



Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem Phil Carter	Council Members Tiffany Aull Byron Thomas Alice Rose	City Manager Mike Conley	Assistant City Manager Betsy Catchings Wesley Crosby
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**City of Cayce  
 Special Called Council Meeting  
 Tuesday, May 26, 2026  
 5:00 p.m. – Cayce City Hall – 1800 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
[www.caycesc.gov](http://www.caycesc.gov)**

**To Access Council Meeting Livestream, click  
<https://www.youtube.com/@cityofcayce1137/streams>**

The May 26, 2026, Special Called Council Meeting for the First Reading of the General Fund and Utility Fund Budgets was held this evening at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Carter, and Council Members Tiffany Aull, Byron Thomas, and Alice Rose; City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Assistant City Manager/Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gates, Police Chief Bruce Wade, Assistant Police Chief Jonathan von Moltke, Public Works Director Johnny Dillard, Director of Development Services Luke Godbold, Museum Curator Andy Thomas, Interim Municipal Treasurer Leslie Moser, Communications Coordinator Karly Shorter, Human Resources Director Keisha Brunson, Commercial Building Inspector David Parnell were also in attendance.

Mayor Partin asked if members of the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Municipal Clerk Hall confirmed they were notified.

#### **Call to Order**

Mayor Partin called the Special Council Meeting to order, and Mayor Pro Tem Carter gave the Invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

Joe Long – Items III. A. and III. B. - Mr. Long addressed Council regarding the hospitality and accommodations tax funding requests on the agenda. He expressed support for the applications but questioned whether funding standards had been applied consistently across tourism-related projects. He referenced previous Council discussions regarding the Thomas Dambo troll project and noted concerns about private funding, performance history, and visitor data. Mr. Long encouraged Council to apply the same evaluation criteria to all funding requests.

Pamme Eades – Item III. B. - Ms. Eades thanked the City and Council for their continued support of the Women's Club of Cayce and the Hot Flash 5K. She explained that the organization elected to seek its full funding request through the hospitality tax program this year rather than applying for both hospitality and accommodations tax funding. Ms. Eades highlighted the event's promotion of the City of Cayce, its benefit to local projects, and the organization's marketing efforts, while also expressing concern that smaller events appeared to receive larger funding reductions than larger events.

## Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

### A. Discussion and Approval of the Accommodations Tax Committee's Recommendation for Distribution of Funding for FY26/27

Mayor Partin stated that she serves on the River Alliance Board of Directors and asked that the River Alliance application be considered separate from the remainder, and she would recuse herself from consideration of the River Alliance Accommodations tax application.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to entertain all items on the accommodations tax, collectively excluding the River Alliance Application. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Mayor Partin abstaining from the vote to separate the River Alliance item out of this agenda item.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the A-Tax recommendation for the River Alliance. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Mayor Partin abstaining due to her recusal.

Council Member Rose made a motion to follow the Accommodations Tax Committee recommendation for all applicants except for the River Alliance items. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### B. Discussion and Approval of the Hospitality Tax Grant Funding for FY26/27

Mayor Partin asked that the River Alliance appropriation be considered separate from the remainder and out of an abundance of caution, she would not participate in the vote on separating the River Alliance item and recuse herself from consideration of the River Alliance appropriation.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to separate out the River Alliance item from the rest of the Hospitality Tax Committee recommendations and awards. Council member Rose seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Mayor Partin abstaining from the vote.

Council Member Rose made a motion to approve the River Alliance allocation. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Mayor Partin abstaining due to her recusal.

Council Member Thomas asked that the CWC Cares Foundation appropriation be considered separate from the remainder, he would not participate in the vote on separating the CWC Cares Foundation and recused himself from consideration of the CWC Cares Foundation appropriation.

Council Member Aull made a procedural motion to support the request to separate the CWC Cares Foundation appropriation. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Council Member Thomas abstaining.

Council Member Rose made a motion to approve the Hospitality Tax Committee's recommendation for the CWC Cares Foundation. Council Member Aull seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Council Member Thomas abstaining due to his recusal.

Council Member Aull asked that the Woman's Club for Cayce appropriation be considered separate from the remainder, she would not participate in the vote on separating the Woman's Club appropriation and recused herself from consideration of the Woman's Club appropriation.

Council member Rose made a procedural motion to separate the Woman's Club appropriation. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Council Member Aull abstaining.

Council Member Rose made a motion to approve the Hospitality Tax Funding request for the Woman's Club of Cayce Hot Flash 5K in the requested amount of \$6,700. Council Member Thomas

seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Council Member Aull abstaining due to her recusal.

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the remainder of the Hospitality recommendation items. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

## **Ordinances**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2026 - 04 to Adopt an Annual Budget, levy a Property Tax, and Provide Revenue for the City of Cayce for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027, and To Adopt and Establish Certain New Fees and Charges with Amounts – First Reading

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget at \$20,139,640 and the 2026-2027 Utilities Fund Budget at \$55,104,592 as presented by administration. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion.

Council discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget and the potential impact of economic uncertainty on City operations. Staff presented the concept of setting aside approximately two mills as a contingency reserve to provide flexibility for unforeseen increases in costs related to economic conditions and inflation. Discussion included how such funds could be reserved during the fiscal year and potentially dedicated to specific programs or projects if not needed.

Council Member Thomas expressed support for the contingency concept and suggested that any unused funds could be directed toward community improvement initiatives, including housing rehabilitation, neighborhood beautification, or business assistance programs.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter expressed concern that the contingency reserve proposal had not been previously presented to Council and stated his preference to consider the matter further prior to second reading.

Following discussion, Mayor Partin called for the vote on the motion. The motion passed with a 4/1 vote.

## **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Conley stated there were no items for the City Manager's Report

## **Council Comments**

Council Member Thomas thanked City staff, law enforcement, code compliance, and community partners for their efforts related to the Riverland Park community meeting with Martin Marietta, observing strong resident engagement and extended participation at the event. He also highlighted the upcoming Cayce-West Columbia Block Party and encouraged community participation, including health screenings, food distribution, school registration support, and family activities.

Council Member Thomas discussed research on economic development incentive programs in other municipalities, including façade grants, utility incentives, and redevelopment tools, and expressed support for further Council discussion at a work session to evaluate potential incentive-based approaches to vacant and underutilized properties.

He further reiterated his perspective on prior Council discussion regarding the Thomas Dambo public art project, referencing comparative examples from other municipalities and

expressing support for exploring operational and cost-saving considerations following Council approval. He also discussed tourism and hospitality tax funding structures, emphasizing the role of local businesses and social media promotion in supporting visitation and economic activity within the City.

### Executive Session

- A. Receipt of legal advice concerning the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act process and the City's procedural obligations in connection with a proposed economic development project

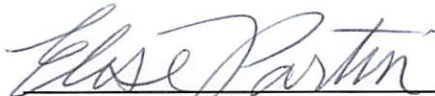
Council Member Thomas made a motion to move into Executive Session. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### Reconvene

After the Executive Session was concluded, Mayor Partin announced that no action was taken in Executive Session other than to adjourn and resume the regular meeting.

### Adjourn

Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Aull seconded the motion which unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen Hall, Municipal Clerk



RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Elise Parth

Meeting Date: 5/26/26

Agenda Item: Section III A + III B Number \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: H + A Tax

*The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37). A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.*

Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: On the Bd of Directors of the  
River Alliance

5/26/26  
Date

Elise Parth  
Member Signature

Approved by Parliamentarian:

[Signature]

# RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Byron Thomas

Meeting Date: May 26, 2020

Agenda Item: Section III Number B

Topic: A - Tax

I serve on the CWK Foundation and we request funds

*The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37). A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.*

Justification to Recuse:

- Professionally employed by or under contract with principal
- Owns or has vested interest in principal or property
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5/26/20  
Date

[Signature]  
Member Signature

Approved by Parliamentarian: [Signature]

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Tiffany Auel

Meeting Date: 5/26/2026

Agenda Item: Section 111 B Number \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: A Tax & Tax Distribution

*The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37). A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.*

Justification to Recuse:

\_\_\_\_ Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

\_\_\_\_ Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: member of Cape Woman's Club

5/26/26  
Date

Tiffany Auel  
Member Signature

Approved by Parliamentarian:

[Signature]