oath of Office, they joined the other Council Members at their seats.

Mayor Partin asked Council Members Carter and Thomas if they wanted to say anything before the meeting started. Council Member Thomas stated he was honored and humbled and deeply grateful to represent District Two in the City. He stated whether one voted for him or not he was ready to work hard to earn everyone's respect and trust. He stated that Cayce had so much potential and he was excited to get to work to bring that potential to life. Council Member Thomas stated that he believed in togetherness because together, everyone achieved more. He stated that for Team Cayce to be successful, everyone had to work together to make sure that the C in Cayce stands for community. He stated that James 1:19 said, "My dear brothers and

sisters, take note of this. Everyone should be quick to listen. Slow to speak and slow to become angry.” Council Member Thomas stated that he was a talker so he would work hard to follow that command and to serve to the best of his abilities. He stated that above all else, he loved Cayce. He stated that lastly to the love of his life, Rebecca Thomas, on that day, 122 days ago, they were married. He thanked her so much for being the love of his life.

Council Member Carter stated that the previous eight (8) years serving the wonderful City of Cayce had been a blessing and honor. He stated that he grew up in Cayce and loved it. He stated that so many people attending the Council Meeting was a testament and it was amazing that such a great crowd came to support all of Council and was appreciated.

Mayor Partin stated that resident Mr. Gerald Cromer, who was a consistent attendee of the City’s Council Meetings, always said that people need to come to the meetings and that night they did. She thanked her husband, children, family and friends. She also thanked those who could not be there in person but were joining virtually. Mayor Partin stated that there were so many citizens and business owners in attendance. She stated that the last few months had been grueling for the City but everyone in attendance did not believe the lies about businesses leaving Cayce because they knew it was a great place to be. She stated that they did not believe the lies about the City’s taxes because Council and staff communicated and kept residents updated on those things. She stated that most important to her, they did not believe the lies about the awesome job that the City’s staff did on a daily basis because they saw them doing it. Mayor Partin stated that residents often reached out to Council and staff to compliment the great work of staff. She stated that they were what made the City great and kind and a great place for everyone to be together. She stated that underlined in the Bible her children just held for her during her Oaths in Genesis chapter 50, verse 20, it stated “They intended harm, but God intended it for good.” Mayor Partin stated that they were celebrating the good, the kind and the caring, and all they could do together to take care of their city.

C. Nomination and Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Carter made a motion to nominate Council Member James for Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Proclamation

- A. Approval of Proclamation – Declaring November 2023 as National American Indian Heritage Month

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring November 2023 as National American Indian Heritage Month. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ordinance

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2023-13 Adopting a Revised Business License Ordinance in Accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No, 176) – First Reading

Ms. Hegler stated that South Carolina's Act 176 required that every municipality and county government with a business license tax update its business license class schedule every odd numbered year and those updates would go into effect the next year. She stated that as required by that act class schedule updates used the latest statistical data on business profitability from the IRS which then received approval from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. She stated that the agenda packet included the amendments along with a red line that showed what was proposed to be changed, which was required to be changed by State law.

Ms. Hegler stated that as a summary, there were two (2) appendix's and Appendix A had three (3) changes that basically applied to telephone companies and peddlers that change their classification. She stated that Council Member Sox asked if the change affected places that had billiard and pool tables and it did apply to those places as well. She stated that they would be required to get a separate license for that use but it should not have a major impact because it was probably going into their gross income anyway. Ms. Hegler stated that Appendix B was a table that outlined those changes. She stated that the changes were supposed to be done by the end of the year for all places that had a business license so staff recommended that Council give First Reading approval to Ordinance 2023-13 amending the Business License Ordinance to update the class schedule as required by act 176 of 2020.

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-13. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James asked if the change would apply to other arcade type games as well. Ms. Hegler stated that those type games were already regulated. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

- A. Discussion and Approval of Award for Fire Station Vehicle Exhaust Removal System as Approved by Council in the 2023–2024 American Rescue Plan Funding Budget

Ms. Hegler stated that the purchase of the fire station vehicle exhaust removal system was approved by Council in the current budget and would be funded with American Rescue Plan budget allocations. She stated that during the budget process the total value for the project was estimated at \$56,000. She stated that the Fire Department had a need to remove cancer causing particulates that were found in the diesel exhaust that came from the fire trucks. She stated that when Council approved the allocation, staff issued a request for proposal by the City for the project and three (3) bids were received from Air Cleaning Specialist, Ward/No Smoke and Magnet Grip. Ms. Hegler stated that after thorough discussions by staff, it was recommended that the award be given to Air Cleaning Specialists for the project cost of \$56,443 as they were found to be the most responsive, responsible vendor. She stated that the ACS proposal included labor, installation, freight, sales tax, electrical wiring and ductwork to install the exhaust removal system. She stated that the proposal also included a five (5) year warranty with two (2) periodic scheduled maintenance visits per year. She stated that staff recommended that Council give approval for the City Manager to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Air Cleaning Specialists for this project in an amount not to exceed \$56,443 for the purchase of a fire station vehicle exhaust removal system. She stated that the project would be funded by the approved American Rescue Plan allocation that Council approved at \$56,000 and staff proposed making up the \$443 difference within the Fire Department's operating budget.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to give approval for the City Manager to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Air Cleaning Specialists for this project in an amount not to exceed \$56,443 for the purchase of a fire station vehicle exhaust removal system to be funded by the approved American Rescue Plan allocation that Council approved at \$56,000 and funding the \$443 difference within the Fire Department's operating budget. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Committee Matters

- A. Approval to Enter the following Committee Approved Minutes into the City's Record
 - Cayce Housing Authority – June 20, 2023
 - Cayce Housing Authority – August 17, 2023
 - Events Committee – September 14, 2023
 - Museum Commission – October 4, 2023

Council Member Carter made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the City's record. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Reappointments

Museum Commission – Three (3) Positions

Public Safety Foundation – Two (2) Positions

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Mr. Dantzler, Mr. Moore and Mr. Brickman's reappointments to the Museum Commission. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Ms. Lorick and Mr. Fisher's reappointments to the Public Safety Foundation. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Appointment of Council Members to Boards and Foundations

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to appoint Council Member Sox to the Public Safety Foundation. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Council Member Thomas to the Beautification Foundation. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hegler stated that a list of the City's 2024 holiday schedule was left at Council's seats. She stated that the City's exciting Christmas in Cayce schedule would start on November 30 with the Cayce Tree Lighting at City Hall and on Friday, December 1, was the Carols Along the Riverwalk put on by the City's Events Committee. She stated that on Saturday, December 2 was Christmas Traditions at the Museum. Ms. Hegler stated that the Museum Commission was hosting a new European style market.

Ms. Hegler stated that the City was awarded a million-dollar Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant for the lining of the Six Mile Creek sewer line which had been a major issue for Council Member Carter's district. She stated that staff was very proud to receive the grant. She stated that the new restaurant Tacos Nayarit locating on Knox Abbott Drive had obtained all their permits and were expecting six months for demo and hopefully opening in that amount of time. She stated that this was going to be a great new addition to Knox Abbott Drive as well as the new Lexington Medical Center Urgent Care facility that was developed so quickly. Ms. Hegler stated that they should be receiving their certificate of occupancy in the next two (2) weeks.

Ms. Hegler stated that Shop with a Cop was being advertised and planned and the Police Department was expecting a good year raising funds so they could go shopping with children throughout the City. She stated that the remainder of the week was Cops on a Coop at the West Columbia Chick-fil-A where Officers would be raising funds. She stated that she loved to always end her report with staff compliments. She stated that the City's Utility Director received an email complimenting staff members Tony King and Ben Taylor. The email read "today I had an occasion to report a sewer problem to the City of Cayce even though it was Sunday. The call was handled promptly and professionally. The two workers who responded were very knowledgeable and quickly solved the problem. All these employees are to be commended." She stated that the same resident wrote staff again that day and stated that his issue had continued at no fault of the City's team but again staff addressed it quickly. He further said he was kept aware of what was found and the repairs to be made by City staff and the City had an excellent utilities crew and to please pass along his thanks and appreciation. Ms. Hegler stated that her favorite part of the email was the resident signed off as a happy, happy Cayce water and sewer customer.

Ms. Hegler stated that she also received a compliment from Lexington School District Two Director of Operations. It read "Good morning in my world, much like yours, no news is good news. Occasionally we do get some good news. I would like to take a minute to compliment the City of Cayce, specifically Candace in helping Lexington Two with our grease trap maintenance program." Ms. Hegler stated that Candace was the City's new fats, oil and grease inspector. The email continued, "I've been dealing with FOG inspectors for 16 years and I cringe when they call. This is because all of them have either been incompetent or a pain to work with. I cringed when Candace called to set up a meeting several months ago. At that meeting I met the first fog inspector that actually knew what she was talking about. Her attitude was we will work together to do what needs to be done. She even provided a list of contractors that could help us do the work from that list. We were able to find a contractor that saved us money and did an amazing job. Because of Candace I no longer cringe when it's time to clean and inspect the grease traps. She has been an asset to us all and we are thankful." Ms. Hegler stated that she loved it when they people took the time to be that specific. She stated that she also received staff kudos from a citizen on Summerland Drive complimenting Allen Clayborn and Ty Wallace who installed a clean out at her home, since she previously had some sewer issues. She stated that the resident took the time to call City Hall that same afternoon to say that City staff were sweet and nice and cleaned up the area after they worked in it. She stated that the resident said it was a wonderful experience and she was happy that they were even able to meet her husband and her.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas stated that the City's Events Committee put on an amazing Fall Fest in October and he wanted to give them some love because there was

people outside of South Carolina that actually came to the festival and stayed in Cayce. He stated that they dined in the City and hopefully made some good relationships with people that live in Cayce. He thanked the Events Committee for continuing to put on amazing events that bring out citizens and then they could continue to make the C in Cayce stand for community.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he had the opportunity that morning to attend the South Carolina Criminal Justice Hall of Fame induction and Chief A.G. Dantzler, who served 39 years at the City of Cayce as Director of Public Safety, was inducted as a Hall of Fame recipient. He stated that it gave him great pleasure to see Chief Dantzler receive that past due recognition and Chief Dantzler was he was literally honored by it all.

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 and appointment to fill the vacant City Prosecutor's position and approval of contract

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Thomas made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Sox 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.

Possible actions in follow up to Executive Session

Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Ms. Stringfellow as the City's Prosecutor. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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 7:23pm.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

