

Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
Phil Carter

Council Members
Tiffany Aull
Byron Thomas
Alice Rose

City Manager
Mike Conley

Assistant City Manager
Betsy Catchings
Wesley Crosby



**City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

The February 3, 2026, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Carter and Council Members Byron Thomas, Tiffany Aull and Alice Rose. City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Assistant City Manager/Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Allison Barrs, Human Resources Director Keisha Brunson and City Attorney James Smith were also in attendance.

Mayor Elise 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 Regular Council meeting to order and Mayor Pro Tem Carter gave the invocation. Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Anthony Ivan Earle, a United States Army Veteran, would be leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that Mr. Earle was born the fifth child of the late Stanley and Rosalee Earle on December 5, 1959, in Columbia, South Carolina. He joined the Army after graduating from Brookland Cayce High School in 1978 and served twelve years on active duty and twelve years in the Army Reserve. His duty stations were at various locations in the world including Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Alaska, Camp Darby, Italy and many others. He served combat duty in Desert Shield/Storm Gulf War in 1990-1999 and retired as a Sergeant First Class with several service awards including the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Award, two (2) Bronze Service Stars and the Army Commendation Medal. In 1982, he married his wife, Carol and they have five daughters, Vanda, Sharrica, Antonia, LaShawnda and Ebony, and nine grandchildren. After retiring from the military, Mr. Earle worked as a store manager for Advance Auto Parts and Harbor Freight Tools. He is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Cayce and serves in the Men's Choir and as a leader of the Boy Scouts. He graduated from Limestone College with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2007. Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Earle was a pillar of the community and a very involved hands-on grandfather.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the January 6, 2026, and the January 21, 2026, Regular Council Meeting minutes as written. Council Member Aull seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

There was no Public Comment.

Presentation

Mr. David Sykes with Stantec Consulting Services gave Council an update on the City's Brownfields Grant Program.

Resolutions

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve a celebratory Resolution. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Partin stated that the Resolution that Council passed was honoring Mr. Gerald Cromer for his outstanding civic engagement and dedicated service to the community. Mr. Cromer is a lifelong resident of the community and has demonstrated a deep and enduring commitment to the place he calls home. He consistently attended City Council meetings and budget workshops for almost two (2) decades, showing exceptional interest in the operations, planning and financial stewardship of the City. His regular presence, attentiveness and thoughtful engagement reflect the very best of informed and responsible citizenship. Mr. Cromer's dedication helps promote transparency, accountability and open government, strengthening the connection between local leadership and the residents they serve. Through his continued involvement, Mr. Cromer has set a positive example of civic participation for residents of all ages, demonstrating that local government works best when citizens stay informed and involved. Mayor Partin stated that she and Council wished to formally recognize and express their sincere appreciation for Mr. Cromer's time commitment and unwavering interest in the well-being and future of the community and wanted to recognize him for his exemplary civic engagement, and extend their gratitude for his faithful attendance and involvement in council meetings and budget workshops.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

- A. Discussion and Approval to Amend the February 18, 2026, Council Meeting Date

Council Member Aull made a motion to cancel the February 18, 2026, Council Meeting. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Discussion and Consideration of the Accommodations Tax Committees Recommendation and Appropriation of Accommodations Tax Funds for

FY25/26

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the equal distribution of the available \$44,000 in accommodations tax funds for the 30% designees between Capital Lake Murray Country and Experience Columbia. Council Member Rose 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
 - Events Committee – September 11, 2025
 - Cayce Housing Authority – November 18, 2025
 - Cayce Historical Museum Commission – December 3, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the City's record. Council Member Aull seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Conley stated that Jonathan Von Moltke was recently promoted to the Assistant Chief position in the Police Department. He stated that Assistant Chief Von Moltke was a veteran of the United States Army Reserve and a career law enforcement professional with more than a decade of distinguished service and holds both an associate and a bachelor's degree in business administration as well as a graduate certificate in Human Resource Management. He stated that he was scheduled to complete his master's degree in organizational leadership from Southern New Hampshire University in April. City Manager Conley stated that Assistant Chief Von Moltke began his law enforcement career in 2012 and had maintained a strong commitment to continuous professional development and served with agencies across the Upstate, the Lowcountry and Midlands in South Carolina. He stated that throughout his career, he held a wide range of roles and in addition to his agency-level experience, Assistant Chief Von Moltke served as an advanced training instructor for the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, where he developed the field training and officer manager program that has since been adopted as a statewide standard. He stated that he was also a published author of two (2) books and a devoted husband and father of two young sons.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas thanked the Center for Heirs Property for holding a free will clinic and he thanked Mt. Zion Church of Cayce for agreeing to hold it at their church. He stated that the Cayce Historical Museum was recognizing black history with

amazing social media posts highlighting local African Americans in the history of Cayce and he thanked the Museum's African American Committee for being a part of that and doing an amazing job. He stated that the Cayce Museum had an African American exhibit and invited people to visit it to see the amazing things that African Americans had done for the City of Cayce. He stated that he had a great conversation with the City Attorney, James Smith, about the African American cemeteries in the City and allowing people access to them to visit their loved ones. Council Member Thomas stated that America turns 250 years old in 2026 and stated that he would like to challenge the City to do an initiative to celebrate that with community projects. He stated that the State recently gave municipalities more authority to govern golf carts and a number of cities had already passed an Ordinance to give their citizens more authority and to make it clear when one could and could not ride their golf cart around the city. He stated that West Columbia was working on their Ordinance and he would love some reciprocity between the two (2) cities. He stated that he would like to have that done by the spring so it was clear for the City's residents that owned golf carts.

Mayor Partin stated that she and several members of Council recently had the opportunity to participate in the Municipal Association of South Carolina's hometown legislative action day, which was always a great opportunity to come together with other municipalities to learn and collaborate. She stated that there was a session on the Dignity Index which was an amazing resource that was being used across the United States. She stated that one could learn more at dignity.us. She stated that disagreeing was not a problem and was actually how people came up with better ideas and a way to include everybody's voices. She stated that the dignity index talked about how to include everybody's voice with dignity. Mayor Partin stated that they also learned that anyone with a household income of \$69,000 or less could get free tax help in filing their taxes through the USC Rice School of Law.

Executive Session

- A. Discussion of the employment of a public employee
- B. Discussion of a proposed economic development project, including related incentives and contractual matters
- C. Discussion of matters relating to the proposed agenda, format and internal planning of the March 18, 2026, Council Work Session Retreat

Council Member Thomas made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Rose seconded the motion. Council Member Carter asked City Attorney Smith if Executive Session Item A (employment of a public employee) and Item C (discussion of matters regarding a council work session) were truly executive session items. City Attorney Smith stated that they were. Mayor Partin stated that Item A was requested by

the employee and Item C was requested by Council Member Thomas. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Rose made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Thomas 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 action by Council in follow up to Executive Session

Council Member Aull made a motion to authorize the City Manager to negotiate an agreement with Thomas Dambo Art for the design, fabrication, shipment and installation of a public artwork on City property in an amount not to exceed \$355,000 with such minor changes as the City Manager deems necessary in consultation with the City Attorney and subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney and the availability and appropriation of funds with said agreement to be executed by City Council. Council Member Rose seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated this would be funded with Accommodations Tax and Hospitality Tax funds which was exactly what those funds were for and other options and private donations. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Adjourn

Council Member Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

