

Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem Phil Carter	Council Members Tiffany Aull Byron Thomas Alice Rose	City Manager Mike Conley	Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby
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**City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

The December 2, 2025, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Carter and Council Members Byron Thomas, Tiffany Aull and Alice Rose. City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Allison Barrs, Human Resources Director Keisha Brunson, IT Director Jamie Beckham, Utilities Director Betsy Catchings and City Attorney Will Dillard were also in attendance.

Mayor Partin asked if members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the FOIA. Ms. Corder confirmed they were notified.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the November 10, 2025, Special Council Meeting and the November 13, Special Council Meeting minutes as written. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Mr. Danny Creamer – Item IX. A. Mr. Creamer voiced his opinion on the possible appointment of a new City Attorney.

Mr. Chip Salak – Items IX. A. and XI. A. Mr. Salak voiced his opinion on the possible appointment of a new City Attorney.

Presentations

A. Presentation of Cayce Calendar Contest Winners

Mayor Partin stated that every year the City had a photo contest for the Cayce Calendar that was given to all residents. She stated that Ms. Lindsey McDade's photo of Muffin, the City's miniature therapy horse, was chosen as the 2026 winner and was featured on

the cover of the calendar. She stated that the grand prize winner was awarded \$200 and the other winners were awarded \$50. She thanked everyone for their participation and advised that calendars were available to be picked up at City Hall

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Discussion and Approval of 2026 Council Meeting Dates

City Manager Conley stated that there were two (2) sets of proposed Council Meeting dates in the agenda packet. The first was the traditional first Tuesday of the month and third Wednesday of the month without any amendments. He stated that after talking with some of Council, there was an opportunity to move more towards one meeting a month as the primary business meeting as stated in the City's Ordinance. He stated that the current Ordinance stated that Council meets the first Tuesday and the third Wednesday of the month, unless changed by majority of vote by Council. He stated that staff proposed still having both meetings listed on the calendars and staff could put a line item on the agenda for the first meeting of the month, so Council could vote on whether a second meeting would be necessary. City Manager Conley stated this would allow the City to possibly transition into one meeting a month, if that was the will of Council and the Ordinance could be amended in the future if that was Council's will. He stated that Council could always have that second meeting of the month if there was something on the agenda that was pressing or they could possibly do a workshop. He stated that Council should put the second meeting of the month on their calendars but staff would notify them plenty of time in advance, if a meeting was not necessary.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the second set of Council Meeting dates. Council Member Rose seconded the motion.

City Attorney Dillard stated that another difference on the second meeting dates was the sentence that stated the second meeting of the month was optional, which was not stated on the first set of dates. He stated that he recommended not including that language and Council make the motion to strike that so it would not cause confusion about whether the second meetings of the month were formally set on the calendar, because he thought the intent was that those meetings were being scheduled, but the informal plan was to have a standing item on the agenda of the first Council Meeting of the month where Council could decide if they wanted to keep the second meeting and he felt that saying it was optional, could cause confusion about the intent. City Manager Conley stated that staff would remove that language.

Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of Updated Contract with Samsara

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to give approval for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Samsara to provide vehicle trackers and software for the City's fleet. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Discussion and Approval of Proposal Award for the 12,000 Year History Park Visitors Center Site and Construction Request for Proposals (RFQ)

Council Member Thomas made a motion to award the construction bid to Boyer Commercial Construction and the base bid amount of \$4,353,834.02 and authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract with the funding coming from the previously allocated funds dedicated to the 12,000 Year History Park project. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

D. Discussion and Approval of Contract Award for Water Treatment Plant Advanced Treatment Study

Council Member Aull made a motion to approve the proposal from American Engineering and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute the contract with the project being funded through the SRF principal forgiveness fund. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

E. Discussion and Approval to Ratify an Agreement Approved by the City Manager, Under the Emergency Powers of Sec. 2-146, with G.H. Smith Construction, Inc. and Carolina Paving & Grading, LLC, for the Emergency Repair of a Sewer Main Failure

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to ratify an agreement approved by the City Manager under the emergency powers of Section 2-146, with G. H. Smith Construction, Incorporated for \$51,890 for the repair work and Carolina Paving and Grading, LLC, for \$32,513 for the asphalt repair for the emergency repair of a sewer main failure. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ordinances

A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-09 Annexing Portion (1.86 acres) of Property Located at or near Charleston Highway and 2121 Old Dunbar Road (Tax Map Number 006896-01-002) into the City Limits Under the Provisions of South Carolina Code Section 5-3-150 (3) – Second Reading

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to approve on Second Reading an Ordinance to annex property near 2490 Charleston Highway and 2121 Old Dunbar

Road to assign a C-4 Highway Commercial Zoning Designation. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Committee Matters

- A. Appointments and Reappointments
 - Events Committee – One (1) Position
 - Planning Commission – One (1) Position

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to appoint Ms. Diane Arthur to the Events Committee. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to reappoint Mr. Michael Mahoney to the Planning Commission. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Conley stated that Utilities Director, Betsy Catchings, had been promoted to an Assistant City Manager. He stated that she did an amazing job for the City and was a wonderful representation of the City of Cayce. He congratulated Mayor Partin on the Women in Municipal Government Leadership Award from the National League of Cities she was recently awarded. He stated that staff was working on building a better Cayce project website and hoped to have it completed in the near future. He stated that Luke Godbold, the City's Development Services Director, had created an economic development website called choosecayce.com. He stated that it had a lot of really cool features and Mr. Godbold had done a wonderful job.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas stated that a survey of historic African American cemeteries was done in the past and it concluded that most of the cemeteries would benefit from additional vegetation removal or GPR testing. He stated that the City was looking at options for the City to be able to maintain the property at the Earl Cemetery. He congratulated Mayor Partin on her award and stated that while they were at the National League of Cities Conference many people commented on what a great Mayor she was. He stated that the Trump administration was working on sending money to the states to handle issues that the Federal government typically handled and it was stressed at the Conference that it was important that cities continue to work to have good relationships with their State and County partners, and, more importantly, their citizens as well. He stated that cities across America faced the same challenge of how to increase attendance at Council Meetings and stated that he wanted Council to continue to work together to increase their output at Council Meetings to educate

citizens so local government was transparent. Council Member Thomas stated that at the National League of Cities Conference it was also stressed regarding development, whether one was pro development or against development, but once it happened, everyone that sits on a dais should find a way to be supportive so not to discourage anyone new that wanted to locate in the City. He stated that the resurfacing of Lee Street had officially passed the Lexington County Public Works Committee, bringing it one step closer to being repaved. He stated that in September, the Cayce Planning Commission approved the renaming of Lee Street. He stated that it was going to be renamed after former Mayor Pro Tem Skip Jenkins and Eddie Brown.

Mayor Partin stated she got an attorney who worked pro bono to try to find out who owned Earl Cemetery because it was not a piece of property that the City owned. She stated that they would continue to try to figure out something with that property. She stated that some of Council and staff had the opportunity to hear former Governor David Beasley speak when he was given an award recently, and it was humbling and awe inspiring. She stated that he spoke about the work that he had been doing with the World Food Program around the world. She stated that he did a great job of putting things into perspective, of talking about petty squabbles and personality issues, not being where people should spend their time, and that everyone should focus on working together to take care of those most in need.

Executive Session

- A. Discussion incident to proposed contractual matters regarding possible employment of City Attorney
- B. Receipt of legal advice relating to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
 - i. Claim for Improvements to Taylor Street at New State Road
- C. 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 businesses within the City

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

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Aull made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session other than to adjourn and resume the Regular meeting.

Possible actions in follow up to Executive Session

A. Appointment of City Attorney

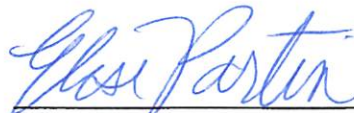
Council Member Rose made a motion to appoint James Smith as the City Attorney. Council Member Aull seconded the motion. Council Member Thomas stated that Mr. Smith had such a high reputation across the State and thanked him for wanting to handle the City Attorney position. He stated that Mr. James had served his country and was still serving his country. He stated that they had an amazing meeting and he got to tell Mr. Smith all the things he would love to do. Council Member Thomas stated that Mr. Smith had the votes, but he was voting no, not because of Mr. Smith because he had so much respect for him but he just wished the optics were different. He stated that he would be voting no because of how he felt about transparency and some things. He stated that he respected the process and could not wait to work with Mr. Smith. Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Council Member Thomas voted no. Mayor Partin voted yes.

B. Action regarding improvements to Taylor Street

There was no action on this item.

Adjourn

Council Member Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Aull seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.



Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

