



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
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**City of Cayce
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
March 16, 2022**

The March Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 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, IT Director Jamie Beckham, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Chief of Police Chris Cowan 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 Public Hearing in accordance with the FOIA. Ms. Corder confirmed they were notified.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEFAULT CONSENT OR FRANCHISE FEE FOR CERTAIN USES OF PUBLIC STREETS OR PUBLIC PLACES IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONSENT AGREEMENT OR FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY

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 Ordinance 2022-03 to Establish a Consent Fee or Franchise Fee for Certain Uses of Public Streets or Public Places in the Absence of a Consent Agreement or Franchise Agreement with the City. She stated that the City wished to hold the Public Hearing so that Council could receive comments from the public on the proposed Ordinance. She stated that the proposed Ordinance was entitled Ordinance 2022-03 to Establish a Consent Fee or Franchise Fee for Certain Uses of Public Streets or Public Places in the Absence of a Consent Agreement or Franchise Agreement with the City. Mayor Partin stated that as the title indicated the proposed Ordinance amended City Code provisions and set a default consent fee or franchise fee for certain uses by utility companies of public streets or public places. She stated that the default fee would apply if there was not an agreement in effect between the utility and the City or and if no other fee provisions of State law applied.

Mayor Partin stated that municipalities usually enter into written agreements with utilities that grant the utilities the right to use public streets in exchange for payment by the utility to the municipality of the amount set in the agreement for that consent or franchise fee. She stated that usually that amount was a percentage of the utilities revenue from its business operations or sale of that utility service. She stated that the franchise or consent fees essentially were a rent paid by the utility to the City for use of

public streets in the City. She stated that use of the public streets was valuable to utilities because without use of City streets and businesses, the businesses would have to obtain that from private properties and sometimes pay easements for lines or poles across private property. Mayor Partin stated that in some situations, such as with cable television and telecommunications companies, State law provided permission for the use of the streets and also provided for the amount of the fee. She stated that the proposed Ordinance addressed the situation in which there was no franchise agreement with the utility and there was no applicable State law setting the amount of the fee. She stated that was why the fee set by the proposed Ordinance was referred to as a default fee. It is the fee that applies when a fee has not been set by agreement or State law. Mayor Partin stated that the fee was needed so the municipality was not deprived of franchise fees in the absence of an agreement or controlling State law and so the utility did not have free use of public streets for its money-making business at public expense.

Mayor Partin stated that in the proposed Ordinance the default consent or franchise fee applied to businesses that operated as electric and gas utilities, or that use their lines for a communications business not covered by State law. She stated that it was important to point out that the fee was imposed by the City only on the utilities. She stated that sometimes the utilities required their customers to reimburse the utilities for the fee the utility was required to pay the municipality. She stated that this so-called pass through was really just a pass on and was based on the business practices of the utility and was not required by the proposed Ordinance or by the City. She stated that some utilities such as Dominion's predecessor SC&G actually requested that the State Public Service Commission allow it to pass through these franchise fees to their customers. Mayor Partin stated it was important to remember that the City did not require the utilities to pass on the franchise fee to their customers. She stated that it was a business decision and practice of the utility and not a desire of the City.

Mayor Partin stated that as to Rules of Order for the Public Hearing that it was an opportunity for members of the public to present to Council their observations or concerns or comments on the proposed Ordinance. She stated that it was not intended to be a question and answer period between the speaker and the Council, or the speaker and City staff. She stated that Council and staff were interested in what anyone who spoke had to say and appreciated their input. She stated that was why the Public Hearing was on the agenda and everyone who wished to speak during the Public Hearing would be provided the opportunity to do so. Mayor Partin stated that individual comments were limited to a maximum of five minutes. She stated that in an effort to be mindful of everyone's time if one's comment had been mentioned, or reiterated by a previous commenter, one may defer and choose to give others who had additional unique comments, the opportunity to speak. She stated that the comments must be relevant to the item that was under consideration and should also be respectful and supportive of all those in the room.

II. Public Testimony

Mr. Greg Brandon stated that he was the Director of Operations for CMC Steel South Carolina. He stated that he wanted to speak on the negative impact the proposed franchise fee Ordinance would have on the business operations of CMC, and more importantly, the employees in the City of Cayce. He stated that CMC Steel South Carolina was one of the largest consumers of electricity in Dominion Energy's service area in the state. He stated that CMC was a steel mill operation with an electric arc furnace. He stated that they currently employed over 405 employees with an average wage of over \$75,000 a year.

Mr. Brandon stated that CMC Steel tried to be a good corporate citizen by donating and/or contributing approximately \$70,000 a year to local charities and organizations. He stated they had participated in many things such as the Cayce Beautification Foundation, were the primary sponsor for the Rhythm on the River, a significant annual contributor to the United Way, the Ronald McDonald House and a partner with the Salvation Army Angel Tree. He stated that they spend over \$335,000 a year with the City on water and sewer, expend approximately \$32 million in freight to local trucking and rail providers and \$9 million to local vendors on items such as safety supplies, machine shop services, rental equipment, contractor support, and other sundry things needed to operate. Mr. Brandon stated that he estimated their local economic impact to be approximately \$1.5 billion dollars per year.

Mr. Brandon stated that the proposed Ordinance 2022-03 will for the first time impose a 5% franchise fee on all industrial customers in the City of Cayce. He stated that the franchise fee, if passed, would result in electric bills of all industrial customers increasing by 5%. He stated that this would be an extraordinary act by the City of Cayce to increase electric rates on job producers in the community. He stated that industrial customers had provided a large stable base for Dominion, which allowed them to distribute their very high capital costs, thus lowering all electrical consumer bills. He stated that the City of Cayce would be the only city in Dominion's territory to impose such a fee, and for no reason, on industrial customers. Mr. Brandon stated that the proposed Ordinance threatened CMC's operations at the most inopportune time. He stated that everyone was having to deal with the rapid escalation in cost and inflation and the situation was compounded by already artificially high electric rates resulting from the failure of the VC Summer Nuclear Project. He stated that the conflict in Ukraine was adding to the surge in energy prices already plaguing the United States and energy prices were expected to continue to rise. He stated that at a time when the community was facing multiple challenges from the pandemic it made little sense to impose an electric rate increase on their operations.

Mr. Brandon stated that the proposal sent a clear message that current employers could be tapped with new fee schemes that had no clear relevance to the cost of providing any new services from the City. He stated that the Steel Industry was

a vital aspect of the US economy and national security. He stated that steel was the material of choice for many elements of construction, transportation and manufacturing in a variety of consumer products. He stated that it was the backbone of bridges, skyscrapers, railroads, automobiles and appliances. He stated that CMC Steel South Carolina had directly contributed to the rebuilding of the Pentagon, the Cooper River Bridge Project in Charleston, the Lake Murray Backup Dam and 12th Street Extension. Mr. Brandon stated that in the context of industrial customers, the steel industry was one of the largest energy consumers in the manufacturing sector. He stated that fact alone meant that the 5% increase in electric costs would have a disproportionate impact on their operations. Mr. Brandon stated that CMC Steel was told their estimated franchise fee would be larger than all other consumers in Cayce combined if the proposed Ordinance was enacted and consistent with the existing commission orders and case law. He stated that Dominion Energy would assess and collect the consent fee from all its customers, including CMC Steel, and other industrial customers on their monthly electric bills. He stated that Dominion had stated that it would not absorb the fee through their shareholders, because they have an obligation not to do so. Mr. Brandon stated that he urged Council to consider the deeply negative impact the proposed Ordinance might have on CMC's operations, their ability to remain competitive, the long term effects of the capital investment in their facility and their current and future employment levels in Cayce. He stated that the City had stated that it was optional, and really up to Dominion, whether they pass it through, and he hoped Dominion would comment on that.

Ms. Morgan Harrell, the Economic Development and Local Government Manager with Dominion, stated that the proposed Ordinance affected Dominion Energy South Carolina which was the primary electric and natural gas provider within the City of Cayce, therefore Dominion wanted to make sure Council was aware of a number of items that were impacted by the proposed Ordinance. She stated those points were outlined in a letter that was sent to Council and staff that day. She stated that Dominion would be happy to meet with Council individually or all together at any point for more explanation as well they were more than willing to engage in further discussions with the City on a long term franchise agreement. Ms. Harrell stated that Dominion valued their relationship with the City of Cayce and were hopeful that they could work together on the issues.

Mr. Darrell Frick with Steel Hands Brewing stated that he and his partner Scott Lambert had some concerns. He stated that they did not know all the details. He stated they had been in business for three (3) years and they still felt like they were a startup and the franchise fee seemed to be an additional tax. He stated that they would like to know more details about how it was implemented and what Dominion's plans were.

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 Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Ms. Karen Dawkins, Item III. C. Ms. Dawkins stated that she felt there was some sort of disconnect between the citizens of Cayce and the administration. She stated that the City had received funds from the American Rescue Plan and what concerned her was how those funds were being allocated. She stated that she would like to know if there had been meetings or discussions or planning on how best to utilize those funds, or was it just being spent and trying to check the boxes off of a big wish list. She stated that currently there were projects that had not been done in the City due to lack of funding and they had been set aside for over 30 years. She stated that now there was an opportunity to assist with funding some of those projects but those items had not been brought up. Ms. Dawkins stated that she would like to know what the plan was and how it was determined which projects received help with funding and how could citizens have input on how those funds were allocated.

Ms. Nancy Drew, Item III. C. Ms. Drew stated that the National League of Cities advocated for a year for relief for cities and towns across America due to COVID. She stated on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan and \$65.1 billion was provided for much needed relief. She stated that the City of Cayce was a local government of less than 50,000 people so the City was allotted an amount of seven plus million dollars by the Treasury. She stated that this money was sent to the South Carolina State Government to be given to Cayce to be used within the guidelines set by ARPA. Ms. Drew stated that now the City had an opportunity to use the funds for the benefit of the City and its citizens to bring relief, restore a lost quality of life to many and provide a greater quality of life for others for the future. She stated how the money was going to be used was very important. She stated that half of the allotted amount had been received in the amount of approximately \$3.5 million. Ms. Drew stated that if the Resolution was approved \$1.3 million of the first half of the City's allotment would be gone. She stated that she checked the City's calendar back to September 2021, and there had been no planning meetings, work sessions or meetings of City Council with City staff shown on the City calendar. She asked when plans had been made on how to spend the relief funds. She asked when was Council and their constituents consulted. She asked if there was a plan and if so, what was it. She asked if the money would be piecemealed and nickel and dimed until it was gone. Ms. Drew

stated that former Chief Snellgrove requested twice that General Fund budget monies be set aside for the needs of Public Safety and Police and he was turned down both times. She asked if the information now at risk of being irretrievable was then as well, but it had become an emergency now. Ms. Drew stated let's update, but let's slow down and let's plan but also consider if there were other avenues with some items. She stated let's wait and see what else needs to be done. She stated that ARPA allowed for the allocation of funds for water, sewer, wastewater and stormwater relief. She stated that the community greatly needed relief and she had lived in torment in the 200 block. She stated that Indigo Avenue needed this relief. She stated that she was asking Council to consider this in their expenditures from ARPA. Ms. Drew asked if Council was going to consider monies to allow permanent video access to Council Meetings, Planning Commission meetings and other important venues that the citizens of Cayce needed access to. She stated that she had asked Council to consider equipment used by the City to come into compliance under the ADA for disabled citizens, which would also help senior citizens in the area. She stated that she was asking for education for the employees and departments of the City of Cayce regarding people with disabilities and the civil rights laws provided for them by the ADA. She stated that she was asking Council to deny the resolution until they had more information that they could share with their constituents and be involved on behalf of the citizens of Cayce on how the funds from ARPA would be used.

Ms. Jessica Johnston, Item III. C. Ms. Johnston stated she agreed with Ms. Drew's statement regarding the capabilities within the City Hall Chambers for all citizens, but also specifically the disabled citizens. She stated that the purpose of the fund spending for the Rescue Plan Act was related to the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic that resulted in economic losses to the government and the public. She stated that the memo in the agenda packet said the City Staff had outlined a partial expenditure list that resulted from lost revenue. She stated that she was in favor of updating the equipment in Council Chambers but she did not specifically see streaming capabilities mentioned. She stated there was mention of virtual so she wanted to ask for some clarification if that's really the idea on where we need to go. She stated that she looked at the City of Columbia's website and their agenda, and they reference that citizens can log on to their website and stream and they can also call in. She stated that she thought these were great additions that would help all citizens and disabled citizens, which was actually an issue even before the pandemic. Ms. Johnston stated that she did not see a direct correlation to lost revenue with the other requests that were listed. She stated that maybe there was but just noting that and giving some more justification would be helpful. She stated that she was interested in how the decisions were being made. She stated that she personally had not been asked for input as a citizen and it would be great to be able to give input. She stated that grants for small business owners, which she was, had been very difficult through COVID and was still hard. Ms. Johnston stated that ideas for stimulating the economy in the area, helping people get back on their feet, enhancing quality of life and mental health were needed. She stated that reducing stress by dealing with some of their neighborhood complaints

and issues that had been mentioned on numerous calls and Council Meetings would be helpful. She stated that she expected there would be some healthy discussion on it amongst Council and City staff, and that would allow for some input from citizens.

Mayor Partin stated that she saw a couple of people employed their raise hand option after the fact. She stated that the virtual meetings are ran as if the meeting was in person. She stated they needed to continue to do that since a Council Meeting was a business meeting of the Council. She stated that if one came to one of the Council Meetings, and she and Council hoped they did because there was a proposal to create an opportunity to have some better sound systems and functioning systems for Council Meetings in person that would also allow people to connect virtually. She stated that they hoped people would join them in person. Mayor Partin stated that at in person Council Meetings one did have to sign up before the Public Comment period started. She stated that there was a myriad of ways to connect with Council and share input. She stated that three (3) citizens gave input right then and that was fabulous. She stated that was why they had Public Comment at the beginning of the agenda so Council had that input. She stated that they were very thankful that people took the time to do that. Mayor Partin stated that they were meeting right then and discussing these things and having the exact conversations that were being asked for. She stated that in the City newsletter there were so many other ways listed to connect to Council and staff and to neighborhood leaders, many of whom were on the Zoom call. She stated that there were lots of fabulous ways for connection and communication in the City. Mayor Partin stated that if one missed the opportunity to raise their hand during the time when it was asked for, as intended for public comment, to please reach out to Council through email, the phone, and other ways.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2022-03 to Establish a Consent Fee or Franchise Fee for Certain Uses of Public Streets or Public Places in the Absence of a Consent Agreement or Franchise Agreement with the City – Second Reading

Mayor Partin stated that she would like to defer Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-03 to the second Council Meeting in April. Council Member James made a motion to defer this item to the second Council Meeting in April. Mayor Pro Ten Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. 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 – First Reading

Ms. Hegler stated that the proposed Ordinance was being brought before Council due to the supply chain bottlenecks and shortages that were a result of COVID-19 and were affecting the City. She stated that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the City had experienced supply issues from automobile supplies to electronics. She stated that at times when supplies or equipment were needed the pressure of procurement processes delayed the purchase of them and at times those items were not available once the procurement process was completed. She stated that sole sourcing was allowed in the City's current procurement language but staff was asking Council to consider adding the flexibility in a situation where there were prolonged supply chain delays. Ms. Hegler stated that Council could build in some metrics and some questions for staff to make sure they were getting good value and the specifications of a product that one was looking for. She stated that it would make the City nimble and able to get items when needed. She stated that staff worked with City Attorney Danny Crowe on the amendment and it could be revisited when the supply chain was no longer an issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-05. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. He asked if the amendment would allow Council to still have to vote for the RFP process or would Council have to vote for staff to seek it out. Ms. Hegler stated that staff would ask Council to waive the RFP process as an item was brought to them if it applied. Council Member James stated that what staff put together was just allowing Council to be able to have the ability to react to certain opportunities during the time of supply chain issues. He stated that it was not a shortcut but really more of an opportunity for Council and staff to be able to react in a quicker manner. Ms. Hegler stated that it would still be obvious to the public which vendor staff was selecting, what they were selecting and that staff was asking Council specifically to consider this expeditious process.

Mayor Partin stated that Council appreciated Mr. Crowe bringing them a best practice and Ms. Hegler helping them to be efficient and effective and looking out for citizens but still be incredibly transparent. Council Member Carter stated that he had a question that he went over with Ms. Hegler earlier that day on the phone. He stated that Council addressed something similar to this a few years ago and Ms. Hegler was going to look up that information and get it to Council prior to Second Reading. He stated that they did something with sole sourcing but he could not remember exactly what but he did ask Ms. Hegler for clarification along with figures. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Hegler stated that the City was really fortunate to be allotted \$6.9 million from the American Rescue Plan Act that would come to the City in two (2) tranches. She stated that the first was \$3.4 to \$3.5 million which the City already had. She stated what she was proposing was a small portion of that and the rest of that was still up for

planning. She stated staff had discussed over the past year the different things that could be done with the money. She stated that she sent Council a list of large scale infrastructure related projects to discuss during their upcoming work sessions for the annual budget.

Ms. Hegler stated that the projects she was presenting to Council that night were necessary for the efficient operation of City staff. She stated that there were items that had not been purchased in the past because of budget shortfalls. She stated that the government had made a final rule that came out in January that was more permissive for the things the money could be used on and could be part of the City's lost revenue stream. She stated that first item on the proposed list was a big focus of ARPA and that was to make sure to raise the minimum salaries for those of the staff that were the lowest paid. She stated that the City did have some full time employees whose salaries were below \$30,000 annually and staff was proposing to increase those to \$30,000 with the first tranche and the second tranche could be used for year two and then it would be absorbed in the City's General Fund budget moving forward.

Ms. Hegler stated that the next proposed expenditure was for SmartCop Reporting Software which was necessary technology that the City's Police Officers needed. She stated that the current software that the Police Department was using was out of date and there were issues with the technical support. She stated that the current software package had the data for the entire Police Department and Court for the last twenty years and could possibly become irretrievable. Ms. Hegler stated that the new software package, SmartCop, was cloud based and had many more options and was currently being used by several surrounding jurisdictions to include Lexington Police Department, SC Highway Patrol, and Georgia State Patrol. She stated that it would also include compatible software to integrate with the Municipal Court.

Ms. Hegler stated that another proposed expenditure was the Axon Project which was something that would propel the City into the future. She stated that the City had hobbled together a lot of technology over the years and good credit to the staff that had done that as well as the City's IT department. She thanked Council for the funding that staff had been able to use to make sure that the City's Officers were safe in the field and efficient and effective on the streets. She stated that the Axon Project would help even more with this. She stated that it was mentioned a couple times that night that Council Chambers needed upgraded technology. She stated that Council Chambers did not have the technology to be able to have a hybrid system whereby Council was meeting in person and the meeting could stream to the public. She stated that staff proposed purchasing a software and equipment package that would make that possible. She stated that they wanted to move forward quickly because of supply chain issues to get those items on order for the City's residents. Ms. Hegler stated that the Municipal Courtroom needed the same upgrades. She stated that the Courtroom had some deficiencies in its ability to record and operate.

Ms. Hegler stated that these items were something that she brought forward because they would help staff to be more efficient but it was certainly not to overlook or ignore other projects that staff and Council had discussed for years. She stated that it was very important that the remaining money in the current tranche and the next tranche be used to work on these large capital items. Ms. Hegler stated that staff had been advised that it was really wise that the City had waited because the Federal and State government had also been given large sums of money through ARPA and those projects were primed for matching those monies to some grants that the State and Federal government had put out and were continuing to put out. She stated that the timing was good to discuss what those projects would be to get them prioritized for Council and seek those grants so that more could be done with the same amount of money. She stated that as staff and Council held their work sessions on the budget, they could incorporate those recommendations into a budget instead of a Resolution process, which is what staff would currently need to do should Council approve it.

Council Member Sox made a motion to defer the Resolution until Council was able to see the whole plan that staff had put together. Council Member James seconded the motion. Mayor Partin asked if she could get some clarification. She asked if an entire list for spending every dollar of that money was what was being requested. Council Member Sox stated that he would like to see where staff currently was. He stated that he knew they had been working on some plans from the past whenever the interim ruling was out and since the final ruling came out in January, he was under the impression that there was a pretty solid plan put together. He stated that whether that was between now and the next council meeting, if Council could get that he would just like to look at it before Council considered the current proposed projects.

Council Member James stated that when he spoke to Ms. Hegler that day he felt she had a really good grasp on the ARPA funds and when she spoke earlier in the meeting about the potential grants coming down. He stated that with the potential grants what Council might have expected to spend a large amount on could possibly be reduced if the grants came through, as well as Ms. Hegler's priorities. He stated that it could turn around pretty quickly for Council to be able to look at the priorities and the plan of action. Council Member James stated that was not to any way say that anything in Ms. Hegler's proposal was not worthy but to be able to take it in a total concept as Council began voting on these items that ARPA money would be spent on.

Mayor Partin stated that she would always support a deferral if more information was needed. She stated that Council voted on a deferral earlier in the meeting and she thought that was a worthwhile thing to do to bring out some discussion. She stated that she did have some concerns about Council Member Sox's motion to defer. She asked Mr. Crowe if other cities were handling ARPA money in one (1) meeting. She stated that she knew he worked with a number of municipalities. Mr. Crowe stated that his experience was that ARPA funds were being dealt with by municipalities as slices of a tranche just as proposed by City Manager Hegler. He stated that Councils were

focusing on pieces of it with anticipation of grants for others as was discussed. He stated that really what had been proposed was exactly in his experience how other municipalities were also approaching it.

Mayor Partin stated that Council usually made pretty thoughtful decisions and she was concerned that if Council had done their homework earlier, as opposed to maybe just that afternoon, she wondered if they could have gotten that question answered. She stated then there would not be a need for deferral and then a number of City staff who work so hard for the City's citizens on a regular basis, could go ahead and be brought up to a more livable wage. She called the question. Council Member's Carter, James and Sox voted yes. Mayor Partin and Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins voted no.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

- A. Discussion and Approval of Hospitality Tax Application from the Cayce Public Safety Foundation for the Cayce Police Department and Special Olympics Pickleball Tournament

Ms. Hegler stated that the Cayce Police Department and Special Olympics Pickleball Tournament was the first ever pickleball tournament in South Carolina. She stated that it was a partnership with the Special Olympics and would be held at the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center on Sunday, May 1. She stated that the Cayce Public Safety Foundation was requesting \$5,550 in hospitality funds to cover the costs of the event and it was eligible for H tax grant funding. She stated that staff did a grant application process annually but sometimes they had projects that came up that weren't conceived of before. Ms. Hegler stated that the pickleball tournament would draw in people from around the area. She stated that the Foundation was hoping to draw from a 100 mile radius and they would document addresses as required by the grant. She stated that food and drinks would be served and the event would be advertised.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve the application for funding. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Committee Matters

- A. Appointments
Municipal Election Commission – One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that the City's Municipal Election Commission had one open position and the City had received a potential member application from Ms. Dara Brown. Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Ms. Brown to the Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hegler stated that Parks staff was in full preparation for grass cutting time. She stated that staff, particularly Ms. Rowan and Ms. Corder, were in full swing for planning the Soiree on State being held April 23. She stated that the last Soiree was held in 2019 and everyone was really looking forward to having it again. She stated that the City was getting a lot of good press coverage on it and there were a lot of interest from vendors who want to be there so it should be a great event. She stated that the Police Department was in the process of hiring the new School Resource Officers that Council recently approved so they should be in the City's schools in the coming months. Ms. Hegler stated that the QT on Charleston Highway was nearing completion and should be ready for final inspection soon. She stated that if anyone drove by the Public Safety building any time you would probably see the tower truck out. She stated that staff were already well trained on it and they just finished their formal familiarization with the tower truck. She stated that she often heard them talking about how much they love the new truck and it was great to see them with that resource and that asset and out in the community.

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.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

