



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
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The April 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 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, 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 Carter gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the March 5, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, the March 20, 2024 Budget Work Session and the March 20, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Mr. Danny Creamer – Item III. B. Mr. Creamer stated that he was appalled by Council's behavior and stated that they were acting like children in kindergarten. He stated that every member of Council was elected to serve their District and the Mayor was elected to lead the City. He stated that it seemed that every time there was anything negative in the media about the City, it came from someone on Council. He stated that he had friends in other cities asking him what was going on in Cayce. Mr. Creamer stated that he was charging each member of Council to work together to the best of their ability for the great city of Cayce.

Mr. Tre Bray – Items III. B., IV A. and IV B. Mr. Bray stated that regarding Item IV. A., the I77 overlay district, he strongly opposed allowing mining or smelting. He stated that area of the City was surrounded by protected lands and one of the City's most precious resource, the Congaree Creek. He stated that he urged reconsideration of the ban of residential development in that entire corridor. He stated that the current

market demanded senior living options and a 55-year-old plus townhome development adjacent to Clovis Point Way or in that area would provide numerous benefits, increase the City's tax base, and bring more residents to entice future businesses in proximity to desirable amenities such as the Lexington Medical Center and the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center and the Riverwalk. He stated that he would also urge Council to revise the minimum lot width for RS3 zoning from 60 foot to 50 foot to align with existing developments and promote efficient land use. He stated that there were too many pieces of property sitting infield that could not have anything done to them because of the 60-foot measurement. Mr. Bray stated that while he understood the need for a competitive leave policy, he would recommend delaying approval until the comprehensive leave policy that included what the sick leave and paid holidays were presented with cost impacts with the budget. He stated that it was crucial to benchmark against neighboring entities like Lexington County, City of West Columbia, and Springdale to ensure competitiveness. He stated that data was not presented in the supporting documents of the agenda so he requested it from West Columbia's City Manager and stated he would be happy to share it because that was their goal. Mr. Bray stated that he applauded Council's move to diversify representation on external boards and was pleased to hear the Council's commitment to actually attending those meetings on the resident's behalf. He stated that he was disappointed to see an individual press release undermine a unified Council vote. He stated that debate and discourse within Council was vital, but it should be conducted professionally and stay issue based. He asked Council to prioritize the wellbeing of Cayce and its residents by working together effectively even when they disagreed or were in the minority. He thanked Council for their service.

Ms. Kelly Wuest – Item III. B. Ms. Wuest stated that she was there to express her disappointment with Council and to address a pattern of behavior she had seen. She stated that just over two (2) years ago, she applied for a volunteer position with the City to serve on a foundation. She stated that instead of being appointed as next in line, her appointment was delayed by two (2) months and that was also the case with another woman who applied to serve at the same time. She stated that she watched that delay happen again to another woman a year later and had to listen as she made her case before Council to serve before she was ultimately appointed. She stated that their appointments were delayed for obscure reasons and only went through because Mayor Partin and Mayor Pro Tem at the time Councilman Jenkins fought the absurdity of them. Ms. Wuest stated that Council had actively blocked citizens from volunteering and now were methodically trying to remove Mayor Partin, the only woman serving on Council, from all committees during one of the only Council Meetings she was not present. She stated that from the outside looking in, it seemed to be a disturbing trend that was escalating quickly. She stated that as a citizen of Cayce, she had no faith that Council's actions were in her best interest or those of her neighbors. She stated that their actions and decisions seemed to be only in service of themselves, which was not how any Council should function. She stated that whenever their actions were challenged, they provided what they seemed to think were legitimate reasons but were clearly not their

true motive, but instead an attempt to shroud whatever their true intentions were. Ms. Wuest stated that her default was to give everyone the benefit of the doubt and assume no ill intent, but she no longer felt she could afford that to Council. She stated that she would like to believe this was not about men keeping women from leadership roles and everyone was there for the right reasons, and making decisions that were fair, equitable and just and not driven by personal agendas but she honestly could not say that she believed that was true. She stated that what she had mentioned were not the only reasons she had lost faith in Council and she could no longer keep quiet about it because they were crossing dangerous lines and actively hurting the city they claimed to care about. Ms. Wuest stated that her hope was that each Council Member look at the impact of their actions, correct it and work towards making the City as great as it had been and could be. She asked them to be transparent and truly listen to those who they were supposed to represent. She stated they did not always have to agree but everyone did need to feel heard and represented. She asked Council to restore the resident's faith in them to do what was right because even when the citizens were not there they were watching.

Ms. Mary Safko – Items III. B., VIII. A. and IX. Ms. Safko stated that once again, she found herself asking the five (5) Council Members to work together to create the appearance of a united front. She stated that she was disappointed on so many levels over the events of the past few weeks. She stated that after the March 20, 2024 Council Meeting she asked the four (4) Council Members to put an item on the next Council Meeting agenda to reverse all votes taken at the March 20, 2024 meeting. She stated that she hoped they would work out everything in Executive Session and return with any needed votes concerning external seats but she did not see that item on the agenda so she was assuming that did not take place. Ms. Safko stated that it saddened her that the media was involved and it upset her that further discord was created with quotes to the media by the two (2) newest Council Members, who only added fuel to the fire. She stated that she educated herself by learning more about the external boards and while these seats did not need to be held by the Mayor, often the mayors of Cayce, Columbia, Lexington and West Columbia held those seats. She asked if it was a power grab or a planned and crafted act to simply take the Mayor down a peg. She stated if it was the latter, then when and how was this organized. She stated that she believed it was organized and scripted. She stated that she did feel the City should have representation at the table for these important external boards and commissions. She stated that Council were all smart people so they needed to work out the details in Executive Session. She stated that they each owed the other an apology. She stated that being Cayce's representative at an external meeting carried responsibilities and they should attend and come back and share the agenda and minutes with the rest of Council, the City Manager and the Municipal Clerk. She stated that she did not think it was appropriate for any two (2) or more of Council to meet outside of Council Meetings or work sessions under any circumstances without all other members of Council being invited to join. Ms. Safko stated that if done without full disclosure, there was too great of a chance it might be misunderstood or seen and interpreted as improper. She stated

that each Council Member represented the City so proper decorum was expected in all they did at any time. She stated that they must always be cheerleaders for the City and always put positive spins on everything. She stated that when infighting occurred, they made the whole city look bad. Ms. Safko stated she was concerned with the lack of city transparency with the old Cayce Grammar School property since it was being discussed in Executive Session and then voted on following Executive Session. She stated that fairness to all the freestanding homeowners surrounding the property and other nearby homeowners, full transparency was needed with a 30-day public comment period before anything was finalized. She stated that if freestanding homes were to be built for sale she did not have an issue with that land use but if rental homes, townhomes or apartments were built, local homeowners should have an opportunity to voice legitimate concerns. Ms. Safko stated that full transparency should be given and a public comment period of 30 days should be granted to begin as soon as possible. She stated that this vote should be deferred to a Council Meeting following a 30-day public comment period. She stated that to do otherwise gave the appearance of being a cloak deal. She asked Council to do better and make her proud.

Mr. Bill Stangler – Item IV. A. Mr. Stangler stated that he was the Congaree Riverkeeper and was concerned about possibly no longer prohibiting melting or mining that was being proposed for the Zoning Ordinance in relation to the City's I77 overlay district. He stated that district included areas that were very near the Congaree River and the Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve and he was concerned about the potential impacts of those types of businesses, specifically expanded mining on the river to the newly expanded Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve and the surrounding community. He stated that he would encourage Council to keep those prohibitions in place.

Ms. Marcy Haden – Item III. B. Ms. Hayden stated that she lived in in District 4 and had been involved with the City over the past several years in various ways and was very proud to serve. She stated that she was a handful of women in positions on commissions or working within the government. She stated that it was disturbing to her the pattern that she was seeing. She stated that Cayce was at least 50% female and had one (1) female serving on City Council. She stated that it was disturbing to her when Council voted and removed the one (1) female from every single Committee. She stated that Council could have left Mayor Partin on one (1) committee and it would not have looked so suspicious. She stated that she thought it was very cowardly to wait until Mayor Partin was not there. Ms. Hayden stated that everyone wanted change in Cayce, and she wanted change as well but that was not the way to go about it. She stated that it was cowardly and discussions like that should be done as a group. She stated that Council needed to work together. She stated that their current behavior was embarrassing and she received phone calls from people in other cities asking her what was going on in Cayce. She stated that it had to stop and Council had to work together. Ms. Hayden stated that everyone won their seat and were elected by the people in their districts and were there to represent the citizens and work for them. She stated that they expected and demanded more. She stated that she had the pleasure to work with

Mayor Partin in the past prior to being involved in the City in any way and she did a great job representing the City. She stated that Mayor Pro Tem James did a great job representing the City through the chamber and other places. She stated that she would encourage Council to take a step back from what has happened and look at their patterns, because those patterns were there. Ms. Hayden stated that not only were people in Cayce noticing these patterns, but people outside of Cayce were noticing these patterns and taking heed that Cayce was not friendly to certain groups of people and that was not the representation the citizens wanted. She stated that she expected Council to continue to work to do better and if not, the residents would see them very soon to get them out of their seats.

Mr. Chip Salek – Item III. B. Mr. Salek stated that he had more questions than a statement on Item III. B. He stated that he was confused because he read that Mayor Partin was disappointed in how everything was handled and was unaware that it was going to take place but Council Member James said that he had met with the Mayor a week before the meeting and alluded that the Mayor was aware of what was going to be taking place at the meeting. He stated that it made sense that if there were four (4) different committees that four (4) different people could serve to split up the activity that Council would do on those committees. He questioned how the Mayor was on all the committees and why it was not split up prior to that. He stated that the Mayor was just another council member and only had one vote as all the other four council members did. He questioned why the public comments came before the discussion and stated that it seemed like they would come after the discussion. Mr. Salek stated that he did not know that anybody could make statements without hearing what the discussions were about.

Ms. Eva Corley – Item III. B. Ms. Corley stated that she lived in Cayce for 10 years and was elected to Cayce City Council for two (2) terms. She stated that the only reason she resigned from Council was because she and her family moved or otherwise she would still be serving. She stated that she was only speaking because it was her understanding that her name was brought up in conversation when discussing the agenda topic of external committees and reappointments. She stated that she had a few citizens reach out to her about how the topic was handled during a Council Meeting and she felt she needed to speak up. She stated that it was said that she and former Council Member Tara Almond did not have time to be on the committees. She stated that if she and Ms. Almond wanted to serve on any of those committees that the current Council took from the Mayor, they would have had an open conversation with the Mayor just like they should have. Ms. Corley stated that it disturbed her that members of Council appointed themselves to committees without including the Mayor when she was absent from the meeting. She stated that was not what the Cayce Council represented and Cayce had come a long way to be open and transparent, while under the leadership of Mayor Partin. She stated that the action that was taken at the last meeting completely undermined that transparency. She stated that she knew firsthand how the Council used to operate. She stated that they worked with each other and

listened to each other. She stated that they did not always agree but they were respectful to each other and staff. She stated that she served alongside a couple of the current Council Members and they knew they did not treat their fellow Council Members that way. She stated that while she was no longer a resident of Cayce, Cayce remained very special to her and it was bothersome to see how this particular agenda item was handled in the last meeting. She stated that Cayce had the best city staff there was and asked Council as they were doing their jobs on council, to make sure it included supporting City Manager Hegler and the rest of staff. She stated that they were only hurting the City and its citizens instead of serving them by acting the way they were behaving.

Mr. Skip Jenkins – Item III. B. Mr. Jenkins stated that the former Council Members would have never removed the Mayor from all the committees. He stated that he was trying to understand why Council wanted to go back instead of going forward. He stated that if they did not want their seat then they should give it to someone that wanted to serve. He stated that the people that wanted to move to Cayce were not coming in knowing what they had to go through. He stated that Mayor Pro Tem James was in a position to know that and he was leading the pack doing something like this. He stated that Mayor Pro Tem James was not working for the City but working for himself. He stated that it was sickening to see how Council was behaving and he could not believe he served on Council for 22 years and he was sitting beside people that carried on like this. Mr. Jenkins stated that Council was not acting like men and he had told them that when they were not answering the Mayor's phone calls and not answering her texts. He stated they did that on purpose so she could not lead. He stated that it was bad that it had to come to this point and they could not hide it now. He stated that they had to do better. He stated that he lost his race and if they kept behaving the way they were acting they were going to lose theirs too.

Ms. Tracie Broom – Item III. B. Ms. Broom stated that she had lived in the City of Cayce for 11 years and was so proud to live there. She stated that it was an uncommon municipality, in part because Council had worked together for years under Mayor Partin's leadership to move the community forward. She stated that it was an exciting place to own a home and to live. She stated that City staff was some of the best city staff that one could find. She stated that the City Manager, Ms. Tracy Hagler, was one of the best city administrators in South Carolina. Ms. Broom stated that they had to support staff and the City's residents by working together. She stated that Council could not send things into a tailspin at City Hall because of various agendas, whatever those might be. She stated that she was very concerned that there had been a trend that members of Council were getting together and working together to advance agendas that did not feel aboveboard. She stated that was embarrassing and she wanted to feel proud of her council. She stated that everyone in the room was grateful to Council for their service and expected them to operate in the sunlight above board. She stated that the way the committee and commission issue occurred did not feel right to her and a lot of other people. She asked what happened to cause them to remove

the Mayor from all of her committees and commissions in one fell swoop. She asked how they made that decision in a split second in a Council Meeting. She stated that they really needed to know that answer because it was impeding the progress that they needed to be making as a Council. She thanked the Congaree Riverkeeper for being there and stated that she too was concerned about allowing smelting and mining.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Discussion and Approval of Selection of Vendor for the Purchase of Handheld Radios for the Police Department

Ms. Hegler stated that in the current budget Council approved \$297,000 from the allotted ARPA funds for the purchase of police handheld radios through an approved vendor. She stated that staff had since gotten quotes on those as well as spending a lot of time trying to find grants to fund them and were continuing to do that for in-car radios. She stated that since receiving quotes, staff was asking for additional funding to get the in-car radios. She stated that they got a quote from Motorola for \$407,990 and one from Kenwood for \$321,022. She stated that staff was recommending that Council approve the additional funding of \$25,000 to purchase those police radios from Kenwood. She stated that they were on a State contract and the additional funding would come from the miscellaneous unallotted ARPA tranche that they currently held.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the additional funding for the selection of Kenwood and the funding to come from additional ARPA funding. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Carter asked if Kenwood was the same manufacturer the City currently had and if there would be challenges with repairs. City Manager Hegler stated that the City would be moving to all Kenwood products in time. Council Member Carter asked if ARPA money would be used. City Manager Hegler stated that staff was trying to find grants but if unsuccessful it would be new monies. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion of, and Motions Approving, Service of Council Members on Designated External Boards and Commissions

Mayor Partin stated that there was one (1) other position that Council needed to address which was the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Lexington Transit workgroup. She stated that was a position that was held by the prior Mayor Pro Tem and the Council Member for District Two. She stated that she reached out to the current Council Member for District Two to ask if he would like to be nominated for that position and he did. She asked if there was a motion to nominate Council Member Thomas for that position. Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Council Member Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion. He asked Council Member Thomas if he understood the commitments of the position. Council Member

Thomas stated that he was still waiting to hear back to receive more information but he was honored to serve. Mayor Partin stated that she wanted to point out that how Council was handling this item was how healthy city government worked and that was not how these items were handled at the last Council Meeting. She stated that she saw a video of the Women's Basketball Championship Coach Dawn Staley where the team was training and she was coaching them and she told her players to trust their teammates. She stated that the team working together made them champions. She stated that for 15 years of changing councils it was what had made the City amazing as well. She stated that there had been divisions, but council members still managed to treat each other with respect and civility, even while fighting for what they believed was right. Mayor Partin stated that at the end of the day, they all wanted to make life better for the people of Cayce, they just had different ways to get there. She stated that Cayce was a better place because of it. She stated that what Council did to her regarding appointments on external committees at the last Council Meeting was not the problem. She stated that it was a symptom of the problem and the problem was a lack of trust from the citizens who have spoken to her in droves, about the lack of trust they now had in their Council Member. She stated that they did not even believe what their Council Member replied to them in email and in the media. Mayor Partin stated that lack of trust extended to everything now. She stated that there was an item on that night's agenda about a development in the City which a Council Member said in a prior Council Meeting that he had a meeting with the developer and wanted to see something good happen to it. She asked if Council was going to give something to that developer that impacted citizen's taxpayer dollars. She asked how could they know and could they have trust. She stated that Council's actions at the last Council Meeting were not about her attendance at any particular meeting because if it was, wouldn't they have talked to her about it, so they would know the facts. She asked wouldn't Council make sure they were attending all the City's Council Budget Workshops and internal committees like the Cayce Public Safety Foundation and the Cayce Beautification Foundation because they were not. She stated that it was not about whether she knew this item was on the agenda, because of course she knew but the two (2) times this item had been on the agenda it affirmed the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem serving on those external committees. She stated that she had no reason to think anything differently would be happening because no one on Council communicated with her or staff about their plans. She stated that once the item was on the agenda, she asked Mayor Pro Tem James what committee she could support him in being on and he would never give her a straight answer. She stated that when she emailed Mayor Pro Tem James and Council about their desires for this agenda item, not one of them responded. Mayor Partin stated that it was not about them wanting to be more involved because that was a great thing. She asked wouldn't Council have talked to her about it if that was the case. She stated that she would have loved to talk about divvying up the committees but doing it in a way that didn't take the City off of prestigious extra positions, like executive committees, and others that she had earned for the City. She stated that they were now lost opportunities. Mayor Partin stated that Council did talk to others about it because weeks prior to the last Council Meeting, two (2) members of

Council talked with the City's citizen appointee to the River Alliance and told her that one of the Council Members wanted to be on the River Alliance, and she feared they were coming for her seat. She stated that it was not until the last Council Meeting that it was clear what they had been planning for weeks. She stated that it was about political gamesmanship over ethical governing of the City. She stated that it was about power grabs and lost trust from the smooth motions made at the last Council Meeting to the protests that Council Members did not meet together outside of Council Meetings yet pictures had surfaced from a citizen of at least two (2) Council Members meeting at Mayor Pro Tem James' house. Mayor Partin asked where did they go from here. She stated that depended on Council and she hoped for the sake of the citizens, they chose the path of being civil, courteous, and kind. She stated that she hoped they and their proxies would stop spending time attacking her and staff and lead in ways they were elected to. She stated that it was important because the way they governed moving forward affected all the City's citizens and meant they could get through the tough times like a three day fire, floods or the loss of a police officer. She stated that each time they were able to navigate those things because the City had a council, staff and citizenry who chose to communicate and to connect and that was what made life better and what made the City better. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Discussion and Approval of Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for Utility Relocation (Sewer and Water) at Congaree Creek Bridge on US 21 Improvement

City Manager Hegler stated that as part of the SC DOT bridge repair program they were replacing the bridge on US 21 which was on Charleston Highway over the Congaree Creek. She stated that the City had utilities in that area that must be relocated as part of that project. She stated that the relocations had been designed by the City's on-call engineer, Hand Engineering, and would fall under the construction contract for the DOT intersection improvement project. She stated that there was a SC code that required the DOT to pay for relocation costs for small utilities. She stated that for large utilities, DOT was only required to pay for relocations if funds were available after paying for the relocations of small utilities. She stated that the City's water system was considered a small utility and the sewer system was considered a large utility. City Manager Hegler stated for this project the DOT had indicated that funds were not available to cover all costs, so the City would have to relocate both. She stated that the funding that remained uncovered by the DOT was \$157,289 that the City would have to cover in order for the City to get the DOT to report to pay those prior costs. She stated that the DOT did require memorandum of agreements which had been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve both contract utility relocation MOA's for the US Highway 21 bridge replacement project over Congaree Creek and authorize the City Manager to execute those agreements and approve payment for the

sewer relocation portion of the project that was not covered by the DOT up to \$157,289 from utilities O&M unreserved fund balance. Council Member Sox 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 from time to time staff reviewed and analyzed the uses that were allowed within the City overlay districts. She stated that there were a couple throughout the City and those overlay districts were intended to provide additional zoning regulations or requirements on top of the underlying zoning for those parcels. She stated when looking at these there were times staff might recommend either the addition of some uses or the removal of them based on best practices. She stated that the Planning Commission met on March 18, 2024 and voted unanimously to recommend approval on those amendments. She stated that no one spoke in favor or against the amendments. Mayor Partin stated that if Council were to approve this item on first reading that meant they could certainly work with the City’s partners who have concerns and make sure that everyone was on the same page before second reading.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Council heard other’s concerns that night and he was a bit concerned that this item went before the Planning Commission and no one spoke for or against it but that night they heard a great deal of people that had concerns. He stated that his request was to defer this so the City Manager and others could either look at it or bring it to a work session because there were concerns in the amendments that they would not want to approve as it currently read. He asked City Manager Hegler when staff could review it and bring it back to Council. City Manager Hegler stated that staff had reviewed it and that was their recommendation. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that there were pieces and parcels of this overlay that fit the City moving forward but there were some language that was completely against what they knew was best for the City.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to defer this item until the next Council Meeting. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Member Carter stated that he did not have a problem with any of the amendments except the language about the distilling, refining and smelting or mining. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Approving Leave Policy and Procedures for Employees of the City of Cayce

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to defer this item to the budget season. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that it was the budget season. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he wanted this item put into the presentation for the budget. He stated that it had a financial impact. Mayor Partin stated to clarify even if it was in the budget the Ordinance had to come before Council. She asked if he wanted the Ordinance at the first reading for the budget. Mayor Pro Tem James stated yes. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Committee Matters

- A. Approval to Enter the following Committee Approved Minutes into the City's Record
 - Board of Zoning Appeals – December 18, 2023
 - Museum Commission – February 7, 2024
 - Planning Commission – February 26, 2024

Council Member Carter made a motion to enter the minutes into the City's record. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Appointments and Reappointment
 - Board of Zoning Appeal – Two (2) Positions
 - Planning Commission - One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that the Board of Zoning Appeals had two (2) open positions and the City had received potential member applications from Miss Shirley McClerklin-Motley, Mr. Phillip Corley, Ms. Karen Fitch and Mr. Chip Salek Jr, in that order. Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Ms. McClerklin-Motley and Mr. Corley to the Board of Zoning Appeal. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion. Council Member Sox stated that Council worked on a new appointment process at their first work session and asked when it would be implemented. City Manager Hegler stated that she needed to get all of the rules in place and forward them to Council to make sure it met their intentions. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin stated that Ms. Patty Foy's term on the Planning Commission expired in March and she would like to serve again. She stated that Ms. Foy had served on the Commission since 2022 and consistently attended meetings. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to reappoint Ms. Foy. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hegler stated that the 2024 Soiree on State was fantastic and had close to 3,000 people.

Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Council was quiet and listened intently to each person who spoke that night and stated he would respect and appreciate the exact same thing in return. He stated that whether he agreed with a citizen or did not agree with them, he served them and appreciated them being there. He stated that when City Manager Hegler stated that no one came forward at the Planning Commission meeting to speak about the overlay he was surprised since it was critical to the community. He stated mining in their backyard was an important issue. He stated that Ms. Safko said it saddened her that things went external. He stated that it saddened him as well and he did not take it external. He stated that he served on Council before and when he left he told Mayor Partin like Dorothy said in The Wizard of Oz to the tin man I'll miss you most of all and he meant that because of her leadership. He stated that there was no ill intent in what he did and it was almost embarrassing to have to go through a chronological order of what took place over the last couple of weeks. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that on March 11 he communicated with the Mayor as well as the City Manager and asked them point blank that he would like to place this item on the agenda for the March 20 meeting and their replies were exactly what he was hoping and what he thought they would be. He stated that they asked what they could do to help and in no way, shape or form did he think that they were going down a rabbit hole that they should not go down. He stated that when Mayor Partin and the City Manager did respond again, Mayor Partin advised him that she had something she needed to take care of for her family and would not be at the meeting and asked if he as Mayor Pro Tem could handle the Utility Budget Work Session as well as the Council Meeting. He stated that asking for this to be on the agenda is when he found out that the Mayor would not be there. He stated knowing that Mayor Partin was going to be absent he contacted Council to see if they wished to serve on the external committees. He stated that he researched to find out when the committees met so the council member who agreed to serve on the committee would know when the times were for them to serve on the committee. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that none of that was done in a backroom conversation and for the people who questioned how clearly the motions were made that night it was because Council Member Thomas knew exactly what committee he wanted to serve on and asked a fellow council member to nominate him for that committee and that nominating person needed to know that Council Member Thomas could serve on that committee. He stated that it was not done in secret but was done to make sure that the right people were serving on the committees that they could serve on and that they would have the time to be able to serve on them.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that several days later he did bring up to Mayor Partin that maybe in the past everybody was busy during the daytime and Mayor Partin had to take on a lot of the external committees but now the current Council wanted to

serve on the external committees. He stated that was in no way negative towards any past council members that he had an opportunity to serve with but it was trying to figure out how did every commission and committee get loaded onto one person's shoulders. He stated that he met with the City Manager and Mayor Partin for a third time regarding the issue and outlining all of the commissions and committees that he filled. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Mayor Partin served on other things such as MASC and they were glad that she did and she did a great job serving on MASC. He stated that other Council Members wanted to serve too and they needed to spread it out and they needed to make sure they were attending the meetings and bringing that information back. He stated that the City of Cayce had long been a Council City Manager form of government, not a mayor form of government, meaning that each Council Member had one (1) vote. He stated that he gladly and always looked at Mayor Partin as the person who was setting the agenda. He stated that an agency, commission or committee that dictated that a Mayor makes the decision did not supersede the authority and the government of Council, because the mayor was one vote. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he remained ready to work as a team and had never lost sight of that. He stated that he wanted this team to remain focused on the City of Cayce, the citizens of the city, the growth of the city, and most importantly, the men and women who work every single day for the city. He stated that he was a father of two (2) daughters and he wanted to see the very best for ladies that he possibly could and nobody could question that. He stated that he did not want to see things externally advertised either and believed they could work through things. He asked that no one ever question his passion for the City. He stated that he literally took a bullet for the City in the line of service. He stated that he had served the City since he was 12 years old and would continue to serve the city in every way he possibly could.

Council Member Sox thanked everyone who spoke that night. He stated that he talked to a lot of people by email and phone and appreciated hearing from everyone. He stated that no comments were made regarding any of the external appointments until after Mayor Partin created a baseless narrative spinning up routine business as collusion and illegal action and the reality was that Council and the citizens had not heard a readout from any of the external committee meetings in years. He stated that the City's subpar attendance records at these meetings were widely known by citizens and he saw it on Facebook by members of these committees and their staff and now Council. He stated that he voted to remove the burden and time constrain from Mayor Partin on some of these boards and committees and did so without mentioning the attendance record to preserve the unity of Council. Council Member Sox stated that in an attempt to play politics, Mayor Partin used a consultant to help write and disseminate her press release to the media and that was why they were where they were. He stated that while they were conducting City business, Mayor Partin told members of Council that she made other plans, instead of coming to the meeting, since there was only one (1) agenda item. He stated that they had heard that before and he hoped it stopped. He stated that he was there to work for the City with Council and would continue to do so. He stated that he understood that the City was represented at the recent COG meeting

and he hoped Council Member Carter had a readout considering that was what they were appointing new council members to the committees to do.

Council Member Carter stated that he heard everything the speakers said regarding Council staying out of the news. He stated that the City's students and employees and all the good things that happen in the City needed to be in the news. He stated that the City was in the news by the actions of one person and it seemed like every time the City was in the news it was by the actions of one person. He stated that he was disappointed to read the statement that came out and he heard it from a reporter on March 27, one week after the March 20 meeting. He stated that the reporter asked him to respond to the statement and his first answer as always was he could not respond to something he had not seen. He stated that the City was a regional water and wastewater treatment provider and the citizens of Cayce deserved consistent and active representation on these important committees. He stated that it hurt the City's citizens more to have a seat at the table, only to have it unoccupied. Council Member Carter stated that the City had an Ordinance that established standards for attendance on committees and it read "if an appointee misses 1/3 of all meetings within a 12 month period of service, the member shall be subject to removal for calls by council." He stated that he hoped that the expectations of the City's citizens would be that Council not only be held to the same standard but perhaps a higher standard. He stated that it was said that all four (4) Councilmen hurt the citizens of Cayce by violating their right to transparency and it was illegal for more than two (2) council members to meet privately. He stated that he had been an elected official longer than anyone else on Council and he knew the rules. He stated that he could only speculate that the statements were made out of ignorance or as an attempt to influence public opinion. Council Member Carter stated that the reference made to the highest office holder holding seats was inconsistent with the City's form of government. He stated that Council Members were elected by district and the Mayor at large and each position had equal value and other than presiding over the meetings, the Mayor had no more authority than all the other Council Members. He referenced an email dated April 5 from the City Attorney that stated, "while the mayor or Mayor Pro Tem may have other specific duties imposed by law or custom, no council member in our form of government is otherwise considered legally superior in rank to the other." He stated that it was also implied that a representative from the City did not need to go if City business was not on the docket of these various committees. He stated that he thought that was being disingenuous and insulting to the City's colleagues that chose to attend and participate on these committees on a regular basis. He stated that the City had a Council that was prepared and excited to serve. Council Member Carter stated that if one reviewed the video of the last Council Meeting all appointees were asked if they had the time to commit to attend the meetings. He stated that Council needed to get along and there were no personal agendas except to move the City forward. He stated that his ethics and integrity had been challenged and he would not stand for that.

Council Member Thomas thanked the City Clerk for sending Council the report that he asked for on February 21 regarding committees and boards for the City. He stated that he asked for that information because he was big on representation because all of the City's Council Districts had amazing talent and people. He stated that currently District 1 had 26 people serving on City committees, District 2 had eight (8), District 3 had eight, and District 4 had 16. He thanked everyone that was serving on City boards and commissions to make the City the best place to live, work and play. He stated that he was very honored to represent the second district and he knew his District had a lot of talent that could help the City. He stated that he would love to see his constituents sign up for open positions so their district had more representation and could continue to help the City be great. Council Member Thomas stated that there were two (2) states that had yet to pass a hate crime bill and sadly South Carolina was one of them. He stated that cities across South Carolina were passing hate crime Ordinances and the City of Cayce would not be the last city to pass one. He stated that he aimed for Cayce to be the first city in Lexington County to set the tone that hate was not welcome there. He stated he hoped that it could be added to a future agenda. He asked City Manager Hegler if there had been any discussions about the Ordinance since he brought it up. City Manager Hegler stated that she had discussed it with Chief Cowan and she wanted to hear from most of Council if they were ready to bring it forward. Council nodded that they would like it brought forward. City Manager Hegler stated that staff would bring it forward.

Council Member Thomas thanked everyone for being there and that was what made America so beautiful, is that they could agree to disagree. He stated that he would love to see Council Chambers filled every single Council Meeting because he wanted a more informed and active community. He stated that during his first time sitting on Council his speech was about teamwork because together everyone achieved more and he was a firm believer in teamwork and working together. He stated that he wanted to work with the City Manager, the Mayor and his fellow Council Members. Council Member Thomas stated that he promised that whenever anyone reached out to him he would answer the call. He stated that everything was legal in what Council did so he did not know where the claim that Council Members were meeting at each other's houses came from. He stated that he was sad to hear that and he certainly had not been to anyone's house and he was offended that he had never been invited. He stated that he had never done anything illegally with communication. He stated that some communication had got out to the public that sadly had hurt the public and he wanted to do his job to the best of his abilities to bring the community back together. He stated that teamwork was very important in regard to the boards and commissions that the City sits on and they needed to be present, whether it was pertaining to City matters or not, because when these other cities see them sitting there, helping them solve the problems that they might have, then we expect the same in return when Cayce needed help. He stated that teamwork would always be on his mind because there was no I in team and he could not wait to continue to work to make the City the best city to live in on this planet.

Mayor Partin stated that Council did not hear the speakers. She stated that one could see from their comments that they still had to lie and they still had to attack her. She stated that they were more disturbed by this being out in the public in the citizen's eyes than by what they did. She stated that she would reiterate that she knew about the agenda item, but nothing else and as Mayor Pro Tem James said earlier that night, they did talk with each other, but they kept everything secret from her. She stated that was not teamwork. She stated that they would know that she did not serve on MASC if they had talked to her. She stated that they would know the damage that they just did to the City and would know that Council Member Sox could not be appointed to the River Alliance. She stated that she did not have a need to try to take those positions back because that was not what this was about. She stated that she would have gladly shared them had they shown any interest in serving, any interest in connecting and communicating or as Mayor Pro Tem James is famous for saying over communicating. She stated that she hoped Council would hear them soon and she hoped that they would understand what the speakers asked of all of Council that night. Mayor Partin stated that she would continue to lead in that way and would continue to communicate to the Council and to the City's citizens.

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
 - 1. Update on Lexington County's Cancellation of Road Maintenance Agreement
 - 2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements concerning 800 Lexington Avenue

Council Member Sox made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Carter 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. 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.

Possible actions in follow up to Executive Session

Council Member Sox made a motion to decline the current offer of the City owned portion of 800 Lexington Avenue and authorize the City Manager to continue negotiating. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that this was a parcel of property within the property at 800 Lexington Avenue

that the City owned and it was not anything about the development of that property. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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 9:48pm.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON A MATTER APPEARING ON THE MEETING AGENDA, PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.* THANK YOU.

COUNCIL MEETING SPEAKERS' LIST

Date of Meeting April 9, 2024

Name	Address	Agenda Item
Dorothy CREANON	1011 M Ave	3B
Tre Bray	700 31 N Ave	3B + 4A B
Kelly West	1101 Abbott Rd	3B
Mary SAFKO	1100 OAKLAND AVE	3B, 82, 11
Bill Stangler	1001 Washington St, Columbia	4A
Marcy Hayden	411 S. Eden Dr. Cayce SC 29833	3B
CHIP SAKAKI	301 TRIMWOOD CR. CAYCE SC	3B
Eva Corley	178 Derby Dr.	3B
SKIP JENKINS	2224 Lee St	3B
Tracie Broom	806 Naples	3B

MAY 11 A

***Appearance of citizens at Council meetings - City of Cayce Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-71.** Any citizen of the municipality may speak at a regular meeting of the council on a matter pertaining to municipal services and operation, with the exception of personnel matters, by notifying the office of the city manager at least five working days prior to the meeting and stating the subject and purpose for speaking. Additionally, during the **public comment period** as specified on the agenda of a regular meeting of the council, a member of the public may speak on a matter appearing on the meeting agenda, with the exception of personnel matters by signing a speakers list maintained by the city clerk prior to the start of the public comment period. The number of speakers at a council meeting may be limited in the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer, the length of time for any speaker's presentation is limited to a maximum of five minutes, and a presentation may be curtailed if determined to be uncivil, contentious, or disruptive in the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer or by majority of vote of council.