



Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem James E. Jenkins	Council Members Ann Bailey-Robinson Phil Carter Tim James	City Manager Tracy Hegler	Assistant City Manager James E. Crosland
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City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
October 20, 2021
Cayce City Hall – 1800 12th Street
caycesc.gov

A Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem James Jenkins and Council Members Ann Bailey-Robinson, Phil Carter and Tim James. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Assistant City Manager Jim Crosland, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Planning Director Wade Luther, 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 Council 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 James 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.

Presentations

- A. Presentation by Ms. Amy Mikel with the Columbia Area League of Women Voters regarding Vote 411

Ms. Mikel stated that the League of Women Voters was over 100 years old and the Columbia League had over 205 members. She stated that the League was nonpartisan. She stated that they did not endorse parties or candidates. She stated that the League offered the nonpartisan election resource VOTE411.org. She stated that this “one-stop shop” for election information provided simple, helpful tools to help South Carolina voters navigate the voting process. VOTE411 provides candidate information, a voter registration tool, polling place information, and other helpful election information for all voters nationwide. She stated that VOTE411 was the nation’s premiere online election resource, and the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area published their voter guide on VOTE411 to serve as a resource for all races at the local, state and national levels for Richland and Lexington County voters. Ms. Mikel stated that VOTE411 helps millions of voters each year, many of them young people

and first-time voters, learn about candidate stances, look up what is on their ballot and find their polling place.

B. Presentation by Mr. Bill Davies with the South Carolina American Revolution 250th Commission regarding the Liberty Trail

Mr. Davies stated that he was the Vice Chairman of a State Commission called the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission. He stated that the Commission was charged with commemorating and celebrating the American Revolution in South Carolina. He stated that more Revolutionary War battles were fought in South Carolina than any other state. Mr. Davies stated that approximately 200 engagements occurred in the state. He stated that many historians consider the Revolutionary War to have been decided in the battlefields of the South. He stated that the full story of the Southern Campaigns was not widely known even though the events of 1779-1782 in the Carolinas directly led to an American victory in the war. Mr. Davies stated that this history was known as The Liberty Trail. He stated that in the near future The Liberty Trail would be a unified path of preservation and interpretation across South Carolina, telling the remarkable story of the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Davies stated that these important battlefields, still largely unspoiled, deserve to be preserved. He stated that the American Battlefield Trust had partnered with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust to preserve the history. A panel of historians and archaeologists have selected the most significant of these actions and developed plans to form The Liberty Trail, an innovative driving route designed to connect these battlefields and tell the stories of this transformative chapter of American history. Mr. Davies stated that the American Battlefield Trust and the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust are now working toward the launch of the initial phase of The Liberty Trail. He stated that the goals were not just to preserve the land, but also to interpret these sites for the public and bring their stories to life. Using driving-tour battle apps, onsite interpretation, social media and special teacher institutes, these stories about the founding of the country will be told in a manner as never before. Mr. Davies stated that he hoped the City would support The Liberty Trail.

Ordinances

A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2021-23 Adopting a Revised Business License Ordinance in Accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176) – First Reading

Ms. Hegler stated that Council approval was needed to adopt an Ordinance to revise the City's current Business License Ordinance to be in accordance with the Business License Standardization Act that was adopted in 2020. She stated that a new model business license ordinance was recommended by the Municipal Association of South Carolina to comply with requirements of Act 176. South Carolina's cities and towns

are now required to standardize their business license practices before January 1, 2022. She stated that the MASC advised cities and towns to repeal their existing Business License Ordinance and replace it with the MASC's new model Ordinance. The law creates numerous, specific requirements of municipalities that collect the tax, and attorneys have carefully vetted the model Ordinance to comply with all of them. The focus on compliance makes the new model Ordinance different from past model Ordinances, which only provided suggestions on best business license practices. The model Ordinance was intended to improve the ease of the licensing process for businesses, with a standard license year and due date, standard application, and a standard class schedule, as found in the model Business License Ordinance.

Ms. Hegler stated that per Act 176, Planning & Development staff coordinated with MASC to conduct rebalance calculations to project the impacts to revenues and license payees based on the new class schedule. She stated that the summary was based on 2,015 licenses. She stated that 492 had an increase in fees of greater than 10%, 18 had an increase of greater than \$250, 11 of the licensees met both conditions (greater than 10% and \$250), 796 licensees (40%) would have a decrease in their payments based on the new class schedule, 1,219 licensees (60%) would have an increase in their payments based on the new class schedule. Ms. Hegler stated that the overall difference in rebalancing was a 0.6% change equivalent to \$11,151 net gain in revenue. She stated that the current revenue was \$2,013,809 and the projected revenue was \$2,025,125. She stated that this balance was well within an acceptable range and MASC advised that the City did not need to revise any of its rates.

Council Member Bailey-Robinson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-23 on First Reading. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that all 276 towns and cities in the state were doing this. She thanked staff for doing it in a timely manner and doing it very well. Council Member James stated that he appreciated the transparency of being given all the figures and numbers. He stated that the financial gain, although very minimal, divided down between the 1219 business licenses was only an increase of \$10. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hegler introduced Ms. Betsy Catchings as the City's new Assistant Utilities Director and City Engineer. She stated that Mr. Cole Lanigan, the new Assistant Fire Chief, was also in attendance for the first time. She commended staff who worked so hard on the business license Ordinance that Council gave first reading to earlier that night, as well as their work with MASC testing to on-line portal and rebalancing the City's businesses to ensure the City hit the right balance with the new classifications. She stated that Mr. Luther and his team did a really great job on everything in a short amount of time. She stated that Ms. Rochelle Smith, the City's

Business License Coordinator, did the heavy lifting and was in fact not in attendance because she was at the business license official's conference in Greenville where she was asked to speak on a panel about this work. She stated that Mr. Jarrett Epperson was also there as he had been nominated for consideration to be on their Board of Directors. Ms. Hegler stated that Chief Cowan was settling in well. He recently met with officials with Benedict College and they created the School to Squad program with Benedict College students for dispatcher and patrol officer internships. She stated that a Hispanic Community Meeting was scheduled for October 27 at 6 p.m. at La Estrella for a meet and greet with police. She stated that the City would soon have four electric bikes on the Riverwalk from private and public partnerships which would formally be announced soon. She stated that Chief Cowan implemented a new promotion board and hiring process using citizen/community representation. Ms. Hegler stated that Fire Chief Bullard was continuously monitoring the City's new Ladder Truck and was anxiously waiting its arrival. She stated that Parks Manager James Denny and the Parks crew were feverishly hanging Christmas lights since more light displays were added to the scenery.

Ms. Hegler stated that she wanted to read two kudos she received from the public complimenting staff. She stated that she received a letter from a couple who lived on the Avenues. It stated that City Meter Technician Demarcus Bell went above and beyond when he noticed that they had a water leak when reading their meter and notified them of the leak. Mr. Bell offered to look for the leak and found it almost immediately. It was an old toilet that needed parts replaced. Mr. Bell offered to come back on his own time to make sure that the repairs were done correctly. The local couple wrote that they had always thought the best of Cayce employees and Mr. Bell just proved that they were right.

Ms. Hegler stated that she received an email from a contractor stating that Ms. Brittany Little of the Planning and Development Department responded very quickly when he had questions pertaining to construction activity in their subdivision. He stated that she was a very customer focused person and very responsive and it was appreciated.

Council Comments

Council Member Carter stated that he received a text that day stating that the residents in Concord Park were happy with the sidewalk repairs staff did in their neighborhood.

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 be discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Council Member Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bailey-Robinson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

