

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 Council Meeting - Budget Work Session
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
3:00 p.m. - Cayce City Hall – 1800 12th Street
www.caycesc.gov

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

The May 20, 2026, Special Called Council Meeting for General Fund Work Session was held this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Carter and Council Members Byron Thomas, Alice Rose, and Tiffany Aull (who arrived during the Council Meeting); City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Assistant City Manager/Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, Municipal Clerk Kristen Hall, Commercial Building Inspector David Parnell, Director of Development Services Luke Godbold, Clerk of Court Rachel Aucoin, Museum Curator Andy Thomas, Public Works Director Johnny Dillard, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gates, Police Chief Bruce Wade, Assistant Police Chief Jonathan von Moltke, Budget Consultant Melissia Harrill, Human Resources Director Keisha Brunson, and Interim Municipal Treasurer Leslie Moser 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 Council Member Thomas gave the Invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Items for Discussion

A. Discussion of Proposed FY2026/2027 General Fund Budget

Staff and the City's budget consultant presented an overview of projected revenues and expenditure, noting that current-year revenues are performing above budget and that the proposed budget is balanced. Discussion included the City's millage rate, inflationary impacts on operations, and comparisons with neighboring municipalities.

Council reviewed proposed budgets for Administration, Legislative, Planning and Development, Municipal Court, Museum, Information Technology, Finance, Parks,

Sanitation, Fleet Maintenance, Fire, and Police Departments. Department heads highlighted operational needs, contractual cost increases, equipment replacements, and capital improvement projects.

The Parks Department discussed improvements to the Riverwalk and Guinyard Park, including replacement of aging infrastructure and equipment. Sanitation and Fleet Maintenance presented requests related to vehicle replacements, a grapple truck, and construction of a vehicle wash rack to improve maintenance operations.

The Fire Department presented its operating and capital needs, emphasizing challenges related to staffing, retention, overtime, station conditions, and long-term service demands. The Fire Chief discussed the need for additional personnel to meet national response standards, maintain service levels, and improve firefighter retention. Council also discussed the potential need for a fire station needs assessment and the reestablishment of a Fire Marshal position.

The Police Department reviewed a largely stable operating budget with increases related to contractual services, equipment, uniforms, and vehicle replacements. Additional requests included upgrades to evidence storage, drones, video systems, and courtroom facilities. The department also discussed officer recruitment and retention efforts, current staffing shortages, and the proposed purchase of traffic data collection equipment to better address neighborhood speeding concerns.

Council requested additional information on several budget-related items, including millage rate comparisons with neighboring municipalities, façade grant program expansion opportunities, courtroom improvement costs, fire department staffing and facility needs, police vehicle replacement schedules, and future park improvement plans.

Adjourn

Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen Hall, Municipal Clerk