



Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
James E. Jenkins

Council Members
Ann Bailey-Robinson
Phil Carter
Tim James

City Manager
Tracy Hegler

Assistant City Manager
James E. Crosland

**City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
February 17, 2021**

A Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom video and conferencing software. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin and Council Members Ann Bailey-Robinson, Phil Carter, Tim James and James Jenkins. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Assistant City Manager Jim Crosland, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, IT Director Jamie Beckham and City Attorney Danny Crowe 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. Mayor Partin stated that the meeting was being recorded through Zoom. She stated that the public was provided a call in number to be able to follow all of the City business as normal. She asked any caller to mute their audio so there would not be any feedback. She stated that the meeting organizer was also able to mute calls. Mayor Partin stated that the public could speak on any item on the agenda if they prearranged speaking with the City's Municipal Clerk.

Call to Order

Mayor Partin called the meeting to order and Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins 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. Presentation by Clerk of Court Rachel Stuckey, Judge Shannon Bobertz and Judge Bryan Jeffries re the City's Municipal Court

Ms. Stuckey stated that the Cayce Municipal Court schedules and adjudicates criminal, traffic and city ordinance violations that occur within the City of Cayce. The Court hears misdemeanor criminal cases and those cases that are subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 (not including mandatory assessments and fees) and/or that are subject to a sentence not exceeding imprisonment of 30 days. Cayce Municipal court may also hear cases that are remanded back from Richland or Lexington County General Sessions Courts if the associated fines and sentences do not exceed \$5,500.00 or one year of imprisonment. She stated that the Court does not have any jurisdiction over civil cases.

Ms. Stuckey stated that Judge Bobertz and Judge Jeffries are municipal judges that only hear criminal cases. She stated that both Judges joined the City in May 2019. She stated that from May 2019 to May 2020 the Judges closed as many cases as were closed the prior year. She stated that this was accomplished even though the Court was closed for months because of COVID. Ms. Stuckey reviewed how the COVID pandemic affected Court and the precautions that had to be taken to keep everyone as safe as possible. Per Court Administration, she stated that they were still not allowed to have in-person Court.

Ms. Stuckey stated that between January and March 2020 while Court was still being held in-person 1,017 cases were closed. She stated that while Court was closed due to COVID she and the Judges tried to get creative to close cases by doing plea offerings and video conferencing and closed 760 cases during that time. She stated that when Court was being held with staggered times and other COVID restrictions 1,114 cases were closed. A total of 3,900 cases were closed in the past 12 months whereas normally approximately 4,500 to 5,000 cases are closed annually. Ms. Stuckey thanked the Judges for their help and being so great to work with. She also thanked Cayce Public Safety staff and Assistant City Manager Crosland.

Judge Bobertz stated that the past year had been very challenging. She heartily commended Ms. Stuckey, her staff and Mr. Crosland and City staff for helping them move forward. She stated that the City's IT staff was extremely helpful. She stated that they implemented a virtual courtroom by having an Officer go to Lexington County Detention Center with a laptop and the inmates are brought into the room. Judge Bobertz stated that she hopes they can continue to hear cases virtually once COVID is gone since it is so much more efficient.

Judge Bobertz stated that Court staff were amazing at moving people from virtual room to room to give defendants time with their attorneys and bring in Public Safety staff when needed. She stated that she could not say enough about how much she enjoyed working with Judge Jeffries and staff. She stated that everyone was responsive and worked well together. She stated she and Judge Jeffries were very proud to work for the City. She stated that the Supreme Court and the Court Administration had come out with a notification process that allowed defendants to opt in and get messages on their phone when they have court dates. She stated that it would save the City a large amount of money in postage. She stated that currently the Court receives quite a bit of returned mail.

Judge Jeffries stated that he wanted to commend Ms. Stuckey, her staff and Mr. Crosland for hitting the ground running when dealing with the restrictions of COVID. He stated that he felt Cayce had been uniquely proactive in finding creative ways to continue moving cases for the citizens of Cayce. He commended Public Safety for being very flexible with having Officers available for Court. He stated that the prosecuting attorneys and public defenders worked with the Judges and Municipal

Court staff banded together to keep the Court running as efficiently as possible given the limitations in place. Judge Jeffries stated that he could not be prouder to work for the City and with a great team. Mayor Partin thanked Ms. Stuckey, her staff and Judges for their innovativeness and hard work in ensuring that the Court continued to run efficiently.

Resolution

A. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Recognizing COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day

Council Member James made a motion to approve the Resolution recognizing March 8, 2021 as COVID-19 victims and survivors Memorial Day. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Discussion Items

A. Discussion and Approval of Contract Award to Synovus for the City of Cayce Banking Services

Ms. Hegler stated that over the past several years, the City had paid over \$12,000 annually in bank charges. She stated that staff had worked diligently to reduce these charges by half since April 2020 but believed that this amount could be reduced even further by requesting competitive proposals from local banks. Additionally, staff felt a competitive process could lead to earnings and better operational efficiencies. She stated that the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for General Banking Services on November 13, 2020 and received proposals from ten (10) banking institutions. The RFP Committee scored all responding banks based on the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to the City's Needs / Scope & Extent of Services Offered
- Experience of Bank and Individuals Assigned to the City's Accounts / Customer Service
- Financial Strength of Branch / Vicinity of Bank Branch / Local Lockbox Remit Preference
- Cost of Services Proposed Including an Earned Credit Rate, Interest Rate, and Compensating Balance

Ms. Hegler stated that City staff also conducted interviews of the top four (4) banking institutions whose proposals provided the best combination of these core criteria. She stated that after the conclusion of interviews, internal discussions, and scoring, staff was recommending that the City award its General Banking Services to Synovus Bank. Specifically, Synovus offered the most competitive banking fees,

earned credit ratings and overall operational service. Ms. Hegler stated that staff did a really good job in writing the RFP and managing the process in an extremely professional manner.

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the proposal from Synovus Bank and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract between the City of Cayce and Synovus Bank. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of Contract for Maintenance of Alex Street Water Tank

Ms. Hegler stated that she had new information that was not in the White Paper. She stated that the City had agreements with SUEZ for all the remote water tanks, the City's Water Treatment Plant clearwells, contact tanks, and claricones and they do an excellent job. She stated that SUEZ recently presented a new contract to staff to replace their work on the Glenn Street tank which was removed with work on the Alex Street tank. She stated that she brought this matter before Council to ask them to authorize her to enter into the contract with SUEZ as well as waive the informal and formal bid process since the City had an existing agreement with them for that work.

Ms. Hegler stated that some of the information in the White Paper was not correct but the attached agreement was correct. She stated that it was a one (1) year contract for \$26,500 and would renew automatically unless the option to terminate the contract was chosen which is an option in the contract. She stated that if Council supported the contract then the motion would be to authorize the City Manager to enter the contract as SUEZ presented it and waive the formal and informal bid process to do so.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made the motion as stated above. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hegler stated that the City's business license portal was operational and several businesses had used it with no apparent issues. She stated that staff was planning on pushing it out soon via the City's website and social media. She stated that the deadline for the landscaping/architect RFP deadline was the following week. She stated that the automated sanitation truck was due to arrive that Friday. Ms. Hegler stated that Mr. Wade Luther was the new Planning Director and was starting March 1. She stated that phases 1 - 3 of the Riverwalk were currently closed due to flooding. She stated that staff was in the process of FY2021-2022 budget preparation.

Committee Matters

- A. Approval to Enter the following Committee Approved Minutes into the City's Record
 Beautification Foundation – January 11, 2021
 Events Committee – January 14, 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the record. Council Member Bailey-Robinson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins commented on the cold and icy weather in Texas and stated that he was hoping that South Carolina did not receive that dangerous weather. Council Member James stated that he was so impressed with the work of the City's Court staff and Municipal Judges and appreciative of their presentation. He stated that it was amazing what they had accomplished by thinking outside of the box. He stated that the amount of cases closed was phenomenal. Council Member James stated that he was so touched by the City supporting the Resolution for COVID-19 victims and survivors Memorial Day and so thankful that they had done that. He stated that so many of everyone's friends and families had been affected by COVID and was proud of the City for being one of the first to support the day of memory. Council Member Carter stated that Public Safety staff had been in his thoughts since the incident that happened recently with a little girl being taken during a car theft and it occurring almost to the day of the one year anniversary of Faye Swetlik's disappearance. He stated that he knew that it had to really hit the Officers hard. He stated that he had lost three or four constituents in the last few weeks. He stated that Jim Woods who lived in Edenwood passed away that morning. Mayor Partin stated that City staff and Council operate with a high level of caring and excellence and it shines through in everything they do. She stated that Public Safety and everyone that works on the front line are exceptional. Council Member Bailey-Robinson thanked the City's IT staff for their exceptionally hard work during COVID and stated that she appreciated all they do.

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

There were no items to be discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bailey-Robinson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

