



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  
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting  
December 22, 2021**

A Public Hearing and 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 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, 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.

**Public Hearing on Updates and Revisions to the City of Cayce  
Comprehensive Plan**

**I. Opening Statement**

Mayor Partin stated that notice was hereby given that Members of Council of the City of Cayce would hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining public comments on the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan 2020-2030.

**II. Public Testimony**

Mr. Chris Kueny of 2701 Riverland Drive, in the Riverland Park neighborhood asked Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder to pass out a document signed by all the leaders of organized neighborhoods in Cayce to each member of Council. The document was signed by the leaders of Hunters Mill, Riverland Park, Cayce Avenues, Broad Acres, Julius Felder Community, Edenwood, Glenwood Estates, Moss Creek and Concord Park's associations. The document stated last month Council held a vote of 3-2 to keep in place a volunteer who was believed to have made racist comments to one of the City's staff. Further, Council decided to postpone by a 3 – 2 vote an appointment to that commission that would have added needed diversity. In the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, page 26 of the Population Element, there are 6 (six) goals identified, and goal number 1, the priority, is to support Cayce's diverse population. Mr. Kueny stated that the recent votes have not done this but have done the opposite. Mr. Keuny claimed that one Council Member recently campaigned on combatting the "transient community." When he inquired on what that meant, Mr. Kueny was told there are not enough people in Cayce in the 25-34 age group. Mr. Kueny requested Council listen to each other and make decisions that embrace diversity as directed by the Comprehensive Plan and not let looks or age effect decision making. He asked that Council uphold their sworn duty to represent all of Cayce's residents.

### **III. Close Hearing**

There was not any further public testimony therefore Mayor Partin closed the hearing.

### **Regular Council Meeting**

#### **Call to Order**

Mayor Partin called the meeting to order and Council Member Carter 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 of Whole Sole Award**

Mayor Partin requested postponing item 3 A. until after item 4 A. Council Member James made a motion to postpone the item, Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Partin read the criteria of the Whole Sole Award, which means a special act not related to job duties, which relates to dedication or a special service act to the public. It can be a consistent outstanding act that relates to the job, relating to dedication or service to the public. An extra measure of safety compliance or special acts directly related to employee relations and operations within the City or special efforts in training and development. Daniel Green was called to the podium.

SRO Daniel Green was nominated for designing a new web site for the Police Department in his spare time. SRO Green took the initiative to create a site and sacrificed his own time to research all aspects of a website to include future costs, virus protections and more. SRO Green has made the current website more modern and publicly accessible while showcasing each department, their capabilities, and future events. SRO Green took pride in creating the site and has made the City stand out. SRO Green did not ask for anything in return. Based on this, SRO Green was nominated for the Whole Sole Award. Mayor Partin presented SRO Green with the award and a check.

A second Whole Sole Award was presented to Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder for all she does for the City, residents, businesses and staff. Mendy Corder has worked hard and represents the City with integrity and has done more than her position requires. She has worked on revitalizing Main Street, the Cayce River Arts District, and developing Art Installations. She was the driving force behind the Art installations, issuing RFPs, calls for artists, interviewing artists, judging work, developing agreements, and overseeing the development of that art. Her creativity can be seen throughout the City, from signs, to utility box wraps, to managing the calendar contest, along with presenting ideas to the Beautification Foundation for beautifying the Riverwalk and plazas, and making the Art Lot comfortable and attractive. She oversees the fun, professional events, like Christmas in Cayce and Soiree on State. Mendy Corder works tirelessly to make sure these events run smoothly and professionally, while providing fun and representing the City proudly. Mendy Corder takes on these duties above the work she does for the City Manager and Council, as well as maintaining records and responding to calls with the highest level of customer service. For these reasons Mendy Corder has been nominated for the Whole Sole Award. Mayor Partin presented Mendy Corder with the Whole Sole award and a check.

B. Presentation of Life Saving Awards to Sgt. Brent Baker, MPSO Sean Sinnott and PSO Brady Threet by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Junior Vice Commander Darren Wiseman of Post 8738 in Lexington thanked Council and Staff for allowing them to speak. Jr. Vice Commander Wiseman explained that the VFW is a volunteer organization comprised of combat veterans. The VFW supports Veterans, spouses, and communities that need help. The awards program gives scholarships to youth, along with awards to teachers, community service awards, police, firefighter, EMT and dispatch awards. The VFW also issues a Life Saving Award annually and received a nomination for the 2020-2021 from Cayce DPS regarding Sgt. Baker, MPSO Sean Sinnott, and PSO Brandy Threet. In March of 2021 at the annual banquet the Lexington VFW awarded the 3 officers their Life Saving Award. In July 2021 the VFW 8738 received notification from the National Commander in Missouri that the Cayce officers were being recognized from the National Command. The Award stated that The Life Saving Award is presented to Sgt. Brett Baker, Master Public Safety Office Sean Sinnott, and Public Safety Office Brandy Threet of the Cayce Public Safety for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, incident where a vehicle pulled into the Public Safety parking lot of the Kenley Substation. The driver had been a victim of assault with several stab wounds and had loss a significant amount of blood, causing the victim to go into shock. Sgt. Baker, and officer Threet and Sinnott provided lifesaving aid and care until EMS arrived. Officers were then able to identify and arrest the assailant. Post Commander Kirk Douglass and Junior Vice Commander Darren Wiseman presented the three officers with their awards.

## **Resolutions and Ordinances**

### **A. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Honoring Steve Brown**

Mayor Partin requested moving items 4 A. and item 3 A. behind 4 B. Council Member Carter made a motion to move the agenda items. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Tim James made a motion to approve the resolution to honor Steve Brown. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Partin called Steve Brown's wife and children to the front. Mayor Partin read the resolution. Mayor Partin presented the Resolution Honoring Steve Brown to the family. Gavin Brown, Steve Brown's son, thanked the City for the honor. He stated his father was grateful for the honor to serve the City of Cayce. Steve Brown told his son that he loved knowing that what he tried to accomplish in Greenwood could be replicated in another City. Mr. Brown had said he had great people to work with in Greenwood and he had great people to work with in Cayce and that with great people you can accomplish anything.

### **B. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2021-25 Adopting the City of Cayce Comprehensive Plan 2020 – 2030 – Second Reading**

Council Member James made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-25 Adopting the City of Cayce Comprehensive Plan 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded. Council Member Carter stated that it was a very well put together document. Mayor Partin stated that staff did an amazing job including citizen input by creating fun ways for residents to express their desires for the City. During the process a meeting was held at a local business where residents were given sticky notes to put on walls showing what they wanted to preserve and what they wanted to change. It allowed residents to visually see and express what they liked and wanted to see happen. At the next meeting those suggestions were taken and put on a screen with devices linked to allow residents to vote electronically. The public was also able to weigh in through the Planning commission. The Mayor thanked the residents for lending their voices to the plan. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

### **A. Discussion and Approval of Hospitality Tax Application from the Cayce Arts Guild for the Holiday Market**

Council Member James made a motion to approve the Committee approved minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion. Council Member Carter stated it was a great event and drew a great crowd with wonderful art. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval to Change Monthly Wednesday Council Meeting Time from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Council Member James made a motion to approve. Council Member Carter seconded. Council Member James stated that this had been brought up at the last meeting and he has reached out for input. In speaking to people, he has learned that the Tuesday and Wednesday work for people who have a standing reservation on one of those nights and would like to keep meetings on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The majority of comments received stated people would like to come, but work until 5:00 pm and would like the Wednesday meeting moved to 6:00 pm. He apologized to staff for keeping them the extra hour, but stated staff reminded him they are here to serve the citizens and suggested the move from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Council Member Carter thanked the Mayor for putting it on the agenda and stated that he has also received feedback against the 5:00 pm time. He stated he understood that the second meeting was originally a special meeting and was placed at that time for that purpose. He stated that it would be a service to the citizens to move it to 6:00 pm. He appreciated that the item was being included on the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Partin made a request that Council return to functioning and operating professionally with communicating with each other ahead of time. Mayor Partin thanked Council Member Carter for the recognition of putting the time change on the agenda, but stated she reached out to each member and has only been getting one word answers or told there is nothing to contest until they get to the meeting. Mayor Partin stated that this has caused a waste of time for staff for something that could have been fixed ahead of time. She stated it is a regular progression as more and more business is done means there will be two (2) monthly meetings. There was a lot of thought that went into those meetings, with a different day for those who work and different times for those who prefer to come at 5:00 pm and then eat and for staff. She was in full support of changing this as she voted for but requested Council go back to operating professionally and communicating.

C. Discussion and Approval Authorizing City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the LandPlan Group South for the 12,000 Year History Park Visitor's Center

Ms. Hegler stated that the City was awarded a one million dollar grant from the state's South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to begin the creation of the visitor center at the 12,000 Year History Park. The award will be used to get the site ready, engineering and planning, getting permits and documents underway, architectural drawings and interior design for the programming of the Visitor's Center. The document provided to Council tonight is the work that can be done under the current on-call landscape, architecture and engineering agreement with the LandPlan Group. The agreement is for \$68,915.00 and would provide for a basic land prep survey, the topo survey, wetland delineation, FEMA flood summary, Geotech reports, site layout, probable construction cost estimates, archeological reviews, site design documents and would get all the appropriate permitting. As the City proceeds with further expenditures of that million the other elements will be brought to Council as the site develops, such as architecture and programming. The City is requesting Council authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement not to exceed \$68,915.00 between the City of Cayce and the LandPlan Group. This will allow the City to seek other funding for the building itself. Any leftover funding of the initial million will be used in the site itself, for parking and site prep work. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made Council a motion to approve the Committee approved minutes. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Hegler stated that the Police have done great work and provided many donations in the community such as the Shop with a Cop event, which was a success and helped 23 children and 10 families. On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> they presented children in the community with bikes that were repaired with funding by 2-1-2 Motors and completed by Dialed Bikes. The City has submitted a letter of interest to submit a grant application to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Rec and Tourism to construct bathrooms at the boat landing. The Lexington County Rec Commission has also submitted a letter of interest to the same group to develop Pickleball Courts at the parks they hold in the City. Starbucks, at Charleston highway, has submitted plans to the City and they are being reviewed. Zaxby's is working on an upgrade and remodel to the Knox Abbott Drive facility. Plans are being reviewed and approved for the Lexington Rehabilitation Center on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Council Comments**

Council Member Sox stated he appreciates staff looking into appointment and reappointment processes of other municipalities and returning it in a timely manner. That information along with the conclusion of Danny Crowe's investigation on January 4<sup>th</sup> will allow Council to determine if they need any additional protections added to the appointment process. Council Member James wished a Merry Christmas to staff and

Council and thanked Tracy and Jim. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins wished a Merry Christmas to all and advised everyone to keep safe during the pandemic. Council Member Carter wished all a Merry Christmas as well as a prosperous 2022.

### **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.

### **Reconvene**

### **Adjourn**

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

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk