



Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
Tim James

Council Members
Phil Carter
Hunter Sox
Byron Thomas

City Manager
Michael Conley

Assistant City Manager
Wesley Crosby

**City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

The October 22, 2025, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 5:00 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 Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Allison Barrs, Human Resources Director Keisha Brunson, Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, Police Chief Bruce Wade, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, IT Director Jamie Beckham and City Attorney Will Dillard 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 Regular Council meeting to order and Council Member Sox 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.

Ordinances

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-08 Amending the Business License Ordinance of the City of Cayce to Update the Class Schedule as Required by Act 176 of 2020 – First Reading

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-08 on First Reading. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

- A. Discussion and Approval to Ratify an Agreement Approved by the City Manager Under the Emergency Powers of Sec. 2-146, with State Utility Contractors, Inc. for the Emergency Installation of a Sewer Isolation Valve

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve ratifying an agreement with State Utility Contractors for the emergency installation of a sewer isolation valve. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval to Amend the November 19, 2025, Council Meeting Date

Council Member Carter made a motion to move the November 19, 2025, Council Meeting date to November 13, 2025, at 6pm. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Committee Matters

**A. Appointments
Public Safety Foundation – One (1) Positions**

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Ms. Sarah Buckner to the Public Safety Foundation. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of By-Laws for the Municipal Election Commission

Council Member Sox recused himself from this item. His recusal form is attached. Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the Municipal Election Commission by-laws. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Conley stated that he would like to ask Police Chief Wade to give safety tips for Halloween. Police Chief Wade stated that it was safest to plan a route ahead of time and stay in well lit, familiar neighborhoods as well as going in groups and children should always be accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager. He advised to stay visible, carry flashlights and glow sticks and add reflective tapes to costumes and treat bags and to use sidewalks whenever possible and only cross at corners or marked crosswalks and never between cars. Police Chief Wade advised to choose lightly colored reflective clothing so drivers could see children easily and make sure costumes fit properly to avoid tripping. He stated that if one was wearing a mask, to ensure it was not blocking their vision and suggested using face paints instead. He advised to keep porch lights lit in neighborhoods during trick or treat hours, which was from six to nine, drive slowly, especially in residential areas, and avoid distractions. He advised to stay off cell phones and watch for kids running from between cars. He stated that Officers would be patrolling the neighborhoods to keep everyone safe and asked everyone to report suspicious activity and unsafe driving to law enforcement. He stated that it was best to keep pets indoors and secured since costumes, loud noises and strangers could cause stress to animals.

City Manager Conley stated that October 25 was a busy day in the City with the Tales on Trails event that the Public Safety Foundation, Police Department, Fire Department and School Resource Officers hosted as well as the Fall Plant Exchange that morning in Granby Gardens Park. He stated that the Police and Fire Departments were hosting a prescription drug take back event that day as well at Modern Locksmith. He stated that on October 29 the City had a very large training event that would take place with the Police Department, Fire Department and the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that they were doing a large scale hazmat training at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from 9am to 2pm and West Columbia, Columbia and Richland and Lexington County Fire Departments would be there as well assisting with the training. City Manager Conley stated that portions of Old State Road would be closed for the training and staff would get that information out to the general public as soon as possible. He stated that staff worked with Lexington 2 Innovation Center students to build Dog Stick Libraries for all the parks in the City and the students presented them to the City that morning. He stated that staff member Ken Walters had a really wonderful idea of trying to bring local artists into the City's Art Lot by enabling them to sell their art on the weekends. He stated that there would be a sign up in the Art Lot with more details and information.

City Manager Conley stated that the City's Beautification Foundation was hosting a Harvest Dinner fundraiser on Thursday, November 6 at 6pm at the historic Still Hopes mansion and tickets were still available online. He stated that the Foundation did wonderful things for the City. He stated that he had a surprise and wonderful news. He stated that he spoke to Fire Chief Bullard that afternoon and he and his staff found a used firetruck ladder truck for the department. He stated that it was going to cost anywhere between 150 to \$200,000 and there were a couple of minor things that had to be done on it. He stated that he used the existing authority that was given to him by Council to bridge the gap. He stated that the City's Maintenance Manager went with the Fire Department staff to inspect the ladder truck to ensure that it would do a good job for the City and it was a great opportunity for the Fire Department. He congratulated them for their hard work and for continuing to look for ways to overcome some challenging problems.

Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that it was good news that Fire Chief Bullard and his team were able to get a new ladder truck and were able to bridge where they were to where they needed to go.

Council Member Thomas thanked everyone that attended the Broad Acres neighborhood association meeting that week. He stated that he was partnering with Synovus Bank, the City's current banking partner, to hold a free money smart financial education class on November 17 at 6pm in Council Chambers. He stated that he was also partnering with the Center for Heirs Property again, to hold a free wills clinic for

anyone in Cayce or Lexington County that did not have a will. He stated that it was by appointment and to call 843-745-7055 to set up an appointment for January 24. He stated that Tuesday, October 28 was National First Responders Day and he wanted to challenge the community to show the City's first responders a lot of love. Council Member Thomas stated that the State had a new law effective May 22, 2025, that allowed local and county jurisdictions to stipulate the hours, methods and locations of golf cart operations, provided that golf carts were operated only on a road where the speed limit was 35 miles or less. He stated that he thought the City and the City of West Columbia should have similar Ordinances since they were so close in location. He stated that it was an opportunity for Council to be creative and come up with an Ordinance so golf carters could enjoy their beautiful community, but more importantly, stay safe. He stated that he hoped it could be discussed in a work session.

Council Member Sox stated that the new fire truck was exciting news and thanked Chief Bullard and his staff for all their hard work and thanked Chief Wade and the Police Department for their hard work as well. He stated that the City has had a lot of big projects going on lately and staff handled them really well.

Council Member Carter stated that Halloween in his Council District was very busy especially in Concord Park and Moss Creek and they loved it and were looking forward to it.

Mayor Partin stated that she attended a graduation ceremony at Mota Cross Link, which was a graduation of entrepreneurs who were working on bringing small businesses to fruition, or had already done so and were working to make them better. She stated that she also participated in Elevate Midlands, which was an organization that came out of the Midlands Business Leadership Group, to elevate the Midlands. She stated that the City had partnered with Cola Jazz to get a grant through the Central Carolina Community Foundation to enliven several different areas in the City and she did a joint video with Mark Rapp, the head of Cola Jazz. She stated that the concerts would be some coming in the fall, and then some in early winter in different locations in the City and they were part of economic development, so there was money in that grant to make these spaces even better. Mayor Partin stated that she had reached out to the President of SCTV and they were excited to get involved and they were going to broadcast several of the concerts and put together a show that showcased the City and the art that was there.

Executive Session

- A. Discussion of proposed contractual matter regarding MPA Strategies contract extension

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

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Mayor Pro Tem James 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 actions in follow up to Executive Session

- A. Discussion of proposed contractual matter regarding MPA Strategies contract extension

Council Member Sox made a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to finalize negotiation of and execute a contract extension for MPA strategies as discussed in Executive Session. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Hunter Sax

Meeting Date: October 22, 2025

Agenda Item: Section V Number B

Topic: Discussion + approval of of by-laws for
the Municipal Election Commission

The Ethics Act, SC Code § 8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37). A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

City attorney Will Pillard recommended I recuse
myself due to being an active candidate in the
upcoming municipal election.

Date: October 22, 2025

Member 

Approved by Parliamentarian: _____