



Mayor  
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem  
James E. Jenkins

Council Members  
Phil Carter  
Tim James  
Hunter Sox

City Manager  
Tracy Hegler

Deputy City Manager  
Jim Crosland  
Assistant City Manager  
Michael Conley

**City of Cayce  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

The January Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem James Jenkins and Council Members Phil Carter and Tim James. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Deputy City Manager Jim Crosland, Assistant City Manager Michael Conley, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Utility Director Betsy Catchings, 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.

**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.

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member James made a motion to approve December 6, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

No one signed up for Public Comment.

**Ordinances**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2023-01 Amending City Code Section 28-117 ("Penalties for Repeated False Alarms") - First Reading

Ms. Hegler stated that the City's Police Department had responded to 377 false alarms in the last year. She stated that the false alarms tied up a lot of the City's valuable resources. She stated that due to the new community policing proactive mindset that Police Chief Cowan brought to the City, he and Administration felt it was necessary to create more of an education and enforcement based Ordinance instead of one that was purely punitive. Ms. Hegler stated that the primary amendments to the proposed amended Ordinance included requirements for working with the Police Department to recommend prevention measures, training and assessments and

penalties. She stated that the amendment included opportunities for the City to work with the businesses and residents to ensure their alarm systems were working and being reviewed, assessed and tested. She stated that Chief Cowan's opinion was that this would help to get the people with false alarms in a better position to deal with those issues without just simply being given a fine.

Council Member James made a motion to approve the amendment to City Code Section 28-117. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion. Council Member James stated that he appreciated Ms. Hegler giving a good overview of the importance of the amendment to the Ordinance especially with 377 false alarm calls. He stated that it was indeed an expense upon the City's resources and in addition it was a huge liability to have the police and fire vehicles traveling in an emergency-type fashion. He stated that it was not only a liability, but a danger. Council Member James stated that he appreciated it being looked at as education.

Mayor Partin stated that she appreciated the proactive approach, the continuation of community-oriented policing and the focus on making sure to get in front of the issue and also to educate. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

- A. Discussion and Approval to Authorize the Mayor to Execute for the City an Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with City Manager on Previously Agreed Terms

Ms. Hegler stated that the agreement and memorandum of understanding was a formality and it was a two (2) year contract that was updated every two (2) years based on the annual evaluation that Council performed in November.

Council Member James made a motion to approve Mayor Partin executing for the City an Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the City Manager on previously agreed terms. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Committee Matters**

- A. Appointment  
Standard Technical Codes Board of Appeals – One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that the City received a potential member application for the Standard Technical Codes Board of Appeals from Mr. Derrick Hutton. Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Mr. Hutton to the Board. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

## B. Annual Appointment of Council Members to City Foundations

Mayor Partin stated that per the City's Foundation's by-laws the Mayor sits on the Beautification Foundation and the Mayor Pro Tem sits on the Public Safety Foundation. She stated that currently Council Member Sox served on the Beautification Foundation and Council Member James served on the Public Safety Foundation.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion for Council Member Sox and James to continue to serve on the Foundations they were currently serving on. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

## City Manager's Report

Ms. Hegler stated that there were two (2) updates on some of the ARPA funding projects. She stated that Axon was on site that week installing the new technology in the City's patrol cars. She stated that in a few weeks when all the kinks were worked out, she asked Chief Cowan to schedule time for Council to see and witness demos of the new technology. She stated that another project that was funded by ARPA was the new security doors being installed in City Hall. Ms. Hegler stated that the new doors had been installed and the contractors were installing the new card program that was part of securing and making City Hall safer.

Ms. Hegler stated that the new Patrol Headquarters on Knox Abbott Drive would be up and running soon once the Wi Fi was installed. She stated there would be a ribbon cutting eventually that Council would be invited to. She stated that the Sanitation Department was in the process of putting together a schedule for the City's new street sweeper and would be starting on 12th Street Extension. She stated that Council would be sent pictures once the street sweeper was running regularly. Ms. Hegler stated that the septage and grease facility upgrades were 95% complete. She stated that the upgrades were being funded with a SRF loan from a couple years ago and included a new additional belt press and staging lane. She stated that it should be fully operational by mid-February and it would increase the City's ability to receive septage and grease.

Ms. Hegler stated that staff distributed flyers on roll carts throughout much of the Avenues in relation to the Avenues drainage project. She stated this was done to let the residents know where the project was and what the next stage would be since it included a few more road shutdowns. She stated that the project had to be completed by mid-March but the rainy weather was slowing the project down and the completion was dependent on the weather. Ms. Hegler reminded Council that she had reported in the past that two (2) social work interns would be working with the Police Department from the University of South Carolina's Social Workers program. She stated that they were starting the following week and they would be conducting assessments, providing brief interventions and referrals. She stated that the interns would be doing some follow up with some of the City's mental health cases, as well as looking at cases to see if

there were repetitive issues that they could help with and try and get more proactive assistance to the City's Police Officers. Ms. Hegler stated that the interns would be reporting to the City's new Victims Advocate.

Ms. Hegler stated that earlier that week the City received an email from Dominion stating they would be starting tree trimming in Edenwood in 2023. She stated that she had asked for more details specifically when the trimming would start and specific locations. She stated that she would follow up with Council once she had that information but wanted to make Council aware. She stated that staff held the kickoff meeting with Stantec who would be doing the African American Cemetery study. She stated that Stantec was holding a public input session tentatively scheduled for January 24 at 5:30pm. Ms. Hegler stated that Fire Chief Bullard and Council Member Sox were both chosen as Lexington's Top 20 under 40 and everyone was very proud of them.

Ms. Hegler stated that she had a few staff kudos to share. She stated that one (1) was a really nice letter submitted to Councilman James that stated "I'm writing you today about my recent move to Cayce. I moved here on December 9 from Augusta. I'm going to be a Drill Sergeant at Fort Jackson. From September to November, I attended the United States Drill Sergeant Academy and had the opportunity on weekends to explore the Columbia area. As I look for a place to live there are many choices and I'm very glad I chose Cayce. The most important thing to look for when you look finding a new home was community safety. It's vital to have a safe community I wanted to ensure my area was a safe place to live. I contacted the Cayce Police Department to receive insight into my neighborhood. And Sergeant West from the Community Services Unit provided me with a very thorough information on the neighborhood. I greatly appreciated that and I'm happy to know that Cayce Police Department truly values community policing. I encourage you to recognize his dedication to the community." Ms. Hegler stated that he also thanked Councilman James for his years of service. She stated that it was special to have someone take time to do that kind of research and then thank the City after they have moved there.

Ms. Hegler stated that there were a lot of calls about burst water pipes over the holidays with the extreme cold and the City received a couple kudos for how grateful they were to the staff that worked quite a number of hours to repair those burst water pipes. She stated that Officer West was acknowledged for helping at Newbridge Academy by the principal when an adult student needed aid and Officer West provided EMS. She stated that there was a natural death in November or December that the City's Officers responded to and the brother of the deceased wrote and thanked staff for how they handled the situation. He said it was the worst and hardest day of his life but that the compassion of EMS, the City's Fire Department and Police Department helped him get through it. Ms. Hegler stated that the previous year a City employee's father lived in the area was helped by both the City's Police Department and Fire Department. She stated that the employee's father was not breathing but staff were very professional and compassionate which meant a lot to her and her family.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Partin stated that there was a resident who attended every single one of the City's Council Meetings and it was his birthday that day. Everyone wished Mr. Gerald Cromer a happy birthday. Council Member James thanked Ms. Corder for all her work on Christmas in Cayce. He stated that everyone on staff including the Police Department helped with the Greater Cayce West Columbia Chamber's Holiday Parade and it was just a great Christmas. He congratulated the City's Utility Department for all their work on their float and for winning a prize for their float.

### **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

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Reconvene**

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member James made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Carter 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.

### **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 7:00 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

