

**City of Cayce  
Special Council Meeting  
June 13, 2012**

A Special Council Meeting was held this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Councilmen Steve Isom, Tim James, James Jenkins, City Manager Rebecca Rhodes, Municipal Clerk Tammy Barkley, and Municipal Treasurer Garry Huddle. Mr. Lanny Lambert, Attorney, attended for City Attorney Danny Crowe. Councilmember Jumper arrived later in the afternoon. The following staff members were also in attendance: Thomas White, Shaun Greenwood, and Charles McNair. Mayor Partin advised that members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the FOIA.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Partin called the meeting to order. Councilmember Jenkins gave the invocation and the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Other**

A. Continued Discussion of FY12-13 Draft Budget

Ms. Rhodes stated that she is again providing Council with a budget that includes the revenues that she is proposing to increase and the expenditures that she feels are the movable parts of the budget. She stated that she has provided Council with a sheet at their desks denoting capital expenditures and the end results if those expenditures are not purchased. She stated that she wanted to make sure everyone understands that in their documents is the five-year capital improvement plans for each of the departments. She stated that a lot of time has not been spent on these plans, but this is something that the departments are required to update each year. She stated that one of the issues is if they do not get the item in this year's budget, it is rolled over into the next year's plan. She stated the five year plans were submitted with the departments' original budget requests and would need to be revised once Council approves the budget to reflect what capital equipment is included. She stated that the biggest deficit the city is facing is the replacement of patrol cars and sanitation equipment and the goal should be to have a consistent replacement plan set for each year where you know you are spending money every year, but there is no huge outlay.

Ms. Rhodes stated that in regards to the sanitation equipment, we have not kept up with buying and replacing those pieces. She stated that if the City wants to stay in the sanitation business, the vehicles are not cheap and there again, that is something that should be rolled over each year and buying new ones when they need to be

replaced. She stated that she does not think any of us would put a new engine in a car that had 112,000 miles on it if it was our own car. She stated that the City would spend the money no matter if you want to or not to keep the level of service we provide in tact. She stated the City needs to get to a point where it has to purchase five vehicles a year rather than 19 or 21. She stated the other issue is information technology. She stated that there is a big deficit there and that as the IT manager has put together, he would like to buy 20 new computers each year to replace ours every three to four years. She stated that total of the FY13-14 IT budget on the five-year plan, is \$313,000 which is mainly the new software package for Utility billing, finance, building permits, code enforcement, etc. She stated that if you took out the major costs for software, the idea is to spend \$40,000 each year for a replacement plan. She stated that staff wants to be proactive and does not want to spend money on something that is not worth it.

She reviewed the list of Capital Expenditures chart provided to Council and what the end result would be if the equipment was not purchased. From all the cuts made during the budget discussion process with the department heads, she stated that these are the items that are left on the list totaling \$301,012 from the original requests which totaled \$2.2 million. She reviewed each item with Council and provided detailed information and justification for each. She asked Council for their input on the budget.

Councilmember Jenkins inquired about the 800 mhz radios and if it would be possible to reduce the number to be purchased and the same with the bunker gear. Mayor Partin stated that a couple of years ago there were some of the gear that was expired and Council approved the purchase and replacement of those that had expired. Ms. Rhodes stated that Public Safety does a good job with keeping up with the gear and expiration dates and have included a replacement plan for those expiring in the five-year plan.

Councilmember Jenkins inquired if the City could consider a centralized printer rather than purchasing individual printers. Ms. Rhodes stated that the City currently has centralized printers in different areas and all of the staff does not have their own printers. Councilmember Jenkins specifically mentioned the printer requested in the Records Court department.

Councilmember Isom inquired about the purchase of the sanitation truck versus the repair costs. Ms. Rhodes provided detailed information on increased repairs that would be needed over the next year for all sanitation vehicles if the new truck is not purchased. She referred to the five-year plan and the types of equipment that would be purchased. Mr. White also provided additional information on the problems with the vehicles and repairs that would needed. Councilmember Isom suggested that the amount of IT equipment be reduced and replace 15 computers and then re-evaluate six months to a year down the road.

Ms. Rhodes stated that if Council does not want to increase any fees, \$216,400 would need to be found out of the bottom four figures listed on the easel board. She stated the workings of the inner budget has been culled and cut and there is not much room to squiggle there unless Council wants to cut travel expenses which does not produce much money. She stated that other items that could possibly be removed from the budget include repaving a portion of the Public Safety parking lot (\$45,000); Compensation Survey and update of all job descriptions (\$25,000), although the City is very far behind in having this done; all iPads for Council/staff (\$5,600); two rugged lap tops (\$4,000); and the City was recently notified that its cost for OPEB expenses will be \$16,000 lower than anticipated. She stated this would reduce the budget by a total of \$95,600.

Councilmember Jenkins inquired about asking the citizens of Cayce for their input on contracting out sanitation services. Ms. Rhodes stated that some talking has been done with neighborhood leaders about privatizing the sanitation service and going up on the rates and everyone in that room which was pretty well attended, basically said they did not want us to go private for sanitation service because of the level of service they receive from the City. She stated that is something that needs to be studied and suggested the possibility of contracting out the commercial sanitation business. She stated that would reduce the budget over \$100,000 and you could sell the equipment which can be pretty valuable. Mayor Partin stated that the neighborhood group was unanimously in favor of increasing the rates. Ms. Rhodes stated that there is a public hearing scheduled for June 22 to obtain public input on the increase in residential sanitation fees.

She stated that as far as commercial sanitation service it is a little too late to make a decision on that service, but does feel that Council needs to schedule a retreat sometime in August to discuss this as well as other services offered by the City and the costs involved. She stated that Cayce is a full service city and current property taxes does not even cover half of the expenses of the Public Safety Department. In reference to property taxes, she stated that the City should always increase it by the CPI which is 1.34 mills this year. She stated it is not a significant amount to our citizens or income to the City, but taxes should go up by the CPI to keep up with normal increases in the costs of products. In reference to residential sanitation fees, she stated that an increase has been discussed to help cover growing expenses and what the service costs.

Councilmember James suggested that the COLAs be left in the budget as well as the requested number of bunker gear. He stated he was in agreement with Ms. Rhodes on the reductions she mentioned totaling \$95,600, and to limit or reduce the quantity of items listed on the Capital Expenditure chart. He stated that after these reductions then Council could review and discuss what type of increases would be required.

Mayor Partin stated that she appreciates all the work that has been done in putting the budget together and she expressed her frustration with where the City is

budget-wise, not just with the numbers, but with planning over the years regarding Capital Improvements and Five Year Plans, etc., but also with not doing things to reach out to businesses to bring them in so that there are additional sources of revenue. She stated the City has so many under-utilized commercial areas that could be used to do that kind of thing. She stated that she was in 100% support of what staff has put forth and feels that not only do we need to give the COLAs, but also the tools staff needs to do the job we are asking them to do. She stated she wants the City to be in the position where we can say oh, that is fluff and we could do without it this year, but we are not there yet. She stated she was extremely pleased with staff and the jobs they are doing with what they have. She stated that we do need to put the question out there to the citizens about the residential sanitation fees to get feedback within the next week. She stated that frankly the reality is that we either raise the rates a little on our end and keep the quality of service or lose the quality of service by privatizing the service. And, she stated, a private company will charge more than we do for the service. She stated that right now she could vote for everything on the agenda 100% and feel okay telling people that this is what we had to do. She stated that she does not like the position Council is in and it took us years to get in this position, but we are here and she would love to see Council get behind what is on the agenda and then next year get behind each other to get more businesses in this community, to look at what our options are to increase revenues in other ways that does not place the burden on our current residents. She asked Council to consider that and the hard work staff has put into the process. She asked that Council be provided with detailed information prior to the next meeting on anything that is cut from the budget and the negative impact it would have on staff.

Ms. Rhodes stated that her question would be what does she have to work with on balancing the budget. She stated that if Council advises it does not want to raise any fees at all, just tell her and she will balance the budget without the increases. Ms. Rhodes stated that Council can approve the ordinance in name only and request additional information between first and second readings.

Councilmember James inquired about the lease/purchase program proposed. Ms. Rhodes advised that the correct total should be \$104,735 for a six-month lease/purchase program and the breakdown figures are incorrect.

B. Approval of Ordinance amending the amount of the fee for Residential Sanitation Service – First Reading

Councilmember Jumper made a motion to approve the Ordinance amending the amount of the fee for residential sanitation service on first reading subject to amending the figures. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3 to 2 by roll call vote with Councilmembers Jumper, Jenkins and Mayor Partin voting yes and Councilmembers Isom and James voting no.

C. Approval of Ordinance to adopt an Annual Budget for the City of Cayce for FY12-13 – First Reading

Councilmember James made a motion to approve the Ordinance to adopt an annual budget for the City of Cayce for FY12-13 on first reading subject to amending the figures. Council-member Jumper seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 to 1 by roll call vote with Councilmembers Jumper, Jenkins, James and Mayor Partin voting yes and Councilmember Isom voting no.

**Executive Session**

Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the matter below. Councilmember James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for wastewater treatment services between the Town of Lexington, Joint Water & Sewer Commission and the City of Cayce

**Reconvene**

Councilmember James made a motion to move out of Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting. Councilmember Jenkins 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 by Council in follow up to Executive Session**

No action was taken by Council in follow up to the Executive Session.

There being no further business, Councilmember James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tammy P. Barkley, CMC, Municipal Clerk