



Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
Tim James

Council Members
Phil Carter
Hunter Sox
Byron Thomas

City Manager
Tracy Hegler

Deputy City Manager
Jim Crosland
Assistant City Manager
Michael Conley

City of Cayce
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

The April 17, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Tim James and Council Members Phil Carter, Hunter Sox and Byron Thomas. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Deputy City Manager Jim Crosland, Assistant City Manager Michael Conley, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Police Chief Chris Cowan, Assistant Police Chief Shawn Grant, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, 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 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 Thomas gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Presentations

- A. Recognition of City Employee, Chris Mills, being awarded the Water Environment Association of South Carolina Capital District Water Treatment Operator of the Year and the Water Environment Association of South Carolina State Water Treatment Operator of the Year.

Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Mills had an A-level operator license in water treatment and was responsible for all aspects of the water treatment plant operations to include mixing chemicals, changing chlorine ton cylinders, reading and recording data from gauges, meters and SCADA, checking and adjusting chemical feed systems, operation of machinery and pumps, monitoring pump stations and distribution pressures and tank levels. She stated that he performed laboratory testing on water throughout the treatment process to ensure proper parameters were maintained and he performed preventive and scheduled maintenance on plant systems. She stated that Mr. Mills' twenty-five years of experience was invaluable to keeping the City's system running smoothly and staying in regulatory compliance. She stated that he helped create the standard operating procedures for the last plant upgrade when the plant changed to a completely different treatment process. Mayor Partin stated that he also trained new staff

in laboratory procedures and operation and assisted in creating the lab database. She stated that Mr. Mills aspired his co-workers to be better people, and that only helped to make them better operators. She stated that he was recognized in January as the WEASC Capital District Water Operator of the Year, and it was followed by him winning the WEASC State Water Operator of the Year in March.

B. Recognition of City Employee, Denis Bergeron, being awarded the Water Environment Association of South Carolina State Lab Analyst of the Year

Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Bergeron was the Utilities Lab Director and was assigned to manage the wastewater treatment plant lab and the drinking water treatment plant lab. She stated that he worked both the Lab Director and Lab Technician duties for an extended period of time until staff vacancies could be filled and nurtured a much less stressful work environment enhancing better communications between the WTP and WWTP labs and operators. She stated that he revamped and streamlined all lab paperwork for efficiency and ease and initiated and installed the WIMS WTP and WWTP software database. She stated that Mr. Bergeron trained, oversaw, and provided in-house and professional lab training certification for 3 full-time staff and 11 WTP and WWTP operators. She stated that he assisted in troubleshooting water quality issues in the Congaree River, the City water reservoir and the Water Treatment Plant and the distribution system. Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Bergeron was the leader of the Lead and Copper Rule Committee for the City, working with the Utilities Director and related departments to meet the requirements of this Rule. She stated that he designed and installed the new Water Treatment Plant sampling sink providing sequentially arranged spigots based on the process stream, reducing mistakes, and increasing reliability in collecting the correct water sample. She stated that he added much needed state-of-the-art lab equipment in both plant's labs and this equipment enhanced and provided additional in-house process control analyses sampling, thus eliminating "out-sourcing" and providing cost savings to the City. Mayor Partin stated that Mr. Bergeron worked tirelessly on task, looking for ways to improve the operations and work environment and had a great attitude and brought an enjoyable family atmosphere into a previously stressful work environment. She stated that in March at the South Carolina Environmental Conference, Mr. Bergeron received the WEASC State Laboratory Analyst of the Year Award for his contributions to the City and the water industry.

C. Recognition of City Employee, Legrand June, being awarded the Water Environment Association of South Carolina State Membership Award

Mayor Partin stated that Mr. June was the Superintendent of Wastewater Facilities and had been with the City for almost ten years and managed the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Septage and Grease Receiving Station. She stated that in March at the South Carolina Environmental Conference, Mr. June was recognized for his outstanding recruitment of new members to the Water Environment Association of South

Carolina (WEASC) and received the WEASC State Membership Award. She stated that the WEASC provided invaluable training for the City's Utilities staff.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Discussion and Approval of Grant Award for the Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant

City Manager Hegler stated that the City had been awarded a grant from the US Department of Transportation called the Safe Streets and Roads grant. She stated that the City was committed to improving roadway safety by creating a comprehensive safety action plan to significantly reduce or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries, eventually developing and implementing the plan so all users – including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, personal conveyance and micro-mobility users, and commercial vehicle operators had reliable and safe transportation options. She stated that staff chose the four (4) most dangerous intersections in the City - (1) 321 and the 3000 block, (2) Knox Abbott and 12th Street, (3) Frink Street and Julius Felder, and (4) 12th and Frink. She stated that DOT required that the City have a plan for what it would take to address safety at those intersections for pedestrians and impact of motorists. She stated that there had been fatalities at a couple of the intersections that were chosen. City Manager Hegler stated that the City's Grant staff applied for and received \$160,000 in grant funding through the Department of Transportation for the creation of a Safety Action Plan and the purpose of developing a comprehensive action plan was to create a strategy the City could use to cultivate safe transportation options for community members, students, and visitors alike. She stated that the City would solicit a consultant to help with the development of this plan.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to accept the grant award and match it with \$40,000 utilizing the general fund balance. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he knew Mayor Partin agreed that the City's bicycle and pedestrian safety was important and continuing to grow that safety so that people could get around another manner besides vehicles was so important. City Manager Hegler stated that this was a rolling grant opportunity so as soon as the plan was finished the City should be in good running for implementation dollars to make whatever improvements were required. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he believed the intersections that staff chose would be a shining example. Mayor Partin thanked staff for all their hard work and stated that her contacts in the Federal government helped her to be able to bring this to the City. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Appointment of Municipal Judges and Approval of Agreements

City Attorney Crowe stated that City Council had the authority under State law to appoint municipal judges and the current judges, Shannon Bobertz and Bryan Jeffries, two-year terms were ending in the near future. He stated that staff's recommendation was to reappoint the two (2) judges but the procedure Council wished to follow and whether they wished to reappoint was strictly up to them. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to reappoint both judges to a two (2) year term. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Discussion and Motion To Ratify Action of City Manager entering into a Contract for Emergency Repairs to Water Line on Airport Boulevard near Parliament Drive.

City Manager Hegler stated that this item was related to emergency repair work of a broken water main that started April 3, 2024. She stated that the City had to take immediate action to minimize the effect on the City's customers, but also to get that roadway back in good working order quickly. She stated that GH Smith who the City had worked with before, provided a quote and the necessary certificates of insurance for the needed repair. She stated that the price was agreed upon for the needed equipment, materials and labor to complete the job. She stated that the job generally consisted of extensive traffic control on Airport Boulevard near Parliament Drive and a large excavation in the roadway to replace approximately 35 linear feet of pipe around an old storm box and repair of the roadway. City Manager Hegler stated that after obtaining approval from the DOT, the emergency repair work began on April 8 and concluded on Friday. She stated that the Utility staff was able to complete it in a week and great kudos to them. She stated that they worked day and night to get it done as quickly as possible, as well as a good turnaround from the DOT to help as well as the City's consultant. She stated that the price for that work and the emergency repair was \$160,000 and given its urgency, she did approve that quote. She stated that per the City's policy, she was asking that Council ratify her action executing the agreement with GH Smith construction for \$160,000 and that would be funded from utilities capacity reserves, under the City Manager's emergency powers. Council Member Sox made a motion to ratify the City Manager's action. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ordinance and Resolution

A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-03 Amending Zoning Ordinance Article 6 District Regulations Concerning Uses in the Design Overlay Districts –First Reading

City Manager Hegler stated that this item was deferred from the last Council Meeting to consider some of the recommended changes that staff had in that proposal. She stated that staff had heard from a few people some concern about some mining language that was allowed and permitted in the Ordinance. She stated that she

recommended proceeding with the rest of the Ordinance and the recommended changes to it could be made in a motion to remove the parts that were a concern. She stated if that was accepted as an amendment, then Council could give first reading to that article as amended and proceed to second reading at the next Council Meeting.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to amend Ordinance 2024-03 amending Zoning Ordinance Article Six district regulations concerning uses in design overlay districts to remove direct line on any operation primarily used as distilling, refining, smelting or mining operation. He stated that would keep the prohibition on those uses in the I-77 gateway overlay district. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Member Carter thanked staff for removing that particular language that he asked for. Council Member Thomas thanked City Manager Hegler and stated that when they met he had some environmental concerns and she assured him that the environmental community would be brought to the table so they could discuss any potential mining or this issue in the future. Mayor Partin asked Council Member Thomas when he stated we, was he referring to him and the City Manager. Council Member Thomas stated yes, that was what he meant. Mayor Partin stated that she wanted to be thoughtful that none of this would be saying anything negative about Martin Marietta which was a great corporate partner and very involved in the community. Council Member Carter stated that he agreed. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the amended Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Declaring May 5 – 11, 2024 as Professional Municipal Clerk's Week in South Carolina to Recognize and Honor the Valuable Contributions that Municipal Clerks Make to Cities and Towns in South Carolina

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the Resolution declaring May 5 – 11, 2024 as Professional Municipal Clerk's Week. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Thomas thanked Ms. Corder for her hard work and just being a joy to the City. Mayor Partin thanked Ms. Corder for all she did. She stated that Council constantly got kind words from citizens who were thankful for Ms. Corder's customer service and thanked her for what she did for Council and the City's citizens. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hegler stated that Ms. Brittany Smoak and Ms. Rochelle Smith, both who work in the City's Planning Department, received their MASC accreditation for business licensing last month. She stated that they were becoming business license experts and were sought after for their expertise. She stated that a kickoff to Victim's Rights Week was being held Friday at Police headquarters at three o'clock. She stated

that the Beautification Foundation was holding one of their semiannual fundraisers, an adult spelling bee, that Sunday at Steel Hands starting at 2pm.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas stated that he had partnered with the Center for Heirs Property Preservation to host a free will clinic in Cayce for all of Lexington County. He stated that it was being held on Saturday, May 4 at Mount Zion Church of Cayce. He stated that one must call Ms. Ariel Anderson at 843-745-7055 to set up an appointment. He stated that he was thankful that 16 families had already registered. He stated that he wanted to bring some positivity to Council and the beautiful community. He stated that Council Member Carter had so much history that ran through his veins. He stated that he had served on the school board and now council because of his love for his community. Council Member Thomas stated that he knew Council Member Carter loved burgers and if he was a burger, he would be an All-American burger. He stated that he was honored to take the rookie crown from Council Member Sox, and he was very blessed to see their generation step up and take on leadership roles. He stated that Council Member Sox's future was very bright. Council Member Thomas stated that Mayor Pro Tem James took a bullet for the City and had gone above and beyond the call of duty. He thanked him and stated that he was so honored to sit next to and serve with him, a hero. Council Member Thomas stated that the first time he sat next to Mayor Partin he was in awe at how amazingly she ran the meeting. He stated that when she spoke she was so articulate and confident and powerful. He stated that there were cities in America that had never had a female mayor and he was so blessed and thankful that he got to sit and serve next to the woman who changed that for the City of Cayce. He stated that he was so blessed to serve with Council and he knew they were going to do some amazing things for their beautiful city.

Council Member Thomas asked Ms. Corder if any of the City's committees had an opening. She stated that they were all full. Council Member Thomas stated that Ms. Corder gave him the information that he spoke on last week in regard to committees and boards for the City. He stated that he was going to list the Council district representation on each City board because he was very serious about District 2 being represented. He stated that he needed his District Two people to come out because they had so much potential and talent in District 2. Council Member Thomas stated that the Beautification Foundation had four members from District 1, zero from District 2, two from District 3 and five from District 4. He stated that Cayce Housing Authority had one citizen serving from District 1, one from District 2, one from District 3 and two from District 4. He stated that the Cayce Municipal Election Commission had five members from District 1, zero from District 2, one from District 3 and one from District 4. He stated that the Events Committee had six members from District 1, three from District 2, zero from District 3 and two from District 4. He stated that the Museum Commission had three from District 1, two from District 2, one from District 3 and three from District 4. He stated that the Planning Commission had five members from District 1, zero from

District 2, two from District 3 and zero from District 4. He stated that the Public Safety Foundation had two members from District 1, two from District 2, two from District 3 and four from District 4. He stated that the Board of Zoning Appeals had two members from District 1, two from District 2, zero from District 3 and three from District 4. Council Member Thomas stated that District 1 had 28 constituents serving, District 2 had eight, District 3 had nine and District 4 had 20. He stated that he was so thankful for everyone in the City serving on the boards and commissions but the City had Council Districts and in the past, it was a struggle to attract people to serve. He stated that he believed that there should be no reason for each district to not have one representative on the boards and commissions and they could not be filled until at least one (1) person from each district was represented. He stated that he really wanted to work with Council to see how we they could change the district representation because District 2 was sadly only 50% represented. He stated that he begged people in District 2 to submit an application to serve on a board or commission because they had so much talent, knowledge and personality and it was needed to help serve the City.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that if Council Member Thomas were a rabbit, he would be the Energizer Bunny. He stated that no one could deny his eagerness and willingness to learn. He thanked him for his kind comments. He stated that Council had an opportunity to serve beside professionals and without a doubt everyone's heart on Council was for the betterment of the City of Cayce. He stated they heard some great things from the Utilities Department. He stated that three (3) weeks ago Jarvis Riley, a member of the City's Police Department, was voted the Officer of the Quarter, by the Greater Cayce West Columbia Springdale Midlands Chamber of Commerce which was a huge program. He stated that Officer Riley had a huge heart for seniors and youth and it was just amazing. He stated that Officer Riley had moved over into a cohort course, which goes on for eight weeks through the Chamber's Educational Leadership course, and he was there with 15 other professionals, and they all loved what he brought to the table.

Mayor Partin stated that Council Member Sox missed 45 minutes from the budget workshop held earlier that day. She stated that it was amazing to hear from the team and all the phenomenal information that Council got from all the departments. She stated that what she heard over and over was pride in the job that the City's team does, pride in customer service and the difference they made every day. She stated that she was talking to a citizen earlier that day who could not stop raving about the kids area at the Soiree and how over the top and perfect it was. She thanked Ms. Corder for that.

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

Council Member Carter made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Thomas made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Mayor Pro Tem James 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.

Possible actions in follow up to Executive Session

There were no actions in follow up to Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

