

Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem Tim James	Council Members Phil Carter Hunter Sox Byron Thomas	City Manager Mike Conley	Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby
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**City of Cayce
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday June 3, 2025**

The June 3, 2025, Public Hearing 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, Police Chief Bruce Wade, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, 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

Opening Statement

Mayor Partin stated that per staff the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments and concerns about the budget being proposed and for Council to take Second Reading action on the budget. She stated that the full budget before Council, including General Fund and Utilities, was in that night's agenda packet, and was also detailed in the flyers that citizens received on their roll carts. She stated that Council looked forward to hearing from the public and one did not have to have signed up to speak during the public hearing. Mayor Partin asked anyone who would like to come forward to speak to please do so.

Public Testimony

No one spoke.

Close Hearing

The Council Meeting immediately followed the public hearing at 6:10 pm.

Call to Order

Mayor Partin called the Regular Council meeting to order and Council Member Sox gave the invocation. Mayor Partin stated that there was someone special in attendance to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that Ms. Bernetha Wannamaker was born in Orangeburg County and was still going strong doing

the work of the Lord. She stated that most of Ms. Wannamaker's adult life, she had been a helper to some and giver to others. She stated that she was also known as Miss B and moved to Cayce in 1956 to be a day worker for Mrs. Pound. She stated that Ms. Wannamaker had four (4) children - one (1) son, Michael, who was stillborn, two (2) daughters, Betty Ann and Elaine, who died at an early age during a lightning episode and Gladys, who lived until adulthood but died from cancer. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. B had a brain tumor, which was operated on a Tuesday and she walked into her church, New Life Missionary Baptist Church, on a Friday. She stated that Ms. Wannamaker had been a volunteer at Dorne VA Hospital in Columbia for 23 years and was still going strong. She stated that she was also a member of the Cayce West Columbia branch of the NAACP, from which she had won many awards as the Woman of the Year or runner up and a founding member of the Julius Felder Coalition for Change. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Wannamaker was the original chaplain, a position that she still held, and a member of New Life Missionary Baptist Church for over 50 years, many of those years as a member of the usher board and also as a Sunday school teacher. She stated that Ms. B was still working as a day worker and had been with the Seastruck family for 48 years. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Wannamaker was a prayer warrior, a visitor to the sick and needy, a dutiful missionary and a friend to all. She stated that her motto was "I'm just a child of God trying to get home."

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the May 6, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, May 8, 2025, Special Council Meeting, and May 21, 2025, Regular Council Meeting minutes as written. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Ali Walker – Item III. A. Ms. Walker thanked Council for the opportunity to say a few words to honor someone who had been an outstanding leader and a tremendous partner, Jim Crosland, who would be concluding his service as Cayce City Manager at the end of June. She stated that as a community partner that had the great privilege of working closely with the City, she could say without hesitation that Jim had set the standard for what effective, collaborative and visionary City leadership looked like. She stated that his tenure has been marked by clear commitment, not just to manage the City, but to elevate it in doing so with professionalism, integrity and a tremendous amount of heart. Ms. Walker stated that from day one, Jim had fostered a culture of openness and responsiveness, whether it was a large scale initiative or a simple question about a project, he made time to listen to problem solve and seek genuine collaboration. She stated that he understood that partnerships between the City and the broader community were essential, and he made those partnerships stronger. She stated that it was not an exaggeration to say that Jim had been a truly exemplary leader. Ms. Walker stated that over the course of his tenure, Jim had guided the City of Cayce, with integrity, vision and unwavering commitment to public service and his leadership had been marked by thoughtful decision making, steady stewardship and a genuine dedication to his job and

the people he worked with, along with a very good sense of humor. She stated that he had not only been a reliable leader, but also a trusted ally, someone who understood the value of working together to accomplish goals. She stated that his impact would be felt for many years to come, but perhaps most important, he had led with heart, whether working behind the scenes to ensure City services ran smoothly, or standing at the forefront during times of challenge, Jim had been accessible, thoughtful and a steady presence in both the calm and not so calm times. Ms. Walker stated that she would like to thank Mayor and Council once again for giving her the opportunity in this public forum to express her sentiments and speaking on behalf of the entire staff at American Engineering Consultants, Jim left behind a city that was stronger, more connected and better prepared for the future, and that was a legacy to be incredibly proud of. She stated that Cayce was undeniably better because of Jim's leadership and though they were sad to see him go, they were immensely grateful for the time he gave, the work that he had done, the example that he set, and most of all, for his friendship. She stated that he left some big shoes to fill and her hope was that the City would find someone to fill his position with all these amazing traits.

Scott Lambert - Item III. A. Mr. Lambert stated that he was one of the owners of Steel Hands Brewing and they had been in Cayce for going on seven years and prided themselves on being a great business in the community. He stated that they had worked with pretty much everyone at the City, including City officials, the Police Chief, Council Members, the Fire Department, as well as three (3) City Managers. He stated that they took a lot of pride in the City and that was displayed in their fundraising they did for events like Steel Paws, hosting free live music for the citizens of Cayce and the surrounding areas, and creating a family friendly destination for people really all over the country. He stated that they had visitors from all over the country come to Steel Hands. Mr. Lambert stated that the City's City Manager played a key role, from Rebecca Vance that first brought Steel Hands to Cayce, to other city managers along the way, and particularly things that City Manager Crosland had done for them. He stated that there were five (5) key points he wanted to touch on and the first was pro-business and being accessible and understanding the challenges that local businesses face, from permitting to operational issues, regulations to expanding operations and really working from mutual, beneficial solutions to problems. He stated that Steel Hands wastewater issue had followed them for five (5) years and they could not thank Mr. Crosland enough for his attitude. He stated that he came to them and asked how do we get a solution to this. He thanked him for being visible and engaging with the business and community. Mr. Lambert stated that was important for a City Manager and Mr. Crosland always displayed that with them. He stated that he was very collaborative and community focused, supporting local events, music, entertainment, parks, arts and attracting people to Cayce and that was enhancing the quality of life of the citizens and growing the economy. He stated that Mr. Crosland was always great at listening to what they needed and reached out to them. He stated that as a City Manager, Jim championed public private partnerships, was a visionary and also followed through, not just talking, but actually, following through with solutions. Mr. Lambert stated that what was next for Cayce was not just managing growth but also helping shape it. He stated that as Council searched for a new City Manager, the owners of Steel Hands wanted them to seek someone that

wanted to shape the community and shape small businesses and that also might mean taking a little bit of a gamble. He stated that Council gambled with them when they helped them acquire the property where Steel Hands was located and he thought having that kind of approach as a City Manager was very helpful. He stated that they had met with the City and talked about seeking out grant opportunities for things like the rail to trails and they would like to continue to pursue that. He stated that was something else that helped enhance the community for the City and encouraged tourists to come to Cayce and have a great time there. Mr. Lambert stated that they looked forward to the continued growth of the City.

Michael Mayo - Item III. A. Mr. Mayo stated that he was with Palmetto Outdoor, the local tube and tour outfitter, in the cities of Cayce and West Columbia. He stated that they were proud of the west side of the river and the opportunities that it offered. He stated that he was speaking on behalf of the company of Palmetto Outdoor, but he was also there to talk about Jim and the vision that he had for the City and his ability to work with not only businesses but the local community in creating events. He read a statement from Steve Cohen, a community member who was really passionate about helping the area. It read "I have been involved in the CWC chamber in many capacities for a long time. I can go on and on about the ways Jim has been there to help. But the one that stands out the most is the annual Christmas parade. Every year since we moved the start of the parade to the Cayce end, Jim has been there with us to help organize and get it started. From his role in law enforcement to becoming assistant or interim chief to city manager, Jim was ready with a can of chalk. He helped us mark the road and line up the floats. No other administrator or law enforcement person has ever done that. And now Jim and I live just outside of Irmo so if there are any events you need help with, I will be there for you if you ask." Mr. Mayo stated that Jim had done so much for the community, and it stretched beyond the limits of the City of Cayce. He stated that they had felt the impact all the way up north, and he was sure they would feel it all the way down south from here. He stated that Jim saw the potential in recreational opportunities, which they liked to refer to as recreational assets, utilizing the river and its riverbanks. He stated that they worked together to bring tubing and tourism to the City of Cayce with a recreational access point in the City that was just for recreational boats but now was open to tubers and kayakers. He stated that with the new Cayce kayak launch they were able to offer their guest the age limit being reduced from 10 years of age to six (6) years of age and would put many more families on the river. He stated that the trip was about an hour and a half long from the Gervais Street Bridge to the Kelley Jones Park, where the new recreational takeout was. He stated that there was no better section of river than the one that lies right outside of Cayce. Mr. Mayo stated that with more tourism the City could get more Accommodations and Hospitality tax funds to help fund more projects and more ideas to bring more tourism. He stated that more importantly, they were creating community assets in their backyard, and they like to say that they use recreational assets as a means for relocation. He stated that the more public assets the City had, the more opportunity that a family had to pick from when they decided to move to a new location. He stated that he was there to thank Jim for the time that he took and how available he was. He stated that Jim was quick to call him back and they worked together to find a solution and Jim had the patience to see a project to the very end. He

stated that he was excited to see what the City did with the next Administrator and he was there to do all he could to support that and carry on the vision that the City sees fit.

Chip Salek - Item III. A. Mr. Salek stated that he was a resident of Moss Creek subdivision and started coming to Council Meetings right after the last election to have a better understanding and knowledge of how the City was working and if there was any part that he could play in it. He stated that one of the first meetings he attended Jim came up and introduced himself and said call me Jim. He stated that in the brief time he had known Jim, he learned that he was a man of great integrity and had a great passion for the City. He stated that in all Jim had done, he had shown a great amount of compassion. He stated that he was very dedicated, worked hard and was extremely humble. He stated that the City's loss was someone else's gain. Mr. Salek stated that his hope was that the search committee for a new City Manager, would not only understand the workings of the City, but that the person that they chose would display the same type of characteristics Jim had.

Mark James - Item III. A. Mr. James stated that he was with Cypress Real Estate Partners and this was an opportunity for him to say thank you to Jim and how much he had enjoyed the last four (4) years they had worked together. He stated that his history in Cayce went back to 2018 and working with Jim was a breath of fresh air that came from working on things that came up along the multiple projects they worked on, whether it was a project on Knox Abbott Drive, Poplar Street or most recently, Hattie's Crossing. He stated that Jim came to all of those conversations with a spirit of collaboration. He stated that Jim's communication and follow up made it where he never had to follow up with him. He stated that he was grateful for Jim's leadership skills that he exhibited for the City's planning and zoning staff, which he thought were exemplary. Mr. James stated that Jim's ability to understand the vision and big picture that the Council and Mayor set for where Cayce was going was excellent. He stated that as the City Manager, Jim was the person charged with implementing that and the day to day workings. He stated that he was glad Jim was not going far and he appreciated everything that he had done and his hard work and commitment definitely made Cayce a better place to live, work and play. Mr. James stated that he had every confidence Council was going to bring someone in who was going to take the lead from Jim and bring some of those same skills.

Ben Kelly - Item III. A. Mr. Kelly stated that he was a relatively new resident in Cayce but had been born there. He stated that the City had seen a lot of change and had experienced some of that change in the last four (4) years. He stated that his business had been looking at Cayce from a development standpoint and he had been working on a lot of new assignments in Cayce, having started in West Columbia and helping to recruit some of the businesses there. He stated that he saw a lot of excitement and possibility in Cayce and Jim had helped with that over the last three (3) years, as had all of Council. Mr. Kelly stated that he hated to see Jim leave since they were just getting started working in Cayce but he wanted the opportunity to tell him thank you. He stated that they saw great things in the City and hoped that Jim's replacement was

forward looking, as easy to deal with and get in touch with and communicate with as Jim was.

Presentations

A. Presentation by Ms. Lynn Dooley, Director of Human Resources, regarding an Update on the City Manager Search

Human Resources Director Dooley stated that she wanted to give an update on the City Manager search. She stated that at the May 21, 2025, Council Meeting, City staff received comments from Council that were used to finalize the job description for the City Manager position. She stated that the vacancy was posted May 23, 2025, on the City's website and was distributed to several professional organizations and social media platforms to ensure broad visibility. She stated that the City was accepting applications through Friday, June 6, 2025, and once the application period closed, City Council would conduct interviews with the selected candidates. Ms. Dooley stated that she would continue to keep Council updated on the progress.

Mayor Partin stated that in addition to the interviews that were scheduled for June 6, 2025, Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Member Sox sent emails asserting that they would also meet on June 9 and June 10, when she was not available. Mayor Partin stated that the next City Manager deserved to be set up for success and holding interviews when any one of Council could not be there set a poor standard. She stated that she needed to ask for clarification if that was when meetings were going to be held. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he did not know that they even had any others at that point. Mayor Partin stated okay, so they just have the three (3) interviews on June 6. Human Resources Director Dooley stated that they currently had three (3) interviews scheduled for June 6 and the position was open until 5pm on June 6 so any applications received between now and that time would be scheduled at a later date, to which she had not been given a time for the remaining interviews.

Mayor Partin stated that this was probably the most critical decision that they got to make as a Council, choosing the person who would follow in Jim's footsteps and who would lead City Hall and every single one of Council needed to be a part of those interviews. She stated more than just hiring a City Manager, she thought they were presented with an opportunity to turn the page in Cayce City government, to leave the past behind, an opportunity that they ought to embrace. Mayor Partin stated that she could not think of a worse message to send to the public, nor a worst message to send to the new City Manager than to hold interviews when everyone could not be there. She stated that Council Member Carter had done a really good job with leading this process and getting a job description that they could all agree on. She stated that they did receive a suggestion from a citizen a few days ago sent to all of Council, but directed at the Mayor and the message was that the job description was incorrect. She stated that it said that it should not include the word Mayor in it, as the position of Mayor was a part of Council and it would be correct to say the city manager reports to council. She stated that it was also correct to say the city manager reports to Mayor and Council and neither

way would leave out the position of the mayor. She stated that this citizen had concerns that they were not operating within their form of government, or rather, what she thought he meant was that she had overstepped her bounds. Mayor Partin stated that as that citizen and everyone saw in the three (3) part motion made two (2) meetings ago, Council Member Carter was voted by a majority of Council to lead this process, which he did and had done a great job with as well. She stated that the vote was unanimous for approval of the job description as it was posted and all of those things are well within the City's form of government so every citizen could take pride in that, even though Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Member Sox directed Council Member Carter to change it, Council had not asked for that wording change to be added to the agenda for a vote so all the job descriptions should currently read Mayor and Council. She asked if that could be confirmed that was what it said. Human Resources Director Dooley stated that the job description had not changed.

Council Member Carter stated that the City's Ordinance stated that the City Manager shall report to Council and did not say Mayor and Council, and that was the reason for the question, he thought, from the citizen, but he felt they were making a big deal out of nothing. Mayor Partin stated that it was semantic, so they should just focus on hiring the best.

B. Presentation by Mr., David Sykes, with Stantec Consulting services Inc., on the City's Brownfields Grant Program

Mr. Sykes stated that Stantec was recently hired and signed their contract with the City for the Brownfields grant last month so they were in the early stages of the project. He stated that the Brownfields program was started by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 and it had grown into a very competitive program throughout the nation. He stated that the City receiving the grant was an excellent thing and Stantec was excited about the opportunity to work on it. He stated that the program was intended to redevelop commercial and industrial properties that were either vacant, idle or underutilized and so many towns across the nation had those types of properties. Mr. Sykes stated that the grant was there to provide environmental site assessment assistance through Phase One and Phase Two and do community outreach to educate the community on the importance of brownfields redevelopment and then also do clean up and redevelopment planning activities.

Mr. Sykes stated that Stantec hit the ground running and was working on revising the community involvement plan slightly that had been done previously to incorporate some new ideas for outreach such as getting the word out more that grant funding was available to those in the City to local realtors, developers, lenders and property owners. He stated that the EPA strongly encouraged community outreach under these projects so that was one of the first things that they started working on now under the grant Phase One and Phase Two environmental site assessments, as well as asbestos lead based paint surveys, and they generally made up about 75% of the funding spent over the life of the grant. He stated that any environmental due diligence project that occurred generally required a Phase One environmental site assessment and that was basically just looking at the history of the property and walking the property. Mr. Sykes stated that if Phase

One identified some concerns, then they got into Phase Two, which was soil and groundwater testing. He stated that when Phase One and Phase Two assessments were put together and they were hopefully working on 10, 12, 15, different properties across the City that was where the majority of the grant funding ended up being spent.

Mr. Sykes stated that one of the other things that they looked at and had success with in some other areas was redevelopment planning. He stated that they had an initial meeting with City staff and were looking at an area of the City around Poplar Street, State Street, Frink Street and 12th Street. He stated that those areas had some abandoned commercial and industrial properties so the redevelopment planning there would look at a broad reuse for the entire area and would also target some of the specific properties, or in particular, more intersections, and how to do some planning both short term and long term for the reuse of that and returning those properties to productive use. He stated that he was glad to come back to Council as often as they would like to update them. Mayor Partin asked if they had gotten an extension on the timeline since they came in after the project was already started. Mr. Sykes stated that it was a four (4) year project and they were a little beyond the halfway point so to get an extension they were going to need to show progress. He stated that EPA had provided extensions in the past to grantees but showing progress over the next six (6) months, in particular, to 12 months, would greatly increase the likelihood that an extension would be granted. He stated that he had mentioned early on in the project that he definitely thought the City would likely get an extension but they had to get things moving.

Mayor Partin asked what Council should know that would be helpful to business owners who might have a vacant building. Mr. Sykes stated that he thought it was very common for property owners to have a head in the sand approach. He stated that when it came to environmental issues, they were interested in selling their property, but they did not want to open it up to environmental things, because they were concerned about the potential that they would have to clean something up. He stated that in reality, most all lenders today required at least a Phase One environmental site assessment so if one wanted to sell it, they were going to have to deal with it at some point and the City had the funding to assist those property owners with the Phase One assessment and Phase Two assessment. He stated that it was a benefit to the property owner and a benefit to the purchaser and although it was City funding, this particular grant could provide funding for a private purchaser and a private owner and the City did not have to be involved in the real estate transaction to use the money. He stated that it was one of the common struggles that grantees had was getting property owners on board and willing to allow access to the properties to do the Phase One assessments. Mr. Sykes stated that they had talked about potentially having an outreach meeting with local realtors, lenders and developers to make sure they were aware of the grant and program. Mayor Partin stated that staff had a great list of all those vacant properties. Mr. Sykes stated that they were also trying to expand that list.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Discussion and Approval of the Accommodations Tax Committee's Recommendation for Distribution of Funding for FY25/26

Mayor Pro Tem James recused himself from this item, his recusal form is attached.

City Manager Crosland stated that this item was deferred from the last Council Meeting and Mayor Partin had requested return of investments, which were included in the packet. He stated that Accommodations Tax funds were broken down to two (2) sections of grant awards and then regional tourism awards. He stated that Council could approve, deny or alter the amount of grant requests outlined in the recommended budget. Mayor Partin thanked City Manager Crosland for getting what Council Member Carter and she had been talking about so that they could know what the return on investment was for tourism dollars. She stated that it did not look like the Cayce West Columbia Chamber's data was submitted for the current year. Municipal Clerk Corder stated that the Chamber did not submit an application but thought they did submit a return on investment. Mayor Partin stated that there were two (2) forms, one (1) from Experience Columbia and the other from Lake Murray Country. She stated that they only had a letter from the Chamber and it did not talk about any of their staff or return on investment. Municipal Clerk Corder confirmed that was all that the City received. Mayor Partin stated that it appeared that the letter was the previous year's data. She stated that Council Member Thomas was involved with the Chamber and asked if it was true that they did not have dedicated staff for tourism but instead a volunteer committee for tourism. Council Member Thomas stated that they discussed this least year and stated that they had a Visitors Tourism Committee, but that committee did not make the decision for the Chamber. He stated that the Committee just helped give ideas on ways to promote the Cayce and West Columbia area. He stated that the Chamber staff handled that type of stuff. Mayor Partin stated that they were not dedicated tourism staff, like what the other two agencies entered. Council Member Thomas stated that to his knowledge their staff handled both.

Mayor Partin stated that brought up a really good point. She stated that she saw in the Chamber's letter that they made a point to use their resources as a Chamber and Visitor Program to highlight all area businesses but she knew that the City had a number of small businesses who were really struggling and would love that help, but they had the sense that they would not get any help unless they were a chamber member, but the letter stated that they highlighted all area businesses. Council Member Thomas stated that he was sure that they handled all businesses but of course it was membership driven. Mayor Partin stated that they needed to get a couple of those small businesses in connection with them. She stated that she had heard from Trini Lime Caribbean Café that they would love some support as well as Teapot. She stated that she could look and see who else.

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the grant awards as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee for the Cayce Woman's Club, Tartan Day, the Museum's three (3) events as well as the Cayce expense for ad

specialties and stated that he would also like to modify the 30% earmark that went to regional tourism. He stated that the current recommendation was Experience Columbia to receive 35%, Lake Murray Country to receive 30%, and the Greater CWC Chamber to receive 35% and he would like to modify it to the Cayce West Columbia Chamber receiving 100%. He stated that after looking at the State statute and the Municipal Association of South Carolina's write up on how accommodations tax funds worked he saw that there were two (2) elements to accommodations tax. He stated that the State accommodations tax was 2% and then there was a County and/or local accommodations tax that could be added to not exceed 3%. Council Member Carter stated that the County could not impose an accommodations tax in the municipality without the municipality's approval. He stated that the City chose to do 3% for a total of 5% on the State side. He stated that if a municipality received \$50,000 or more in accommodations tax funds then it had to have an advisory committee but by statute, once the municipality received the State monies and put \$25,000 of it into the General Fund for expenses, you could then carve out the 30% earmark for tourism and that was what the advisory committee addressed. Council Member Carter stated that he could not ask local businesses to collect accommodations taxes on the City's behalf and then the City sent that money to Richland County and across the river on the other side of the lake.

Council Member Carter stated that he had studied the website and talked to people all over the County and 99% of the people agreed that the money needed to stay home and not go to other entities. He stated that he looked at some magazines and websites and saw some ads and a little posting when the City had an event, but day to day, he did not know that these entities across the river helped or not, and he could not find the events on their websites. He stated that those entities had things that they focused on and did a really good job on those things. He stated that the local Chamber had over 400 members and a big chunk of those members were Cayce folks and he could not look them in the eye and ask them to collect taxes and send them to the City to be sent across the river.

Mayor Partin stated that to clarify, the money did not go to the businesses, it was meant for tourism. Council Member Carter stated that he was saying that the money went to Experience Columbia and Lake Murray Country and they were businesses. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Partin called the question. Council members Carter, Sox and Thomas voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

B. Discussion and Approval of Hospitality Tax Grant Funding for FY25/26

Mayor Pro Tem recused himself from this item, see the attached recusal form.

City Manager Crosland stated that this item was deferred from the last Council Meeting. He stated that the hospitality tax funds were separated into the grant awards and parks and tourism. He stated that parks and tourism included some City events, the Parks Department operations and a new full time position for a Communications and Events Coordinator to be hired in January that would personally help Ms. Corder with events. He stated that it included purchasing Police Parks golf carts for the Riverwalk, a

replacement vehicle for Police Parks, another one for the Parks Department to replace a 2007 Chevrolet Colorado, a lawn mower for Parks, a replacement excavator for the Riverwalk and a trailer mounted pressure washer for the Parks Department to assist with keeping the Riverwalk clean. City Manager Crosland stated that Council could approve, deny or alter the amounts of the grant requests outlined in the recommended budget.

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the hospitality award list as written. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Carter stated that almost every item on the list had the word Cayce in it and he thought the Junior League of Columbia Pickleball event would be in Cayce as well as the Philharmonic event. Council Member Thomas stated that he had ran in the Cayce Woman's Club Hot Flash 5K the last couple of years and they did an amazing job. He stated that the run had grown and they just kept breaking records with attendance. He stated that the Woman's Club really encouraged the participants to go out to Cayce businesses and restaurants after the race. He stated that the Parade Day was one of the most exciting days in the City and he had heard that there were over 20,000 people lining the streets during the parade in Cayce and West Columbia, which was just great for businesses. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**C. Discussion and Approval of Proposal Award to Kimley-Horn for
Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Safe and Active Streets**

City Manager Crosland stated that Council approval was needed to accept Kimley-Horn's proposal for the City's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Safe and Active Streets and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract. He stated that the City sought a qualified firm to develop a comprehensive safety action plan to address critical transportation safety needs with emphasis placed on four (4) major intersections that had become known as safety challenges. He stated that these intersections included around the 3000 block of US 321, Knox Abbott Drive and 12th Street, Frink Street and Julius Felder and 12th Street and Frink Street. He stated that these locations had repeated incidents involving pedestrians and bicycles and Kimley-Horn's proposal outlined a comprehensive approach that directly addressed these locations, with strategies focused on improving safety, accessibility and mobility. City Manager Crosland stated that development of this comprehensive safety action plan was a vital step toward making Cayce streets safer and more equitable for all users. He stated that Kimley-Horn was selected as the most responsive, responsible proposer through the City's RFP process, demonstrating extensive experience in safety planning and community engagement. He stated that this was a grant that required a 25% match.

Council Member Sox made a motion to approved Kimley-Horn's proposal, recognizing them as the most responsive and responsible proposer and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute the contract. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James asked if there was additional funding to add to these particular intersections. City Manager Crosland stated that staff could look at programs later with SCDOT involving them and other grants after the proposals were completed. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he thought there were probably some other

intersections in the City that were extremely dangerous and the reason he was asking the question then was it was easier to add some funding to an existing project than to bring them back and have to start completely new projects. City Manager Crosland stated that staff could get with the vendor and pose that question. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that the intersection of Axtel and Knox Abbott had created some horrific accidents over the last couple of years and needed to be looked at. City Manager Crosland stated that there was a fatal accident there two (2) months ago. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that his suggestion was not to change the vote, but for Council to take into consideration that if it was cheaper to add to this particular program that they do that versus having to pay a lot more to bring it back in for one (1) or two (2) other intersections. Mayor Partin asked that staff get back with Council some answers and see what they said. City Manager Crosland asked Assistant City Manager Crosby to handle that. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ordinances

A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-05 to Adopt an Annual Budget, Levy a Property Tax, and Provide Revenue for the City of Cayce for the Fiscal year Ending June 30, 2026, and To Adopt and Establish Certain New Fees and Charges with Amounts – Second Reading

City Manager Crosland stated that nothing had changed with the budget between First and Second Reading. He stated that there were some identifiers as discussed in the past to include the 3% CPI for this year which was used to determine the percentage of increases for City services. He stated that he failed to mention during First Reading that the budget included \$25,000 in Administration salaries for incentives for staff that lived in the city. He stated that every year, staff would have to identify that they lived in the City for the year and they would receive a \$800 to \$1,000 one-time stipend every July to incentivize them for living in the City, plus take home vehicles and such for three miles from City Hall. Mayor Partin stated that she was assuming it was legal to separate out employees and give bonuses to some and not others. City Attorney Dillard stated that it was fine. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the budget. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Council Member Carter stated that he had a question about the Midlands Business Leaders Group line item for \$17,000. He stated that he had learned that it was an incentive by this business group to rename, market, and advertise the full length of the Riverwalk from the City's Timmerman Trail all the way to the dam. He stated that it was a two (2) year commitment budget item to be shared at a minimum with West Columbia, Columbia and possibly Lexington County. He stated that they were going to send this money somewhere else, to a company to promote and advertise and name a Riverwalk that in his opinion already had a name and it was Cayce Riverwalk. He stated that his question was how did items like that, new line items, get into the City's budget. He asked if the City received an email or letter asking for the funds. City Manager Crosland stated that the MBLG started last year sometime and the initial meetings were regarding rebranding the Riverwalk section from the dam all the way to back to Cayce. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that the MBLG had been in play for a long time, not just the last couple of years. He asked if the City was represented. City Manager Crosland stated that the City was invited to the meetings.

Mayor Partin asked staff to have MBLG come to a Council Meeting and give a presentation to Council about the project. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he would be more comfortable awarding that funding once they had given Council a presentation. Council Member Carter stated that he just spoke about sending money somewhere else and was now being asked to send money somewhere else. Mayor Partin stated that the MBLG was also coordinating the nine (9) entry way improvements to the gateways. She stated that was something that when she was the president of Ingenuity SC, they spearheaded and she made sure the City's was the first on the list. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that as long as there was a stipulation he was not totally opposed to spending the \$17,000 on something that's already named.

City Attorney Dillard stated that he wanted to make sure that whatever the vote was reflected the will of Council. He stated that if Council wanted to modify that or put a condition on those funds, there would need to be a motion to amend the first motion. Mayor Pro Tem James amended his motion to approve the budget, with the exception of the \$17,000 allocated for MBLG to hold it in abeyance for Council to later approve. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that Council Member Sox, at the last Council Meeting, gave some budget numbers about the one time retention bonus that staff got last year and she would encourage him to get City Manager Crosland to set up a meeting with Finance Director McMullen like he did for her, because what Ms. McMullen told her about that money was vastly different than what Council Member Sox shared in the last meeting. She stated that it actually included using some money that was a gift from the Boyd Foundation and another grant and she knew Council Member Sox would want to get that right. Council Member Sox stated that he believed it came from Ms. McMullen actually, so they could hash that out later. He stated that they could all meet and talk about it and see exactly where it came from, if they wanted to show Council where it came from or produce the documentation. Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter, Sox and Thomas voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

Committee Matters

- A. Approval to Enter the Following Committee Approved Minutes Into the City's Record
 - Cayce Housing Authority – March 18, 2025
 - Museum and Historical Commission – April 2, 2025
 - Cayce Housing Authority Special Meeting – April 8, 2025

Council Member Sox made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the record. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Appointments
 - Museum Commission – One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Will Britz's position on the Museum Commission expired in May, and he did not wish to serve again. She stated that the City had one potential member application on file, Mr. Campbell Mims. Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Mr. Mims to the Museum Commission. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Crosland stated that City's annual calendar competition was open through August 11, 2025. He stated that residents could now follow the City on LinkedIn and the City profile would feature new positions and City news items. He stated that Chief Wade and his Officers were hosting Cayce Character Camp July 14 through 24 and thanked the Department and the School Resource Officers for hosting the camp annually where local students got to participate in unique leadership and character driven events for two (2) weeks. He asked everyone to vote for the Cayce Historical Museum as Best Regional Museum and for Soiree on State as the Best Music Festival in the 2025 Best of Columbia in the Free Times. He congratulated staff on the nominations. City Manager Crosland stated that the Soiree on State was also nominated for Best Annual Festival in the State Newspaper. He stated that the Avenues Drainage Projects were in the beginning stages of construction and American Engineering was managing both projects and communications readiness. He stated that residents of the affected areas would receive door hangers, while the rest of the City would receive flyers explaining the projects.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas stated that he had partnered with the Cayce West Columbia Library and Village Idiot Pizza to encourage teens to read over the summer. He stated that teens in 9th through 12th grade could join the library summer reading program from May 30 to August 1 and would receive a free book upon completing the Reading Challenge, earning exciting prizes, including a free large pizza to be redeemed at any Village Idiot location for their entire family to enjoy. He stated that the Summer Reading kickoff party for this was June 10, from 5pm to 7pm at the Cayce West Columbia Library and Village Idiot was giving out free pizza. He stated that he posted on his social media page how Cayce Elementary would love for men to start getting involved with school and last month, he and some amazing other men and some women came out and gave high fives to the kids. He stated that the kids were so hyped up and so happy to see them. He stated that some of the kids had dealt with a lot and needed men to step up and be role models and mentor them. Council Member Thomas stated that there was an amazing program called Girls on the Run where girls were getting mentorship, but there was not a boy's program. He stated that if there were men in the community that loved to run and to mentor the future of the City, then please consider contacting Cayce Elementary and letting them know. He stated that Cayce Elementary was the only school in the area that served 900 plus kids and had an over 80% poverty rate. He stated that there were schools that had high poverty rates in the Midlands, but none had the size that Cayce Elementary did. Council Member Thomas stated that Council just passed a

budget with an increase of less than \$4 per month and doing increases incrementally gave families opportunity to hopefully get out of that poverty rate and it meant a lot to him to try to see what he could do to help.

Council Member Sox stated that the SCDOT released their 2026 resurfacing plan last week which included Airport Boulevard and Highway 302 all the way from the expressway to Charleston Highway and then up to the Subway which was very exciting. He stated that there were plantings that he believed were supposed to take place in the fall from the MBLG and he wanted to make sure that the City coordinated with SCDOT to make sure they were aware that the plantings were going to go on right before the road resurfacing. Mayor Partin stated that she believed that they were working in tandem.

Council Member Carter stated that when he received an email in early May from City Manager Crosland that he was retiring, it was a bit of a shock, but he wanted to commend him and thank him for the outstanding work he had done for the City. He stated that for the first time since he had been on Council in nine and a half years, Mr. Crosland made him feel informed and provided him with all the information necessary for him to make an informed decision. He stated that Mr. Crosland included and kept all of Council up to date on any and all issues pertaining to City Council matters and that had not always been the case. He stated that first and foremost, Mr. Crosland always put the employees first in his decisions and never yielded or capitulated from that standard and allowed each employee to engage with Council, which was much appreciated. Council Member Carter stated that while Mr. Crosland's tenure might have been short, he could label it overwhelmingly successful by the words he heard from everyone that night. He stated that was the partnerships and relationships Mr. Crosland formed with local and regional partners. He stated that for the past 10 months, he had the opportunity to meet and engage with a lot of those stakeholders and partners in the community, and they all said one thing, that Mr. Crosland was the best city manager the City ever had and the common directive was "Don't lose him." Council Member Carter stated that they did lose him, but he wanted to let the employees and citizens know that Mr. Crosland gave Council adequate notice in early May, and while the timeline was shrinking, they were going to do everything they could in a timely manner to make the right decision. He stated that Council would find the next leader and it was going to be the right leader. He stated that Council appreciated the rest of staff picking up the void and continuing the good work that all the people in the City did.

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. Discussion of Employment Matter – City Manager Position

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

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Thomas made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Sox 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. Other

No action was taken in follow up to Executive Session.

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 7:44pm.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

COUNCIL MEETING SPEAKERS' LIST

[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.

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Tim James

Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

Agenda Item: Section IV. Number A & B

Topic: Approval of the Accommodations Tax Committee's Recommendation for Distribution of Funding for FY25/26

Approval of Hospitality Tax Grant Funding for FY25/26

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:

☐ Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

☐ Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

☒ Other: Employment

June 3, 2025

Date


Member Signature

Approved by Parliamentarian:
