



Mayor  
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem  
James E. Jenkins

Council Members  
Phil Carter  
Tim James  
Hunter Sox

City Manager  
Tracy Hegler

Assistant City Manager  
James E. Crosland

**City of Cayce  
Special Council Meeting  
March 24, 2022**

A Special Council Meeting was held this afternoon at 5:30 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, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Police Chief Chris Cowan, IT Director Jamie Beckham 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 Council Member Sox gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

No one signed up for Public Comment.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2022-05 Amending Section 2-144 of the City Code so as to Provide for Procurement and Contracts by City Council on a Most Convenient Source or Sole-Source Basis in Certain Circumstances – Second Reading

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-05 on Second Reading. Council Member James seconded the motion. Council Member Carter thanked Ms. Hegler for sending Council the information delineating the difference between Ordinance 2022-05 and the actions Council took in the past regarding sole sources. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution Designating Additional Allocations for Funding Received through the American Rescue Plan Act

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to authorize the Resolution. Council Member James seconded the motion. Ms. Hegler stated for public record she would like to go over the proposed projects in staff's request again. She stated that the City had received, as all cities, an allocation from the Federal government as part of the

American Rescue Plan Act. She stated that the City was receiving roughly \$6.9 million dollars in two (2) different tranches. She stated that tranche was an actual Federal government term. She stated that the City was in receipt of the first tranche which was \$3.4 million dollars. She stated that staff was proposing a several step process which she sent to Council in detail that day and sent it to them a couple weeks ago with a little less detail. She stated that Council's first action with that funding took place in November and that was to provide premium pay to staff that recognized their work during COVID and making sure that City operations never faltered. She stated that the pay to staff was transformative and they were grateful for it.

Ms. Hegler stated the proposal before Council was discussed at the Council Meeting the week prior and was what she would consider internal projects for phase two and things that staff had identified as urgent or were needed in some way. She stated that staff needed to act upon them quickly. She stated that phase three of the process would be to meet with Council and discuss the larger, longer range infrastructure related projects related to sewer, water, stormwater and particularly storm drainage improvements. She stated they would also discuss other projects that had been identified by the City for some time, whether it's been on the City's capital project lists, or things staff had been trying to work with Federal and State partners to help with because it's inventory that they own, but is a problem for the City's citizens. Ms. Hegler stated that those projects needed to be discussed with Council at length and then they could prioritize them however Council decided. She stated that seemed to be in line with what a lot of other cities were doing.

Ms. Hegler stated that a large part of ARPA and one of its biggest recommendations was to raise the City's lowest salaries. She stated that obviously this was something Administration would have loved to have done for years. She stated that with it being such a priority of the Federal legislation and being brought to staff as such and having the funding at hand to do so, staff definitely did not want to overlook that. She stated that the second proposed item was the SmartCop reporting software. She stated that the City's Police Officers were currently using a program for their reports that was literally dying so it had become more urgent to replace it. She stated that it was a one-time fee and once it was purchased it would be upgraded and receive updates just like one's phone did. She stated that the SmartCop software would make the Municipal Court and the Police Department operate more efficiently with their reporting.

Ms. Hegler stated that the next proposed project was called Axon. She stated that Axon was an integrated system of cameras, Tasers and other devices. She stated that it would make the Officers even more safe and transparent and the system was truly state of the art. She stated that it would make the Officers lives easier when they get back from the field because the data from their cams would automatically be uploaded to the cloud. Currently the Officers spend a lot of time inputting their data into the computer manually. Ms. Hegler stated staff would like to fund it through this year's

and the second year tranche and then would need to fund it for two (2) more years after that. She stated that it would constantly be updated as there were upgrades to the system.

Ms. Hegler stated there were two (2) Sanitation trucks that really needed to be replaced. She stated that they both had over 100,000 miles on them. She stated that the City had the opportunity to get a new truck in a few months straight off the line. She stated that was a big part of the amendment to the procurement policy that Council just approved that night. She stated that another proposed purchase was a street sweeper/stormwater culvert vacuum. She stated it would be used to clean the City's streets but would also be used to clean storm drains. She stated that it was a mitigation project in and of itself to help with some of the storm drainage issues. Ms. Hegler stated that audio visual upgrades to Council Chambers and the courtroom were also proposed. She stated that obviously Council would like to get back to meeting in person and the best way to do that was to be able to offer an option for people that could not attend the meeting in person. She stated that Council Chambers currently was not set up for that. Ms. Hegler stated that she looked forward to discussing other projects with Council in the near future. Mayor Partin asked if those discussions would take place in the budget meeting with the City's Department Heads. Ms. Hegler stated that was what she proposed because those projects were really the babies of the Department Heads and were known well by them and they knew how to describe them.

Council Member James stated that the minimum salary adjustments that Ms. Hegler spoke of was not something that Council was not cognizant of. He stated that one of the items ARPA specifically said to look at was minimum salaries and it gave the City the opportunity to do that. He stated he was glad that was part of the proposal. He stated that City leadership was extremely cognizant and recognized the needs of the City but in that also came with maximizing the dollars. He stated that what he was seeing looking through phase one, phase two and phase three was that while some people may think a timeframe was different than what they may want, Ms. Hegler was taking those timeframes to where they merge really well with grants, or other opportunities of money. Council Member James stated that staff needed to make sure that they had communicated very well that this was not something that happened in a vacuum. He stated that he appreciated Ms. Hegler looking at not spinning this because next year, the City could have some matching dollars and that may slow down a timeframe to somebody else, but it would maximize the finances in that timeframe. He stated the other thing in recognizing, certainly, in District One, and probably in District Four was stormwater runoff. He stated that in the current phase the Street Sweeper was much more than just that, it was also a storm water culvert vacuum, which everyone knew whenever drains get clogged it deterred the waters to go places that it should not go. He stated it was a mitigation effort within itself. Council Member James stated that other storm water drainage mitigation efforts were outlined in phase three.

Mayor Partin stated that she shared with Council the week prior that she had the opportunity to sit with some other mayors and hear what their thoughts were on ARPA funding and everybody was on the same timeline as the City. She stated that Columbia received their funding separately and did not have to wait on the State therefore they had their funding longer. She stated that Columbia had made it clear to say that they were slowing down. She stated that staff had received information that the State and the Federal government were going to be putting out grants. Mayor Partin stated the City could make their dollars go further and she was thankful for City staff for being mindful of that. She stated that they were not jumping in and saying here's one plan and let's do it all. But were actually saying let's take a look because we have some time. She stated that it was actually a four (4) year time window. She stated that she loved that all the stuff coming forward came from public input the City had received. Mayor Partin stated that the City liked to over communicate and had these dialogues in so many different ways. She stated that the Comprehensive Plan was one of many examples. She stated that some of the proposed projects came from the feedback that citizens had given in addition to public comment that the City had in every single Council Meeting. Mayor Partin stated that Council was thankful that it was a really great robust plan that included all that input. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Hegler stated that the Police Department's health fair event was being held at Spires Gym that weekend from 12pm to 4pm. She stated that Tartan Day South was being held April 2 and Museum Staff would be there hosting a new exhibition called Colonial Village. She stated that they were given a large area on the festival grounds and there would be demonstrations and exhibits of Colonial and Revolutionary War crafts, traditions and historical information. She stated there would also be information about the 12,000 Year History Park, Congaree Fort 1 and a children's coloring area. Ms. Hegler stated there would be sweetgrass basket making, spinning cloth, blacksmithing, Indigo dyeing and how to write with a feather quill and ink. She stated that it would be a really good time for families and children. She stated that Mr. Thomas had worked really hard on the Colonial Village and was very excited about it.

### **Council Comments**

There were no Council comments.

### **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.

**Possible actions by Council in follow up to Executive Session**

**Adjourn**

Council Member James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON A MATTER APPEARING ON THE MEETING AGENDA, PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.\* **THANK YOU.**

**COUNCIL MEETING SPEAKERS' LIST**

*Date of Meeting*     *March 24, 2022*

Name	Address	Agenda Item

**\*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.