

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

The March 3, 2026, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 PM 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 and 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.

Mayor Elise Partin asked if members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Ms. Corder confirmed they were notified.

Call to Order

Mayor Partin called the Regular Council Meeting to order, Council Member Aull gave the invocation, and Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the February 3, 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

Joseph McDougall – Item V. D. Mr. McDougal spoke on behalf of Hidden City Music Festival.

Shelby Judd – Item V. D. Mr. Judd voiced reasons to grant the Fireworks Exemption Request for the Hidden City Music Festival.

Presentation

Mr. Gavin Brown, Vice President of Advancement for Transitions Homeless Center, presented information to Council regarding the organization's services and potential role as a resource for the City.

Proclamation

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve a Proclamation recognizing International Women Leaders in Business. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

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

Mayor Partin stated that no action was required. The March 18 meeting will consist of a Council Workshop in the morning, followed by a business meeting that afternoon, and will be posted in accordance with standard procedures.

B. Discussion and Acceptance of Bid from McClam & Associates for Lexington Avenue Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project

Council Member Rose made a motion to approve the staff recommendation of acceptance of the bid from McClam and Associates in the amount of \$441,220 plus a 10% construction contingency and to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Discussion and Approval of Utilities Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Meter Requests

Council Member Rose made a motion to approve staff recommendation to waive the formal bid process and sole source the installation of an advanced metering infrastructure system for approximately 320 customers, and to authorize the City Manager to negotiate the contract. Council Member Aull seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

D. Discussion and Consideration of Fireworks Exemption Request for Hidden City Music Festival

Council Member Aull made a motion for all fireworks and noise to conclude at 10:00 PM, conditional on receiving a permit from the State Fire Marshal. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was approved by roll call vote four to one; Mayor Pro Tem Carter voted no.

Ordinances

A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2026-03 Amending the Zoning Map and Rezoning Property Located at 1511 Middle Street (Tax Map Number 5764-01-013) from C-3 to RG-2 – First Reading

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the rezoning Ordinance. 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
Zoning Board of Appeals – December 15, 2025
Planning Commission – December 15, 2025
Museum and Historical Commission – January 5, 2026

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the City's record. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Conley announced the final Pop-Up Jazz event was scheduled for this Sunday from 5:00–7:00 PM at the Art Lot and expressed appreciation to the Central Carolina Community Foundation and ColaJazz for their support.

City Manager Conley announced the hiring of Johnny Dillard as Public Works Director. He stated that Mr. Dillard is a U.S. Navy veteran with 20 years of service, during which he received multiple commendations and completed several deployments.

Following his military career, he owned and operated a landscaping business for 12 years and later served in grounds and public works-related roles, including positions at Georgia College and State University and with the Town of Lexington. He stated Director Dillard holds a degree in horticulture and maintains multiple professional certifications, including certified arborist and licensed pesticide applicator, and currently serves on the board of the South Carolina Green Industry Association.

Additionally, City Manager Conley recognized the City's utility staff for exemplary customer service after receiving positive feedback from a citizen regarding a sewer service call at the All-Saints Church in Cayce. The citizen specifically commended staff for their professionalism, responsiveness, and courteous service.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas welcomed and thanked newly hired Public Works Director Johnny Dillard for his military service and expressed appreciation for his qualifications. He announced an upcoming community partner breakfast at Cayce Elementary School on March 31 and encouraged community participation.

An update was provided by City Attorney James Smith, on efforts to develop a citywide initiative focused on access and preservation of African American cemeteries, including mapping, community engagement, and potential funding opportunities. Council Member Thomas emphasized the importance of community involvement and future cleanup efforts.

Discussion was also held regarding Opportunity Zones, including the transition to a new designation period and the importance of advocating for the City's inclusion to support economic development. Council Member Thomas encouraged residents to contact state officials in support of the City's designation.

Additionally, Council Member Thomas noted the completion of resurfacing work on Lee Street and expressed appreciation to partnering agencies, with interest in holding a future recognition event.

Council Member Aull provided an update on utility infrastructure improvements in the Knox Abbot Drive area and noted an upcoming business, George Robert's Wine and Raw Bar, pending opening and hiring opportunities in the district.

Mayor Partin added comments regarding continued support for economic development initiatives and acknowledged a resident's appreciation for recently installed street lighting improving safety in her neighborhood.

Executive Session

- A. Discussion of contractual matters regarding the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- B. Personnel Matter – City Manager's Evaluation
- C. Discussion of employment, compensation and contractual matters regarding the City Prosecutor and Public Defender positions
- D. Discussion of contractual matters regarding the Public Information Officer

Council Member Aull made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Mayor Partin announced that no action 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 Rose made a motion to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Synagro related to wastewater treatment services, with the final agreement subject to approval as to form by the city attorney. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Adjourn

Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.



Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kristen Hall, Municipal Clerk