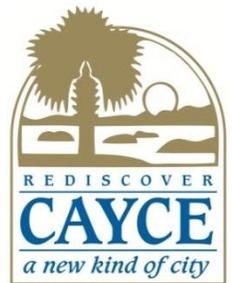


City of Cayce Concludes Series of Public Information Sessions on Local Area Hospitality Taxes



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAYCE, SC – At the Special City Council Meeting last night, the members of Cayce City Council and Cayce City staff discussed the feedback and the information they received from a series of public information sessions, meetings with local restaurant owners and meetings with members of the community.

In June, [Cayce Mayor, Elise Partin, and the members of the Cayce City Council](#) instructed City staff to seek input from the citizens of Cayce about the possibility of a 2% local area hospitality tax on all prepared meals. Currently, 92 other municipalities in South Carolina have implemented and collect annual revenue from a hospitality tax. City staff distributed a [fact sheet](#) to every Cayce resident and invited them to the public information session.

“We genuinely wanted to hear from our citizens and our business leaders about how this could impact them,” stated Mayor Partin. “We did exactly what we said we were going to do. We listened to the people of Cayce and have decided that while we have many important projects that could have been paid for by this revenue stream that would have had a positive impact on the future of our City, now is simply not the right time.”

City Manager, [Rebecca Rhodes](#), stated that part of the estimated \$640,000 in annual revenue from the tax could have paid for maintenance of capital facilities such as the Cayce Historical Museum and the Cayce Riverwalk so that funds from the City’s budget could have been used for economic development and beautification projects. The majority of a local area hospitality tax in the City of Cayce would be paid by visitors eating within the City while Cayce residents would be able to enjoy the benefits of the new revenue source. Rhodes also stated that without the revenue from the tax that many of the projects Cayce citizens wanted would be impossible; and that the City would not be in a position to provide for much beyond core services until there is another source of funding available.

Over the past five years, state aid to local governments, grants and other federal resources have sharply declined leaving many cities to seek alternative measures to meet their funding needs.

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The City of Cayce is located on the banks of the Congaree River in the heart of the Midlands of South Carolina. Cayce has a Council-Manager form of government, and the members of the City Council meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at City Hall. The city has several public event venues and parks. The beautiful [Cayce Riverwalk Park](#) has more than 46 acres of river park area and 2.5 miles of scenic walkways. For more information, visit www.cityofcayce-sc.gov.

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