

Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem Tim James	Council Members Phil Carter Hunter Sox Byron Thomas	City Manager Jim Crosland	Deputy City Manager Mike Conley Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby	
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**City of Cayce  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday May 6, 2025**

The May 6, 2025, 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 Jim Crosland, Deputy City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, IT Director Jamie Beckham, Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, Police Chief Bruce Wade, Fire Chief Steven Bullard 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 meeting to order and Council Member Carter gave the invocation. Mayor Partin stated that there was a special guest in attendance to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that Miss Dezyah Dewitt, a third-grade Cayce Elementary School student who was the winner of the 13th Annual Future Chefs Challenge in Lexington Two, would lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Partin stated that a panel of judges selected Dezyah Dewitt's Cheeseburger Cupcakes as its favorite from among recipes prepared by finalist 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students from the district's six (6) elementary schools. Cayce Elementary Principal Elaine Lundy stated that the recipes, themed for favorite main dishes, were prepared by students in a competition in the commercial kitchen at the Lexington Two Innovation Center. She stated that Dezyah would be representing Lexington Two at the statewide competition and voting would run until May 9 and they would announce the winner that Monday.

Mayor Partin stated that she and Council Member Thomas wanted to make sure to bring Dezyah in person so they could highlight all her hard work, but also so that everyone in Cayce could vote for her. Principal Lundy stated that if Dezyah won celebrity chef Daniela Soto Inez would come to Cayce and cook with Dezyah at the Innovation Center culinary kitchen. She stated that it was a huge opportunity for the community to have Chef Inez there and was very exciting.

Council Member Thomas told Dezyah to not ever let her age determine her impact on a community and to let her classmates know that they had greatness at Cayce Elementary. He stated that the community was behind them and wanted to support them. He stated that he could not wait to see Dezyah win.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the April 1, 2025, Budget Work Session, April 1, 2025, Regular Council Meeting and April 16, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Budget Work Session minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-04 Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Cayce by Adding Section 2-97 to Provide for Adoption of Proclamations and Ceremonial Resolutions – First Reading

City Manager Crosland stated that Council approval was needed to amend the City Code of Ordinances by adding section 2-97, to provide for adoption of Proclamations and ceremonial Resolutions. He stated that Council was often asked to recognize a group, business or individual at Council Meetings and the City currently did not have a policy for this matter. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to amend the Code to add Section 2-97. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that there were occasions when recognitions were meant to be a surprise and asked how that would be handled. City Attorney Dillard stated that technically, items were always supposed to be put on the agenda so if a situation arose where there was a desire for it to be a surprise, the agenda could be drafted in such a way to not give up the surprise.

Council Member Thomas stated that the business community had done such amazing things for the City and its churches and also entities outside of the City of Cayce made impacts in the City. He stated that this amendment would give them an opportunity to be recognized in the people's chamber, so then everyone could know what amazing things they were doing for the City. He stated that he was excited about the amendment and hoped that they could get full support for it.

Mayor Pro Tem James asked that his peers on Council, not take away from such a good thing by just giving away proclamations. He stated that they really should be worthy and if they started handing them out, then they would not really be worthy. He stated that when someone received a Resolution or Proclamation they should feel very good about it. He stated that the Greater Cayce West Columbia Chamber named an award for the public safety recipient through the chamber Setting the Bar after Drew Barr who set the bar. He stated that some months they went without giving the award because there was not something that took place that set that bar, but when something

did, then that award was given, and therefore it was received in the manner of appreciation. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call.

Mayor Partin stated that she should have asked the question prior to calling the question but she thought she remembered seeing two (2) separate items when Municipal Clerk Corder emailed Council the proposed policy for Proclamations and Resolutions. City Attorney Dillard stated that Council was sent a draft policy, not in Ordinance form and the proposed Ordinance greatly simplified what was provided for in those documents and made it a process that goes through Council requests to have items added to the agenda. Mayor Partin stated that she felt there was some language that was missing on the draft Ordinance and asked that it be reviewed before the Second Reading.

**B. Consideration and Approval of Resolution to Declare May 4-10, 2025, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week in South Carolina**

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve a Resolution declaring May 4 – 10, 2025, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Thomas stated that Council was so thankful and blessed to have Ms. Corder working for the City, serving on the Events Committee and being the Clerk. He stated that Ms. Corder was so helpful and she was the same with everyone. He stated that she gave that respect and attention to detail to everything that she did for the City and when one talked about what made the City of Cayce great, the City could not be great without Ms. Corder. Council Member Carter thanked Ms. Corder for all she did for him and Council and for the City which was the most important thing. He stated that she wore a lot of hats and did one fine job with City events as well. He stated that the Soiree on State was always a perfect event and thanked her for that. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Corder represented the City well and looked out for the citizens. She stated that she followed through and did a great job, not just for Council, but for the citizens. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**C. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Approving and Consenting to the Inclusion of Certain Property in a Joint County Industrial Park Within the City of Cayce, South Carolina with Continuing Conditions; and Other Matters Related Thereto**

City Manager Crosland stated that he would like to move this item to IX. B. Council Member Sox made a motion to move Item III. C. to IX. B. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Items for Discussion and Possible Approval**

#### A. Discussion and Approval of Purchase of Utilities Equipment Requests

City Manager Crosland stated that the Utilities Director, Ms. Betsy Catchings, was requesting the purchase of needed equipment for the Utilities Department. He stated that Council approval was needed to sole source the purchase of water and sewer equipment for the Utilities Field Operations Department. He stated that the Field Operation Department owned and operated two (2) sewer jetter machines that were used on a daily basis for cleaning lines and addressing sewer blockages that occurred within the system. He stated that one (1) unit had failed and could not be repaired but the second unit was 22 years old and still ran well. City Manager Crosland stated that it was critical to have a second machine in case there was an emergency call while the other one was in use. He stated that a Harmon model unit had been priced and cost approximately \$82,604. He stated that Field Operations was in the process of replacing their current Thompson pumps that were no longer reliable and were obsolete since parts for these pumps were no longer available. He stated that Godwin pumps had been purchased and were currently in use and had been very reliable. City Manager Crosland stated that the Godwin pumps were dry prime pumps and were specifically designed to automatically prime after the pump shuts off. He stated that the preliminary FY25/26 budget included the purchase of a Godwin pump to replace the Thompson pump but funds were available to purchase the pump now which meant pricing would be locked in and not subject to increases. He stated that Exlam was the sole supplier of the Godwin pump and they had the pump in stock and would cost approximately \$72,075.

City Manager Crosland stated that the Highway 321 booster pump station feeds the City's gas and water tank and operated on two (2) pumps, which was required by South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. He stated that when one (1) pump was down, the station was in emergency status and lead times for repair and placements were two (2) to six (6) months out. He stated that the preliminary FY25/26 budget included the purchase of a spare pump that would ensure the City was prepared during emergencies. He stated that funds were available to purchase this pump now which meant pricing would be locked in and not subject to increases. City Manager Crosland stated that booster station currently used Aurora model 421 A pumps, which had been reliable and it was proposed to purchase the same pump for the spare to provide continuity. He stated that the Mechanical Equipment Company was a sole supplier of the Aurora pump and the pump would cost approximately \$49,655. He stated that City Council could waive the formal bid process procedures established by Ordinance when it was to the City's advantage to sole source in certain situations.

Council Member Carter made a motion to waive the formal bid process to purchase a Harben Sewer Jetter Machine for \$82,604 from Utilities Wastewater Collection O&M, a Godwin Sewer Pump for \$72,075 from Utilities Wastewater Collection O&M and an Aurora Booster Pump for \$49,655 from Utilities Water Distribution O&M. Council Member

Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin thanked staff for being proactive.

### **Committee Matters**

- A. Approval to Enter the Following Committee Approved Minutes Into the City's Record  
Museum Commission – March 5, 2025

Council Member Carter made a motion to enter the March 5, 2025, Museum Commission meeting minutes into the City's record. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Appointments and Reappointments  
Accommodations Tax Committee – One (1) Position  
Beautification Foundation – Four (4) Positions  
Events Committee – One (1) Position  
Museum Commission – One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that there was an opening on the Accommodation Tax Committee and the City had received a potential member application from Ms. Ashley Lambert. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to appoint Ms. Lambert to the Accommodations Tax Committee. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Christy Corley, Ms. Barbara Lawson, Ms. Forrest Ryan and Mr. Ross Shealy's terms on the Beautification Foundation expired in May, they all attended meetings regularly and would like to serve again. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to reappoint all four (4) to the Beautification Foundation. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that the Beautification Foundation's Adult Spelling Bee fundraiser was so much fun. She stated that she knew several people who loved to spell so they should reach out to the Beautification Foundation and get a team together for next year's fundraiser. She called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Jean Boiteau's term on the Events Committee expired in May and she would like to serve again. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to reappoint Ms. Boiteau. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that there were several openings on the Events Committee so anyone that was interested could get a potential member application on the City's website. She stated that Ms. Pamela Sulton's term on the Museum Commission expired in May and she would like to serve again. She stated that she regularly attended meetings and was also a member of the Museum's African American subcommittee. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to reappoint Ms. Sulton. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that the Museum's Legends event was really amazing and well done, and one would get the answer to questions like, what



connects the City of Cayce, the Smithsonian and the Vatican? She stated that it was pretty amazing what a lot of the City's residents had accomplished. She called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that the answer to what connected the City of Cayce, the Smithsonian and the Vatican was Larry Levy.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Crosland stated that Glenwood Parks reopening was May 14 and invited everyone to attend play some basketball on the newly refurbished basketball court with the City's School Resource Officers. He stated that the formal swearing in of the City's Police Chief, Chief Wade, was taking place at the May 21, 2025, Council Meeting. He stated that the Cayce Police Department and Fire Department had been working to promote safety with the prom promise that was coming up. He stated that day was Midlands Gives and asked everyone to donate to the Cayce Public Safety Foundation. He stated that the Midlands Give Power Hour was from 7pm to 8pm and MPA Strategies would be matching whatever was raised. He stated that National Small Business Week was that week and the CWC Chamber had many events supporting small businesses. He stated that one was that day where Police Chief Wade was the guest speaker. City Manager Crosland stated that he submitted to Council the day prior his letter of intent to retire. He stated that he had over 28 years in local government and the military and he and his family thought it was time. He stated that he had accomplished many goals in his short tenure and felt that the City was in good hands. He stated that his contract stated that a 60 day notice was required but in his letter he put in 90 days out of respect to help find a suitable replacement. He stated that Council had requested a Special Council Meeting that Thursday at 4pm and he had asked Council to let him know at that meeting so he could make appropriate plans. He thanked Council for their support.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Partin stated that Jim Crosland really did the City of Cayce a service by stepping in when he was needed. She stated that he did not do that because he wanted the job but because he loved the City. She stated that Council was thankful for Mr. Crosland and all that he had done throughout his entire career at the City and wished him the best of luck in his retirement from the City of Cayce. She stated that Mr. Crosland had graciously given Council plenty of time to look for the City's next City Manager. She stated that Council would not have to rush that decision and could make sure that they got it right for the citizens. Mayor Partin stated that position had long been filled by men and women with a Master's in Public Administration and during her tenure, most City Managers had stayed for six (6) or seven (7) years, providing stability for staff. She stated that Council would work together to make sure that they found someone just as passionate about the City that its residents were and Council was.

Mayor Partin stated that Council knew there had been a lot of transition for the City team lately, but they would get back to the right place together.

Mayor Partin stated that the City was supposed to be working on storm drainage grants for the Karlaney Avenue Basin and asked staff to give Council an update on that at the next Council Meeting. She stated that most people probably did not know that the City now had an internal flame at the Police Department and she would love for the City's Victim Advocates to come and let them know about that flame, or whomever City Manager Crosland recommended. She stated that Community Development Block Grants were part of what might be getting cut from the Federal government and she wanted to keep that on the radar and asked that staff get Council a list of the most recent things that the City had gotten with CDBG monies. She stated that they found out recently that State funding was being cut with broad swaths but she understood that there might be some avenues to get some of that funding back. She asked that someone give Council an update on that at the next Council Meeting or if it was happening quickly, staff could email Council an update. Council Member Sox stated that there were some new numbers coming from the budgeting office on May 20, so he thought they were going to push the budget debate back out further so if those looked promising, there was an opportunity for that to open back up.

Mayor Partin stated that she would like staff to do a sign blitz in the City. She stated that there was a sign on Deliesseline that was completely covered with vines and there was one on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Frink Street that was covered up as well. She stated that signs were DOT's responsibility but it would be helpful to put together a list to submit to them. Council Member Carter stated that the sign at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Lafayette had been faded for years but the CMCOG had assigned a consultant to it and there was hopefully going to be an upgrade. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he wanted to make sure that they clarified that foliage and overgrowth fell within the City's Code Compliance team's responsibility but time after time the City had called DOT about the signage in the City. He stated that he got a lot of constituent calls and he let them know that signage was DOT's and he did not want citizens to think that was something that the City had been neglecting. He stated that when referring to the streets on the Avenues everyone needed to be consistent. He stated that some people said Oakland Avenue and some said O Avenue.

Mayor Partin thanked Mayor Pro Tem James for that important clarification. She stated that the list of faded signs would be a list that the City put together to send to SCDOT or Lexington County to take care of because the City did not own roads. She stated that they all belonged to the State or the County. She stated that she was invited to an event at Dominion for mayors and emergency providers about all the things that Dominion did to help everyone understand what they did for storm preparation. She stated that there was utility bill assistance for those who were in need and all one had to do was call them and Dominion would let them know if they were eligible. She stated that they had rebates and incentives so if one bought a new stove or refrigerator they

had rebates to help with that. Mayor Partin stated that Dominion had something called the White Cross Program for anyone who has special needs and in particular needed to be connected to power, for oxygen or different things like that, Dominion would help to make sure that they had that information in case there was a storm, they knew where to go and provide that support. She stated that a friend sent her an email from a realtor who she did not believe lived in the City, but she wanted to share the write up. "Greetings from Cayce. How is it already May all we can hope for is that the cool morning breeze sticks around a little longer before the summer heat becomes our norm. Just across the river from Columbia, Cayce has got this cool mix of laid back, laid back vibes, river front views and a growing local scene. Whether you are walking the river walk, grabbing a bite at a neighborhood spot, or catching a community event, there's something special about the way this little city feels like home. If you haven't explored Cayce lately, it might be time for a visit". Mayor Partin stated that the realtor goes on to talk about the City's Riverwalk, the 12,000 Year History Park and its great small businesses. She stated that it was great that other people understood who the City was and how awesome it was to live in the City.

### **Executive Session**

- A. Discussion of Lexington County economic development projects relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business within the City
- B. Receipt of legal advice relating to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
  - i. Zoning appeal litigation (1028 Michaelmas Avenue)
- C. Receipt of legal advice and discussion of proposed contractual arrangements relating to:
  - i. Spencer Place – Request for Letter of Support
- D. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed donation of real property (Tax Map No. 004652-08-012).

Council Member Carter 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. 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. Ratification of Prior Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Real Property by Donation of Approximately .50 Acres Consisting of Tax Map No. 004652-08-012

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to accept the donation of real property. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Approving and Consenting to the Inclusion of Certain Property in a Joint County Industrial Park Within the City of Cayce, South Carolina with Continuing Conditions; and Other Matters Related Thereto

Council Member Sox made a motion to postpone this item to the May 21, 2025, Council Meeting. 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 8:02pm.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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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**      **May 6, 2025**

[illegible]

**\*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.