



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
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

The February 6, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Tim James and Council Members Phil Carter, Hunter Sox and Byron Thomas. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Deputy City Manager Jim Crosland, 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, IT Director Jamie Backham 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.

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.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes and the January 17, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes as written. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

No one signed up for Public Comment.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

- A. Discussion and Approval of Letter of Support for the Disposition of Public Housing for the Cayce Housing Authority

City Manager Hegler asked for this item to be deferred to the next Council Meeting while staff continued to work with the Housing Authority. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to defer. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-02 Granting Lumos Fiber of South Carolina, LLC a Nonexclusive Franchise for the Use of Public Streets and Public Rights-of-Way for Telecommunications Services – Second Reading.

City Manager Hegler asked for this item to be deferred to the next Council Meeting while staff continued to work with Lumos. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to defer. Council Member Carter 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
 - Planning Commission – May 15, 2023
 - Museum Commission – November 1, 2023

Council Member Carter made a motion to enter the May 15, 2023 Planning Commission meeting minutes and the November 1, 2023 Museum Commission minutes into the City's record. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Appointments and Reappointments
 - Cayce Housing Authority – One (1) Position
 - Events Committee – Two (2) Positions
 - Municipal Election Commission – One (1) Position
 - Museum Commission – One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that the Cayce Housing Authority had one (1) open position and there were potential member applications from Ms. Evony Reed, Mr. Rusty Rabon, Mr. Daniel Yackle, Ms. Sophia Chen and Ms. Kelly Wuest in that order.

Council Member Sox made a motion to defer all appointments until after Council's Work Session, considering the comments from the City Attorney in Executive Session at the last Council Meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Partin called the question. Council Members Carter, Sox, Thomas and Mayor Pro Tem James voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

Mayor Partin stated that she believed that it was the citizens right to get to volunteer with their city and they should be able to volunteer if they would like to. She stated that the City had a process and it was an issue that had been a large topic of concern for this part of Council. She stated that one (1) Council Member was new but this had been a point of gridlock on this Council. She stated that given their problems

making just these simple routine appointments were one of the easiest things that Council did and it was a citizen's right to be able to volunteer. She asked that any deliberations on this be done in a meeting and in front of the public, as opposed to the way that it was done currently, by Council members, not including the Mayor.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hegler reminded Council that the opening of the African American Exhibit at the City's Museum was that Thursday from 6pm to 8pm.

Council Comments

Mayor Partin congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Tim James for getting his award that day for completing his advanced municipal education training. She stated that was a big honor to spend the time getting the education to help serve the City and Mayor Pro Tem James had done a great job in making sure to get that education.

Council Member Thomas stated that Municipal Clerk Corder was not able to attend the last Council Meeting however Ms. Amanda Rowan did an amazing job in her absence. He thanked Ms. Corder for all that she does for Council. He thanked the City's first responders that had taken care of the President, the Vice President and former President as they came through Cayce in November, as well as last month. He stated that he knew it was a big strain on the City but thanked them for making sure the President, Vice President and a former President were safe. Council Member Thomas stated that he learned that day that no cities in South Carolina had passed a hate crime bill. He stated that he knew it was a hot button issue on the State level and South Carolina was one (1) of two (2) states that had yet to pass a hate crime bill. He stated that he would love to work with Council and the Mayor to see what they could do to pass a hate crime bill. He stated that he wanted people to know that hate would not be tolerated in the City of Cayce.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Council attended the Municipal Association of South Carolina's training that day. He stated that everyone on Council really believed in training and that day's training was some of the very best he had ever attended. He stated there was an economist there that made one start thinking completely different than they had in the past. He stated that the economist painted the picture that if one had to sell their house and buy in today's economy, could they do it. He stated that was what was being asked of first responders, police officers and teachers and the economy was not there. He stated that meant that Council had to continue to make sure that there were homes in the City that were good homes to be able to begin a career in. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that a lot of cities had not been doing that. He stated that if Council was not making the City friendly enough for brand new families, brand new career people, teachers, police officers, firemen, then they would not move to the City.

Mayor Partin stated that the prior night Council and Administration staff met with Senator Nikki Setzler who was the longest serving Senator in the state and really did a great job of looking out for the City and he was about to retire. She asked that everyone pay attention to the upcoming race because the State level elected officials mattered to the City. She stated that they also met with Representative Micah Caskey who also did a great job for the City. She stated that she started, a little over a decade ago, that Council and Administration staff meet with their legislators to let them know what the City's perspective was on bills that were coming before them at the State level. Mayor Partin stated that they were really appreciative for that perspective and it helped them to know how things affect the City at the State level. She stated that other cities had followed in their footsteps and now met with their legislators as well.

Mayor Partin stated she wanted to share a few of the things that Council and staff shared with Senator Setzler and Rep. Caskey just to help know how proud they were of the City. She stated that the City's average police response time for emergencies was two (2) minutes, nine (9) seconds and that was amazing because that helped to keep the City's crime low because the police were on the scene very quickly. She stated that the City's Fire Department had lowered the City's ISO rating to a two and that mattered because it affected homeowners insurance policy. She stated that they made sure that the City's firefighters were protected and safe so they could come in and help and be safe meaning they have the equipment they need

Mayor Partin stated that the City was constantly welcoming new businesses like Taco Nayarit coming to Knox Abbott Drive. She stated that the Lexington Medical Urgent Center recently opened and it was a great facility in the heart of the City. She stated that Trini Lime Caribbean Cafe was a great restaurant on State Street and the Better Business Bureau was locating their headquarters in the City and another Starbucks was coming to Charlson Highway. She stated that Council and staff were incredibly fiscally responsible and the City had another positive audit the past year. She stated that the City had School Resource Officers in every school and that was definitely something to be proud of, to have that relationship where students were getting to know the City's Officers and also to make sure that the schools were safe, because children should get the chance to learn.

Mayor Partin stated that the City had updates in high tech equipment for the Police Department, making them safer, and helping to have more data to be able to share with citizens. She stated that the City's online audience for livestreaming Council Meetings was robust. She stated that the City recently won, maybe the first in the whole area, the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY24 budget. She stated that this award represented a significant achievement by the City and reflected the commitment of the governing body and of the staff to meet the highest principles of government budgeting. She stated that the City continually received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Mayor Partin stated that staff won awards for all kinds of things on a regular basis and the City was

really good at business because they were customer friendly and take care of staff. She stated that had not always been the case but she had led that charge and Council had worked right alongside making sure to take care of staff to ensure they made strategic long-term decisions and operated efficiently and effectively. She stated that meant that the City had the lowest fees in the entire region and that was by design and something they were really good at doing. She stated that the City's legislators were excited and thrilled at all they were doing in taking care of the City and really doing City government right.

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
 - 1. Update on Lexington County's Cancellation of Road Maintenance Agreement
 - 2. Claim for Improvements to Taylor Street at New State Road
 - 3. Claim for Improvements to Spencer Place

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

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Carter made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Mayor Pro Tem James 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

There were no actions in follow up to Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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 February 6, 2024

Name	Address	Agenda Item
KENNETH JACKSON	1505 Lucas St	Comb House

***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.