



Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem James E. Jenkins	Council Members Phil Carter Tim James Hunter Sox	City Manager Tracy Hegler	Assistant City Manager Jim Crosland
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**City of Cayce  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

The January Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom video and conferencing software. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem James Jenkins and Council Members Phil Carter, Tim James and Hunter Sox. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Assistant City Manager Jim Crosland, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, IT Director Jamie Beckham, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley and City Attorney Danny Crowe 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 Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

Mayor Partin stated that anyone that wished to speak about an item on the agenda needed to use the raised hand function. Ms. Corder asked Mayor Partin if she would like her to read the names of the people who she was able to see with a raised hand. Mayor Partin stated yes and reminded people that they would need to raise their hand by the button at the bottom of the screen that said reactions, and hit the raised hand button, or if on the phone star (\*) 9. Ms. Corder stated that Mr. Danny Creamer, Ms. Pamela Sulton, Ms. Jessica Johnston, Mr. David Brinkman, and Nancy, no last name, had activated the raise hand function. Council Member Sox stated someone had their hand up and it appeared he was not able to activate the raise hand function. Ms. Corder asked if it was Mr. Archie Moore. Council Member Sox stated that it looked like it was Archie Moore. Ms. Corder asked Mr. Moore if he could hear her and if he wanted to speak during Public Comment. Mr. Moore replied yes to both. Ms. Corder stated that she added him to the list of speakers.

Mayor Partin stated that she appreciated staff helping to navigate these unusual times and thanked everyone for navigating technology. Mayor Partin stated that when names were called the person would get a message from the IT Director to unmute themselves and at that time they could unmute themselves to share their comments regarding items on the agenda and then mute themselves once they were done.

Danny Creamer, Item IV. B. Mr. Creamer stated he would be speaking on the Museum Commission issue, but also a much broader issue. He stated he had been a citizen of Cayce all his life and it was a great community that had great people and great leadership. He stated that over the last several months he had seen some animosity and some rough going at the council meetings and he knew it was not just him, as he was hearing people say the same things that he was hearing. He said he was there to voice the opinion of the citizens of Cayce. He said that the citizens elected every one of the individuals, District

1, District 2, District 3, District 4 and the Mayor to run the City and they had done a masterful job, but over the last several months there had been some contention and some uneasiness. Mr. Creamer stated that watching the meetings via Zoom and in person, one could see body language, facial expressions, and flushness of faces when things were discussed back and forth between Council. He stated that people were all human, but fortunately the City had elected the five people that they thought were the cream of the crop in the community to lead and that was all he was requesting. He stated that there had to be compassion, diversity, uniformity, compromise, and diplomacy. He stated he felt he had seen a few times that things were brought up during a council meeting by Council Members that the others had no knowledge of. He stated that if that was true then it was totally wrong because people were elected to represent people seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year. Not just on Tuesday evening, the second Tuesday of each month. Mr. Creamer stated that if he was wrong then he invited a correction. He stated that he charged each Council Member and Mayor Partin to get the unity back and get to be one oiled machine because united we stand and divided we fall. Mr. Creamer stated God bless our great City and our great leadership and thanked Council.

Pamela Sulton, Item IV. B. Ms. Sulton stated that Mr. Crowe's investigation was very thorough with a lot of points that were brought out. She stated that she was asking that the leadership and committee members take into consideration that when something was done in a business fashion and form and an investigation needed to be done, there were things that were brought out and actions needed to be taken on the items that were brought out. She stated that in order to progress they must move forward. She stated that digressing did not bring forth unity, as Mr. Creamer said, and that unity came from working together. Ms. Sulton stated that Cayce had always been a very diverse community and that diversity needed to be represented in every aspect. She stated that the communities and individuals had so much to offer as far as history was concerned. She stated that the history was the compilation of all the individuals in a place, a city, a town, and that kind of history needed to be complete. She stated that through these meetings the City was able to make sure that diversity existed, and had always existed. She stated that it needed to be represented in all forms and there were so many ways to do that but the way not to do that was to be where there was conflict. Ms. Sulton stated that people could speak and agree to disagree but she asked that everyone, if they had or had not read the investigation, to put meat to teeth because it had a lot of points that were brought out and needed action items taken.

Jessica Johnston, Item IV. B. Ms. Johnston stated she had the chance to go by the Cayce Museum recently and wanted to take a moment to share her support for the Museum itself. She stated that she was proud that the City actually had a museum, a place not to enshrine but remind us. She stated that she was not sure how many cities in South Carolina had a museum and that was something that set Cayce apart. She stated that she was in her fifties and had become more and more interested in her ancestry and history in general. She stated that as she mentioned earlier she had

visited the Museum and the grounds and found it fascinating to look back in time, even with the buildings to see what was back then versus now and to see how ancestors lived. Ms. Johnston stated that the Revolutionary War was the turning point for the nation because we had some bits of history from that time and it would be a shame to ever lose it. She stated that it fascinated her that we walk in the steps of our ancestors and those who fought for our country centuries ago every day on this land called Cayce. She stated that hearing was one thing but seeing engaged the senses and imprinted on the mind how far we had come. She stated that her family claimed to have ties to Native Americans so she had an interest in Native American history and to see that the Museum had an 8,000-piece exhibit related to Native American History was phenomenal to her. She stated that it was so important to the residents and kids in the community to know the history, good and bad, that informed and involved their future. Ms. Johnston stated that she knew there were ways to improve the Museum's exhibits and its oversight but those were things that could be worked through. She stated that preservation was what she was getting at and wanted to ask Council to not to let their story be lost historically there in Cayce.

David Brinkman, Item IV. B. Mr. Brinkman stated that it was time to get a little positive about things, especially the things coming out of the current situation. He stated that the news media loved to focus on negative things and he would like to move on. He stated that he thought Council and Mayor Partin had made some good appointments to the Museum Commission. He stated that he was one of the Museum Commissioners and he thought they needed an opportunity now to turn things positive and get to work. He stated that at the last Museum Commission meeting they talked about a lot of good things from the new and the old members and he would just like to see it all positive now.

Nancy Drew, Item IV. B. Ms. Drew stated that she received the envelope that Ms. Corder mailed her. She thanked Council for providing a virtual venue for the meeting and stated that she hoped that the virtual venue would continue while COVID was a problem situation so that people with a disability, such as herself, could enjoy attending and participating in City services without fear or stress that agitated disabilities that were already a problem for them. Ms. Drew stated that the Museum meant a lot to her and her family over the years. She stated that she remembered when it was built, while Mr. Archie Moore was Mayor, and that she had family traditions that she participated in that were around the Museum. She stated that it took a lot of work from a lot of volunteers who consistently showed up and consistently did the work that they did to make all of those memories for her family and she thanked everyone and honored all for the work that they did and she appreciated it so much. She stated that she hoped and prayed that the Museum could continue moving forward while honoring the past and building towards the future. She stated that she was very sure there were ways for exhibits to be added, cosmetic changes to be made, expansions to take place and for people to come together as one. She stated they could be reconciled and find ways through conflict so that creativity and production and productivity could return without

stress and conflict. She stated that she was pleased to see the South Carolina Human Affairs Speaker was there and she looked forward to hearing what she had to say that night. She stated that she was familiar with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and was familiar with the mediation and conciliation program because when she was in the school system she was involved in conflict resolution and helped develop a program there for the students. She stated she was very sure that if the adult citizens could come together and do what those kids did then they would be successful in finding a way through what had in some ways become quicksand and mire. She stated that there was a clear road ahead and all they had to do was look for it and help each other get to it and move forward. Ms. Drew stated that if it was possible to do so and if it would help resolve issues then Council should call on the resources of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission through their mediation and conciliation program and come together. She stated that would give them an outside source, unbiased, that could possibly help iron out some of the difficulties.

Archie Moore, Item IV. B. Mr. Moore stated that he had been involved with the Cayce Museum since its inception. He stated that he had seen the Museum go through a lot of phases from ground up and from building the exhibits. He stated they had several people who were the directors there, employees there, and they had some wonderful programs. He stated that they pride themselves on the Museum and the history of Cayce and they would like the opportunity to take the investigation results that pertained to weakness brought to life by the investigation, to make the right changes to move further in the right direction. Mr. Moore stated that he thought there had been some errors in the investigation but as time goes on sometimes things get lost in translation and he thought that was probably the case here. He stated that as Chair of the Museum Commission he asked that Council approve the staff recommendation that the City Manager work with the commission to continue to build on their work to create a more inclusive exhibit program along with aiding in updating the bylaws through collaboration with the Commission to continue to improve their role with the Museum. Mr. Moore stated that one thing that particularly disturbed him was that they did not have a very large significant exhibit dedicated to the African American citizens of Cayce. He stated that this was not intentional. He stated that they had worked for many years with the Black community and for one reason or another some of these plans had not been able to come to fruition. He stated that in some cases it was due to the fact that the people they were working with had passed away. He stated that they wanted to work on that matter and it was foremost in their minds. He stated that he thought they could do something that would make everyone proud moving forward.

Mayor Partin thanked staff for making it so easy for the residents that wanted to speak during Public Comment. She stated that she and Council appreciated it.

## **Presentations**

- A. Presentation by Ms. Danielle Lindley with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission re the Commission's Services and Available Resources and

## Training

Ms. Lindley shared her screen so everyone could see her PowerPoint presentation. She stated that she was the Community Relations Consultant for the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. She stated that they were a State agency that was dedicated to preventing and eliminating unlawful discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age and disability, thereby promoting harmony and the betterment of human affairs for all people. She stated that the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission was established in 1972 by the General Assembly under Governor John C. West, and that was in response to a period of racial unrest that was really prevalent during the 60's and 70's. She stated that they were legislatively authorized to take preemptive actions to address race relations, racism, and civil unrest. In 1964 there was the passing of the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act which prohibited discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. She stated that in 1968 at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg student protestors were demonstrating against segregation at a local bowling alley. Three of the protestors, all African American males, were killed by South Carolina Highway Patrol at the time.

Ms. Lindley stated that in 1969 at MUSC in Charleston, African American healthcare workers went on strike for several months in response to pay inequality, racial discrimination in the workforce and racial segregation in the hospital. She stated that in 1970 Darlington County was under a Federal Order to integrate its schools. A bus of African American students were heading to Lamar High School when a mob of men overturned the bus. She stated that all of these events led up to the General Assembly establishing the Human Affairs Commission as an agency in 1972 to keep the Federal government out and as a way to solve problems at a more local level.

Ms. Lindley stated that the agency enforced various laws - the Human Affairs Law, the Housing Law, the Equal Enjoyment and Privileges to Public Accommodations, the Pregnancy Accommodations Act, the Lactation Support Act, and any of the Federal Laws prohibiting discrimination. She stated that the South Carolina Human Affairs Law was implemented to promote harmony and the improvement of Human Affairs in South Carolina, and to allow for the maximum development of the state economically, educationally, and socially. She stated that it was done in several ways. She stated that primarily they investigated and attempted to resolve charges alleging unlawful discrimination, whether in housing, employment, or public accommodations. She stated that they monitor the affirmative action efforts of state government agencies, provide training and technical assistance to employers and conduct studies of problems which threaten the objectives of the law, all in order to promote community relations and interracial harmony.

Ms. Lindley stated that there were two (2) sides to the agency, the compliance side and the consultative services. She stated that the compliance side included

working with Federal Partners, the EEO and the HUD, to investigate and resolve charges of alleged discrimination. She stated that the Consultive Services was the prevention side and included the community relations department and technical services and training which was the department that does the monitoring of affirmative action plans and conducts employer training and D.E.I as well as public accommodations investigations.

Ms. Lindley stated that as Ms. Drew mentioned earlier they did partner with Midlands Mediation Center for reconciliation purposes. She stated that in accordance with State Law the Community Relations Division was created to encourage a local resolution of problems and to foster better community and race relations throughout the State. She stated that upon request they created and empowered Community Relations Councils and entities across the state to address these problems in Human Affairs. She stated that a Community Relations Council (CRC) was comprised of representative citizens across a diverse cross section of the population to study problems in their community and make recommendations to SCHAC. She stated that CRCs produced an annual report to them on race relations in their communities and any methods of resolutions that they choose to address them with.

Ms. Lindley stated that they had divided the state into 6 (six) regions based on the South Carolina Emergency Management. Division. She stated that currently they had three (3) Community Relations Consultants with a fourth on the way. She stated that she covered regions one (1), three (3), and six (6), which was primarily the Midlands and a little bit of the Upstate. She stated that the current CRC's in South Carolina were Greater Columbia, Allendale, Anderson, Beaufort, Greenville, Lancaster, McCormick, the City of Myrtle Beach, the City of Rock Hill, Orangeburg, and Aiken. Ms. Lindley stated that some of these councils were county wide but some of them were also created with the support of the City. She stated that they had recently revamped their programs and began a new program of assistance where they visit every county in the state to provide information of their services, who they are, what they do, and how they can assist. Ms. Lindley stated that they did this by way of community meetings. She stated that at these meetings they would have one (1) of their employment intake officers there to speak with the community about the process to file charges of alleged discrimination and address any actions pertaining to that process. She stated that if there was interest they typically return to the community within 14 days to meet with individuals who need to access these services.

Ms. Lindley stated that their goal was to visit all 46 counties within a year's time and host meetings in each county. She stated that on January 26, 2022, they would be at the Cayce – West Columbia Library for a community meeting. She stated that in light of COVID they made the meeting a hybrid event so if people wanted to come in person they could but if they wanted to attend virtually, they had an Eventbrite set up so they could register that way. She stated that it was completely free and they would love if members of the community and Council would attend. She asked them to share it with

their network, the community and anyone they felt would benefit. Ms. Lindley invited everyone to follow them on social media and offered to send the link out in a manner that anyone could click on. Mayor Partin thanked Ms. Lindley and asked her to tag her on the social media post about the event so that she could push it out further.

### **Items for Discussion and Possible Approval**

#### **A. Bid Award – Engine Repair for City Sanitation Truck**

Ms. Hegler stated that the City's 2007 Mack Sanitation Truck had a catastrophic engine failure. She stated that it had 131,000 miles and 21,266 engine hours. She stated that however, the truck body and the rest of the truck were in great condition and they had been advised that it had many more years of service if they were to repair the engine. She stated that staff received two (2) quotes from companies that could offer a three (3) year, 350,000 miles warranty for remanufactured engines. She stated that they would repair it and rebuild it. She stated that Vanguard Truck Center's quote was \$35,494 and Shealy Truck Center was \$35,214. Ms. Hegler stated that they were quite comparable and close in quote. She stated that the City had worked with Shealy before and knew their work. She stated that they were local and the lowest most responsive bidder so staff was asking for Council's approval to select Shealy Truck Center to complete the engine repairs not to exceed \$35,214.

Ms. Hegler stated that this was an unbudgeted expense that the City did not anticipate for this year. She stated that staff was requesting that Council approve it coming from the unrestricted fund balance and if they had any savings in the line item for the Sanitation Department staff would use those first. She stated that just to be safe they were asking that Council allow it from the fund balance and allow the City to enter into that work with Shealy so the truck could get back on the road.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve the selection of Shealy Truck Center in Columbia for completing the engine repairs for the 2007 Mack Sanitation Truck, in the amount not to exceed \$35,214 and to approve the funds being moved from the unrestricted funds balance. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which unanimously approved by roll call vote.

#### **B. Discussion and Approval of Certain Action Items Concerning the Museum Commission**

Ms. Hegler stated that staff had put forward two (2) requests that came out of Mr. Crowe's investigation report that Council would recall was also seeking to look at whether there were any broader negative attitudes on the Museum Commission or to report any other information or conclusions that he obtained during the interviews. She stated that one (1) of Mr. Crowe's five (5) summaries that he had was that the Museum was described by some during those interviews as failing to depict in a meaningful

fashion the history of African Americans in the City. She stated that she thought a few people had addressed that earlier in the meeting as well. She stated that to address this the City might wish to consider affirmative efforts to achieve an appropriate reflection of the City's racial and cultural diversity and history of Museum exhibits and programming. She stated that Mr. Crowe further noted that he learned there had been efforts from certain Museum Commissioners to oppose efforts by City staff to refresh or revise those exhibits and that a current Museum employee had made great strides in those areas particularly with the creation of the African American Committee. Ms. Hegler stated that there was some great work going on as there always had been. She stated that the new Commission members appointed by Council were more diverse in their backgrounds and experience and were playing a significant positive role on the Commission.

Ms. Hegler stated that another one of Mr. Crowe's summary conclusions was that Council might wish to create new Ordinances to clarify that to accord with the City's form of government that the City Manager through City Administration was responsible for operation and management of the Museum, specify the role of the Museum Commission as advisory in nature, and address the development, management, and operation of other City historical sites. She stated that Mr. Crowe offered the above as a way to address any confusion or misperceptions regarding the role and responsibility of the Museum Commission as he heard during some of his interviews. She stated that he based that conclusion on, among other things, hearing during more than one interview that certain Commissioners were antagonistic towards City Administration and purported interference, and that some held an inappropriate view of the Commission's roles and that they should be independent of the City. Ms. Hegler stated that while there was a lot in Mr. Crowe's report, there might be a number of action items Council should wish to pursue as a result of that. She stated that there were a couple of recommendations that staff thought they could bring forward to take an immediate positive action. She stated that they were not difficult to do and she thought they would have great impact and staff stood ready to do them.

Ms. Hegler stated that Council could ask the City Administration and Commission to recommend a process for examining and addressing the inclusion of the City's racial and cultural diversity and history within the Museum and its exhibits and programs. She stated that could be one action item. She stated that secondly Council could ask Administration to update the Commission's 1987 bylaws and work to properly define the roles and responsibilities of the Commission. She stated that this was a simple way to address a number of the things Mr. Crowe mentioned and do so immediately. Ms. Hegler stated that City Administration had embarked on this effort with the Commission, a strategic planning process was started prior to COVID that was really well received, and they were starting to make good progress. She stated that new members of the Commission had started that process as well as she attended their last meeting and stated they had some great ideas about how to advance the Museum, move it forward, while honoring its history in a way that is well within the City's Ordinances.

Ms. Hegler stated that other things Council might wish to do might require further Ordinance and actions. She stated that was not what she was bringing to Council that night, but those recommendations could be seen in Mr. Crowe's report. She stated that staff was recommending to get them immediately moving on some positive changes, if Council approved the City Manager working with the Museum Commission to recommend a process for including the City's racial and cultural diversity within the Museum's exhibits and its programs and that staff update the Commission's bylaws and incorporate the related recommendations made by Mr. Crowe for the consideration and approval at a future meeting, so those bylaws as they identify the roles and responsibilities clearly be brought back to Council, either by way of updates from the City Manager or action if appropriate.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve both parts of staff's recommendation. Council Member Tim James seconded. Council Member James stated he felt Ms. Hegler culled the report down very well for a first step. He stated that it goes in line with what was heard that night and it attested to the fact that it was pursuant to the City's Ordinance that the City Manager was the person who is responsible for all City departments. He stated that Ms. Hegler could work with the Commission on the bylaws so that through her work they could best define the roles and responsibilities. Council Member Sox stated he felt these were the right decisions to create positive change moving forward and he thought staff's suggestions addressed what they heard that night from some members of the public and Commissioners. He thanked staff for proposing this. Council Member Carter stated he concurred that it was time and it was a much needed step forward and together and that Council, as well as staff, and the Museum Commission paved the way for a brighter and great future for the Museum.

Mayor Partin stated that she appreciated the opportunity for staff and Ms. Hegler to work together with the Commission to make those bylaws healthier and functional. She stated that there was not another board or commission that was confused about their access to taxpayer dollars or their input on hiring staff, so she was thankful that Ms. Hegler would work with them to straighten those things out and make them clear. Mayor Partin stated that Council could do this, but she loved that all of Council was supportive of staff working with the Museum Commission to take ownership and pride in moving this forward and clearing up the misconceptions. She stated that it would then come back to Council for final approval. She stated that certainly it was great for all the Commission members who care about the Museum and want to take care of it and continue to thrive and get even better as they move forward. She thanked Ms. Hegler for putting together the suggestions.

Mayor Partin called the question and it was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that before they left that item she wanted to make sure that Council was aware of an email that was sent by the Museum Commission Chair to all

the Museum Commissioners the previous night at 11:30 p.m. She stated that she was really glad he was on board supporting how the City functioned and that the Museum was one of many departments that the City Manager was responsible for. She stated that it was tax payer dollars that supported the Museum and a City staff member that worked there but she wanted to read the email to Council so that they were aware of it as well.

“Hello Commissioners,

Hope you are all well. Please see the attached documents regarding the Cayce City Council meeting which will be held via ZOOM tomorrow evening, Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 6:00 PM. This is an important meeting, and it would be very helpful if each of you could attend and participate if you wish. Attached is the Report by Danny Crowe, City attorney regarding the interviews which each of you participated in. I cannot overemphasize how important it is that we stand united in an effort to resist this Rush - To - Judgement proposed by the City's Administration. We need to ask our Council to support us by delaying this proposed action until they and we have an opportunity to work together on this matter in a rational manner.

Also attached is the Council Agenda which includes ITEM IV. B. which is a Memorandum from Tracy Hegler to the Mayor and Council in which she has summarized some of Danny Crowe's statements which are his opinions, and which include a fair amount of mis - information.

Additionally, the memorandum contains recommendations which if implemented, would reduce the Museum Commission to a Committee status which would be of an advisory nature only with little ability to have any meaningful benefit to the Museum. Other recommendations on the Memorandum would also be detrimental the Museum and the Commission. With so much at stake regarding the future of the Museum we should have a seat at the table.

I have enclosed my rebuttal to some of the points in the Memorandum as well as some of Mr. Crowe's statements. I urge you to read the Memorandum carefully and please feel free to speak during the comment period at the Council Meeting. You will need to sign up to speak by using the ZOOM link on the Council Agenda page. Please call me if you need help with this.

Thanks,  
Archie Moore”

Mayor Partin stated that her personal caveats before she read the information that was supposedly refuting what the attorney put together, not as his opinion, but straight from valid interviews that he was asked to undertake by Council, she stated she didn't think staff could have come up with two better next steps from that investigation to

help move things forward and in such a collaborative way. She stated that this was asking the Museum Commission to work together with Ms. Hegler to take those next steps forward and make things better. She stated that was collaboration. She stated that there was not misinformation in the investigation that Mr. Crowe shared, as all that came straight from the interviews that he did. She stated that she thought it was terrible to say that the recommendations that came from the Museum Commission itself would reduce the Commission and keep them from having any meaningful benefit. She stated she heard some of the ideas and heard the excitement for taking care of the Museum and making sure it was more representative. Mayor Partin stated that those were good things and were not detrimental things. She stated that she felt it was a rational manner and thanked Council for not delaying that action. She then went on to read the rebuttal statements from the Museum Chair regarding the investigation (which are also attached).

“ITEM IV. B.  
Paragraph 2. Discussion

Regarding Mr. Crowe's conclusion that the Museum fails to depict in a meaningful fashion the history of African Americans in the city we offer the following:

The Museum Commission has for many years reached out to the black community to work on trying to establish exhibits regarding the history of the black community In Cayce.

We worked with Mrs Ruth Wise, a respected member of the community for many years. One of the key projects we were interested in was to write a history of each of the Black churches in the area.

We worked with a young Black lady from Cayce who was working on her doctorate at Baylor University. As a part of her dissertation, she was seeking information on The Wilkinson Home for Girls on Wilkinson Street in Cayce. We has several exchanges of letters and phone calls in order to get the information that she needed.

A man who was raised at the Guignard Mansion while his mother worked there contacted us several times and we discussed the fact that he wanted to write a book about his life experience living at the Guignard Place. We encouraged him and assisted him as much as possible. At some point we lost contact and We later learned that he had passed away. After some searching we found the man's daughter living nearby. Before her passing Ms. Judy Corbitt, a member of the Museum Commission and I were planning to visit the lady to see if her father finished his book. We hoped to get a copy of his book or his notes if the book was not completed.

These are just a few examples of our efforts to include The African American History in the Museum. The representation of the African American History is in our opinion still a viable and important project going forward.

The fact that the Museum does not have a large exhibit dedicated to the African American Contribution to our city is largely due to the lack of space and the loss of continuity due to various reasons mainly due to the death of some of the participants in these projects. We plan to address these problems soon.

1. Mr. Crowe's assertion that certain Commissioners oppose the efforts by City staff to refresh or revise the Museum Exhibits and rooms.

The truth is that recently the entire Commission decided to reiterate the reason that certain Core Exhibits which are significant, one-of-a-kind artifacts should not be removed. The Museum employee planned to place these important pieces in storage and replace them with some modern maps and graphics which would do little to interpret the history of the city. The Museum employee who was attempting to do this seems to be lost in the fact that the museum was thoughtfully arranged into different rooms which depict each period in the City's history. A correct tour will give the visitor a complete and interesting overview of the history of the City and surrounding area.

Mr. Crowe mentioned that the Museum Employee had created an African American Committee. The commission was in the process of doing this when we learned that at the very mention of such a committee, the employee circumvented the process and began to do this on his own without any input from the Commission. The Commission therefore did not create an objection in order to preserve harmony. One of the Commission members who was white, asked to serve on the committee but was told she could not do so. This was done without any knowledge of the rest of the Commissioners.

The assertion that certain commissioners are "antagonistic toward purported interference by the City Administration."

More than half of the current Commissioners have not been involved long enough to know the background of the Museum itself and certainly are not aware of the several years of a concerted effort by the Administration to micro-manage the Commission and the lack of respect shown to the Commissioners, some who have given decades of volunteer service to the Museum. I should mention here that the City Administrator refused to allow the newly hired Museum Director to assume his duties. Instead, the new Director was told he would need to serve a six-month probationary period and the newly hired Museum assistant was told that he did not have to follow instructions by the Director nor any of the Commissioners. This action by the Administration created a toxic work relationship which made it difficult for the Museum to make any meaningful

progress. The new Director's 6 months probation stretched into three years and he was finally forced to resign in desperation. This was a shabby, despicable way to treat an employee who applied for this job and expected to be treated fairly.

There seems to be a lack of awareness by the City Attorney as well as the current Administration that the Museum Commission was formed by the citizens who gave of their time, talent, and money to organize and build the Museum without the use of any taxpayer money. The Commission wrote the bylaws which was accepted into record by the City. The self organized Commission was recognized by the City Council in 1986. It was agreed by all that the Commission would operate Autonomously from the City Administration and the Commission has managed the museum successfully for the past 35 years without oversight or impediment until recently, when the Museum Commission seemed to be under attack by the City Administration.

There also seems to be a lack of awareness concerning a substantial amount of money in a fund held by the City. These are the funds that remained after the Museum Building was completed and exhibits were mostly completed. These funds were to be used at the discretion of the Commission but were kept in an account by the City for safekeeping. These funds were designated to be used for future buildings at the Museum.

In conclusion, I must say that the action proposed before you is a Rush-to- Judgement based on the opinion of the City Attorney who was paid to reach the foregone conclusions in his reports. In his initial statement to me he said that part of his investigation would be to determine how we could repair the divide between the Commission and the City Administration. I was glad to hear this since I had also hoped that we could work on this. It seems though that the outcome has become just a means to cast a further negative light on the Commission.

I would pray that the Council table the proposals before you now in order to do more research into this matter and to reach a means of working with all parties to reach a conclusion which will be fair to all and which will be beneficial to the Museum, the Citizens of Cayce and all those who have given so much of themselves for so many years. They and the public deserve no less than our best effort to reach a solution which will benefit us all.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Archie G. Moore  
January 15, 2022"

Mayor Partin stated she would like staff to look into all those allegations as she knew for a fact that a number of them were patently false. She asked if the Commission Chair knew that Council appointed Ruth Wise's niece to the Museum Commission, and if not she would not say who it was, but it would hopefully be an opportunity to get to know members of the Commission better.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated he had something he wanted to talk about, as he had spoken about it to Council Member James, and it was an item he had run by both the former Chair and current Chair to locate and identify the African American Cemetery on Foreman Street. He stated that it had never happened. He stated that he had documentation and proof and authorization from what was K&W Recycling Center that was in that area on Foreman Street. He stated that they had given him a letter and he could provide copies, but it authorized him and whoever else was needed, to cross their property and do whatever he needed to do on the property to locate that cemetery.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that he had another letter from Mr. John Trump, 12<sup>th</sup> Street Extension LLC, giving him permission to do whatever it would take to find that cemetery, but the Chair refused to help or put anything in place. He stated that the last letter gave him authorization from Global Plastic Recycling which was formerly City of Cayce property, but now was Steele Hands Brewery. He stated he had maps on where that cemetery might be, but the Museum made a lot of promises that were not held up when it came to African American people. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated he had a letter dated March 14, 2013, from the former Chair titled "African American Recognition of the City Museum" that praised him for how much he had done towards helping the Museum. He stated he had not gotten that help in return. He stated that he did not want that help personally but to help represent people that were buried after working and living in Cayce and they did not have that representation.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated he was grateful that Council made these changes and was going to make these changes to the Museum because it was a long time coming. He stated he was told about Roman Felder and where he was buried and that his headstone was torn up. He stated that he did know who tore it up or even where he was buried. He stated that the Museum knew all these things so they needed to put something in place to correct all these things when it came to African Americans. He stated that this was not anything new and was the same old stuff. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that all they had done was dig holes and tried to back fill it with changing the rules but it did not work that way anymore.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that he heard a lot of people saying we need to come together and we need to recognize everyone who had a little part. He stated that it did not make a difference how big a part it was but they needed to be recognized for it. He stated that it did not cost anyone anything to do that. He stated he had a long conversation with Council Member James about this and he knew what he was saying. Council Member James stated that they did have a long conversation a couple of weeks ago. Council Member James stated that as Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins was talking how saddened he was because he really truly wanted to have fruition come to it. Council Member James told Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins that day, one on one, and he would say it again in front of all these people that he would support him in any way he could. He stated that for them to move forward with the quest on this because it had sat on the

back burner for too long. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated he appreciated that. He stated that he had a picture of Ms. Wise at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Museum. He stated that he did know if she was recognized in the Museum with that picture but she should be. He stated that the picture should be enlarged and in the Museum. He stated that Mr. Moore's rebuttals mentioned the Wilkerson Girl's home. He stated that he had a lot of information on the Wilkerson Girl's home and that the home was named after Wilkerson from Orangeburg. He stated that Wilkerson High School was named for him and his wife. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that he had brochures and calendars about the home. He stated that all one had to do was put forth a little effort to put something in action.

Council Member James stated that he did not believe Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins was painting this with a broad brush because he has heard him say before that there was so many great things that the Commissioners, and different people, and the Museum had done but evidently things needed to be picked back up on. He stated that there were other items and sites that they certainly needed to spend some time to make sure that the history was preserved. Council Member James stated that there were these undue allegations that they heard of, or comments that they heard of. He stated that he was very happy that Council had unanimously recognized that the City Manager would move forward. He stated that he certainly believed and thought they all had faith that Ms. Hegler's work with this would bring back a great deal of items that Council would be able to react to and move forward.

Council Member Phil Carter stated that he shared Council Member James' and his disappointment with the dropping of the ball with the cemetery issues. He stated that he thought the Beautification Foundation had picked it up and tried to run with it. Mayor Partin and Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that was a different cemetery. Council Member Carter stated that there was one on Foreman Street about 50 feet from the one referred to at the Brewery. He stated that he heard that one might be back in the woods and asked if that was the one they were talking about. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that is was and stated that the map showed that it ran right beside Hunter Road, the road that was named after his grandfather, Eugene Hunter. He stated that it ran from Pear Street to Foreman Street and that cemetery was right off the side of that road.

Council Member Carter stated that while he could not help Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins right then he would be glad to hook up with them anytime and would be glad to help. He stated that he knew that Mr. Spires owned the property south of the Brewery and that there was a little cemetery there that was poorly maintained. He stated that there were beautiful names on those headstones. He stated that the one located on the brewery appeared to be taken care of but the one 50 feet south was not maintained, and he thought that might be the one Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins was speaking of. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated he has been trying for years, all the way back to right after he got on Council, 20 years ago. Council Member Carter stated that he knew the

gentleman who owned it and might be able to see what he thought about it. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that they would get together and thanked him.

Mayor Partin stated that just to reiterate she did ask staff to look through Mr. Moore's document when they received it, as there were pretty harsh accusations against the Museum staff, against the City Manager and she knew a number of those were patently false, so she would like to make sure that it was addressed. Council Member Sox asked that Mr. Moore's document be sent to Council. Mayor Partin stated that she would send it to them.

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

Ms. Hegler stated that staff was preparing for another potential weather incident. She stated that everyone was gearing up for that and making sure they were well prepared. She stated that she would like to give kudos when she received them about staff. She stated that a couple of weeks ago Council Member Carter received an email from Mr. Rhett Inabinet on Cypress Street. She stated that one morning a couple of weeks ago there was a windstorm and she and Council Member Carter received a phone call from Mr. Inabinet and he stated that a tree had fallen from his neighbor's property into the street and into his yard. He stated that City Police Officer Williams knocked on his door to let him know what happened and he would make sure Parks staff came out and removed the tree. Mr. Inabinet stated that the whole process took less than two hours and he was very appreciative of staff for taking care of it and he felt strongly enough to give his Council Member a call to tell him and he reached out to the City Manager. Ms. Hegler stated that she felt that it was a good staff compliment to give in light of some of the weather preparations.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Partin stated that at the last Council Meeting Council Member Sox egregiously and very incorrectly stated information about some people that he said were appointed on some of the boards and commissions and she knew he would want the opportunity to clear up that record. She asked Council Member Sox if he could clear that up for the record. Council Member Sox asked if she was asking about the people that they were speaking of that were appointed, from what he was told, on federal registries. Mayor Partin stated that he made a comment that there were two people who were on board and commissions, who were, and she stated she did not remember the word he used, but were sexual predators or something. Council Member Sox stated yes, that it was in reference to what he had been told, in no means did he say, that he backtracked on his statement when she mentioned that and said that he was under that impression after what he was told. He stated that he asked that Council continue to talk about these processes, he messaged Mayor Partin about adding it to the agenda, but also he did speak to Council having some sort of a work session around all boards and

commissions processes, so he would like that to be known that he would love to continue to do that.

Council Member Sox stated that he thought that they needed to create a more rigorous vetting process, and by rigorous he meant background checks along with Council interviews. He stated that he was open to any suggestions which is why he would like to have a work session around it and hear each other's ideas without it being "us" trying to take political jabs at each other as it seems that had been happening the past few weeks and months. Mayor Partin thanked him and asked if he was clarifying that he spoke erroneously about the two people on the boards and commissions who were sexual predators or whatever word he used. Council Member Sox stated he was given the impression that they were appointed and removed and that was what he was told. Mayor Partin asked who he was told this by. Council Member Sox replied by people he had talked to. He stated that he was told a little while back and what was said he could not remember because it was while he was campaigning. He stated that it was months ago, but regardless it was all the more reason that if there was a possibility that it could have happened they did not want that to happen in the future so why would they not want background checks. Mayor Partin asked to clarify that he had heard something on the trail, and then reported it as fact in a Council meeting, but he had not bothered to vet any of those "facts". She asked if that was correct. Council Member Sox stated he did not report that as a fact as he said that night. Mayor Partin corrected him that he stated it as a fact. She then thanked him for sharing that information with Council and asked Ms. Hegler to clarify for Council Member Sox and for the record if there were ever two (2) whatever word Council Member Sox used at the last meeting, sexual predators or whatever it was, on the boards or commission. Ms. Hegler stated there were not any to her knowledge. Mayor Partin thanked her and said that would be an absolutely erroneous fact and as a Council Member she would ask that he check those things as she reached out to him before every Council Meeting and asked if he had any questions as did the City Manager. She stated that was so if they could get him any information to help him to make sure that he had all the correct information, they stood at the ready to do so.

Council Member Sox stated he appreciated that but he would like to be respectfully heard when he asked that they continue talking about the processes or the possibility of a work session rather than it being shrugged off, not put on an agenda or no response. Mayor Partin stated that it was not that he did not get a response. She stated that it was put on the last agenda as discussion, so they did discuss that very item. Council Member Sox replied he asked that they continue the discussion. Mayor Partin asked if he wanted more discussion. Council Member Sox stated that he continued to ask for a work session, and nothing was continued to be said. He stated that he messaged Mayor Partin afterward's as she said to message her if he wanted anything to be brought up. Mayor Partin stated that was correct and they did have discussion about it, but barring any information about what in specific they needed to discuss further, they tried to operate pretty efficiently but if he had additional thoughts

that had not been discussed already as it was on the last agenda for him to reach out as she would be happy to talk to him.

**Executive Session**

- A. Receipt of legal advice relating to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege

There were not any items to discuss in Executive Session.

**Adjourn**

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk