



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, June 4, 2024**

The June 4, 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, Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gates, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Utilities Director Betsy Catchings 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 Mayor Pro Tem James gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the May 7, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, May 15, 2024 Budget Work Session and the May 15, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Mr. Randy Gibson – Item IV. A. Mr. Gibson stated that he was the Executive Director of the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission (LCRAC) and he was joined by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Larry Mack. Mr. Gibson stated that he was approached by two (2) Council Members wanting to know what they could do or what needed to be done to get improvements made at the two parks in the City maintained by LCRAC, State Street Park and the Sunnyside Drive park. He stated that usually the way it worked with municipalities of the parks that LCRAC had a partnership with, if the municipality would like to see some improvements made, besides general maintenance, they put a list together and contacted him. He stated that he then presented it to the Commission. Mr. Gibson stated that if it was a big ticket item request they typically asked the municipality to give some financial assistance since it was a partnership. He stated that in this fiscal year at State Street Park, the LCRAC had made \$50,000 in capital improvements. He stated that they put a new playground system in and resurfaced and painted the tennis courts and added pickleball.

Mr. Gibson stated that during the conversation with the two (2) Council Members, it was asked what services LCRAC provided for the citizens of Cayce. He stated that not only were they a Recreation Commission, but also the Council on Aging for Lexington County. He stated that they provided Meals on Wheels, home care and all the recreation in the area. He stated that the citizens of Cayce played Dixie Youth baseball, they played at Howard Park and at Tri City Leisure Center. He stated that the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center served Cayce citizens as well as Spires Recreation and the Pine Grove Sports Complex where adults could play softball. Mr. Gibson stated that Cayce youth played football at Midland Sports Complex and soccer at Old Barnwell. He stated that even though a lot of their facilities were not in the city limits of Cayce, Cayce residents used their facilities. He stated that construction should begin on the 16 pickleball courts at Spires Gym in mid-July. He stated that they had to rebid the project and that was why construction had not already begun. He stated that it was a \$1.3 million project with \$376,000 funded through a grant and the LCRAC was funding the remaining \$1 million. He stated that they were trying to invest in Cayce and provide services for the citizens of Cayce.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Discussion and Approval of the Accommodations Tax Committee's Recommendation for Distribution of Funding for FY24/25

Mayor Pro Tem recused himself from this item. His recusal statement is attached. City Manager Hegler stated that in the prior fiscal year \$87,435 was granted in A tax awards to applicants. She stated that this year, the City received eight (8) Accommodations Tax fund grant requests totaling \$60,875. She stated that the Accommodations Tax Committee met and recommended awarding \$51,250 for those eight (8) projects in the upcoming year. She stated that the Committee also discussed the 30% award to dedicated tourism organizations. She stated that staff was projecting revenue for FY2025 at \$160,000. She stated that ultimately \$31,750 would be allocated to the General Fund off the top, 30% must go to regional tourism dedicated entities which was estimated to be \$38,475, which left \$89,775 to be used for tourism.

City Manager Hegler stated that the City received grant requests from Experience Columbia, The Cayce West Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Lake Murray Country. She stated that the Committee recommended awarding a third split with 35% to Experience Columbia, which would equal \$13,466.25, the same to the CWC Chamber of Commerce and then 30%, in the amount of \$11,542.50 going to Lake Murray Country. She stated that the remaining budget was allocated to the eight (8) applications. She stated that \$7,000 was recommended for ad specialty items for the City, \$5,000 for Police ad specialties, \$1,500 for the Cayce Woman's Club Hot Flash 5K, \$20,000 for Tartan Day South, \$15,000 for Cayce Fall Fest, \$1,000 for the Colonial Village at Tartan Day, \$750 for the Night at the Museum event and \$1,000 for the African American Legends event. City Manager Hegler stated that the remaining

\$38,525 would be placed in reserve for needed tourism capital expenditures. She stated that this was the unanimous recommendation of the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Council Member Carter stated he would like to see the allocations for the regional tourism which equaled \$38,475, reallocated. He stated that the events that were funded were all Cayce events and all that money stayed in Cayce so he would like to see most of the 30% regional tourism allocations stay in Cayce with the local Chamber to help in their regional tourism efforts. He made a motion to reallocate the regional tourism efforts to Experience Columbia for a total of \$9,612.50, Lake Murray Country a total of \$9,612.15 and the Cayce West Columbia Chamber of Commerce a total of \$19,250. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Sox asked why everything looked to be funded that was requested except for the Hot Flash 5K. City Manager Hegler stated that based on the minutes it was based on what could be funded by the committee's interpretation of the of the Accommodations Tax law. Council Member Sox stated that he agreed with Council Member Carter regarding keeping more of the money in Cayce West Columbia. Council Member Thomas stated that he agreed as well.

Mayor Partin stated that she had concerns about that and while the money should benefit Cayce there were some pretty serious numbers from Lake Murray Country regarding what they did to bring tourists to the region. She stated that she wanted to make sure Council was giving the money in a way that brought a return on investment to the City. She stated that she thought all three (3) of the agencies did a great jobs but the numbers from Lake Murray Country and what they have done to bring people into the City was pretty strong. She stated that Lake Murray Country had presented to Council in the past. She suggested giving less money to Experience Columbia. Council Member Carter stated that he recalled the presentation made by Lake Murray Country. Mayor Partin asked how many staff people each of the three (3) agencies had that worked solely on tourism. Council Member Thomas stated that the Chamber had a Visitors Center as well so all their employees also handled the visitor and tourism aspects of the chamber outside of doing business for the local community. Mayor Partin stated that she remembered reading in the past that it was a volunteer committee that ran the Visitors Center. Council Member Thomas stated that there was a Tourism Committee but they did not handle the day to day operations of the Visitor Program. Mayor Partin stated that she wanted to make sure there was dedicated staff focused on bringing tourism to the City and it was not an afterthought.

Council Member Carter amended his motion to approve Accommodation Tax funding in the amount of \$7,682.50 for Experience Columbia, \$11,542.50 for Lake Murray Country, and \$19,250 for the Cayce West Columbia Chamber. Mayor Partin stated that she would like a report from each of the entities on what return on investment the City was getting out of those dollars and she would like to know how many dedicated staff members they had, not as an aside to another part of their job, but

how many dedicated staff members they had working just on tourism. She stated that staff could ask each one of those entities to email that information to staff and then it could be forwarded to Council unless the public wanted to know and Council could share that as well. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of Hospitality Tax Grant Funding for FY24/25

Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Member Thomas recused themselves from this item. Their recusal statements are attached. City Manager Hegler stated that during the last fiscal year \$61,455 in Hospitality funds were awarded to grant recipients. She stated that this amount did not include the City events such as Fall Fest, Christmas in Cayce and the Soiree. She stated that for the upcoming fiscal year the City received nine (9) hospitality tax grant requests totaling \$196,625. She stated that starting this year, staff thought it best that the City events be separately submitted. She stated that the Hospitality Tax Committee recommended awarding \$183,100 for nine (9) projects and the City events. City Manager Hegler stated staff anticipated \$1,450,000 in hospitality tax revenues for the upcoming year and recommended holding in reserve \$100,000 of that. She stated that \$1,150,000 was transferred to the General Fund budget operation, maintenance and capital items that were tourism related or hospitality related which left \$200,000 for grants and non-City events. She stated that the Committee recommended \$32,000 for Tartan Day South, \$10,000 for the Hall of Horrors, \$4,600 for the Hot Flash 5K of the Cayce Woman's Club, \$2,000 for the CWC Chambers Cares Riverwalk Rabbit Run, \$6,000 for the CWC Visitor Programs Parade Day, \$40,000 for Christmas in Cayce, \$65,000 for Soiree on State, \$20,000 for the Cayce Fall Fest, and \$3,500 for the Museum Christmas Traditions. City Manager Hegler stated that the remaining \$16,900 not awarded by the Hospitality Tax Committee would be placed in reserve for needed tourism related capital expenditures.

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the recommended amounts with the CWC Visitors Parade Day being increased to the requested amount of \$8,000 from the \$6,000 recommended. Mayor Partin stated that Council Member Sox had changed the Accommodations Tax and the Hospitality Tax numbers to benefit the Chamber and asked what was the reasoning. Council Member Sox stated that the Chamber requested \$8,000 and West Columbia continued to match them and the parade went through both cities and impacted both cities equally. He stated that especially since there was \$17,000 being put in reserves. Mayor Partin asked what was the reasoning for the prior vote. Council Member Sox stated the reasoning was keeping money in Cayce and West Columbia. He made a motion to approve hospitality tax grant funding for FY24/25 as recommended by staff, with the exception of including \$2,000 to match the requested amount by the Cayce West Columbia Chamber of Commerce for the Parade Day. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that the Hot Flash 5K also asked for more than what was recommended. She asked were they not worried about that at all. Council Member Sox stated that he assumed that was

based on some of the items included in their request were not approved. He stated that if Mayor Partin would like to amend the motion or add a motion to include some extra funding for them, since there was a balance, he did not mind considering that. Mayor Partin stated that the Hall of Horrors also did not receive the full amount they requested. She stated that she was curious why they were just focused on the Chamber, but they were not adjusting anyone else's recommended amount. She stated that they were making assumptions based on why they did not get approved and asked if they had any of that information. Council Member Sox stated that he would love to fund everyone as much as they could but no one reached out to him to inform him that the Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Committees did not fund them fully. Mayor Partin stated that the Chamber must have reached out. Council Member Sox stated that he had spoken with people from the Chamber. He asked if all the funds were ever awarded. City Manager Hegler stated that they did not always use the full amount. Mayor Partin called the question. Council Member Sox and Carter voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

City Attorney Crowe stated that the City's Ordinance Chapter 2 Section 2-69 C stated that the affirmative vote of three (3) members of Council was needed to adopt any motion or pass any measure other than with reference to meetings, and adjournment therefore the motion for this item failed, because it did not receive three (3) affirmative votes. City Attorney Crowe stated that there was currently no motion on the floor with regard to the Hospitality Tax Grant funding.

Council Member Sox stated that he would love to give everyone the full requested amount but that was not realistic considering that only gave about \$4,500 of leeway based on what was brought in. He stated that he thought they should fund the parade at the full amount they requested considering how many people it brought in annually and it grew bigger every year. Mayor Partin asked if staff could help Council understand the difference between the requests. Finance Director Kelly McMullen stated that when the Hospitality Tax Committee convened, they looked at the budget that was proposed for the Parade Day and it included nourishments for the volunteers and the fire and police personnel that work the event. She stated that the H-Tax Committee did not feel that that was a relevant expense under H Tax grants so they deducted that amount and funded the rest. Council Member Sox asked what the note meant that stated that the Hot Flash 5K t-shirts must have five (5) locally owned restaurants on them. Ms. McMullen stated that the H Tax Committee felt that T shirts could be a viable expense as long as they were supporting the local restaurants, so they had asked that the funding be contingent on advertising local restaurants on the volunteer T shirts and the giveaway T shirts. Mayor Partin asked if that amount was included or was that the gap. Ms. McMullen stated that they funded the t-shirts and added that condition. Mayor Partin stated that there was still a difference between the requested and recommended amounts. Ms. McMullen stated that she did not remember the details and would have to look back at it. City Manager Hegler stated that according to the meeting minutes, they recommended removing the cost for

advertising since A Tax funds were covering those expenses. Council Member Sox asked if the Chamber was funded at \$8,000 by West Columbia would that indicate that their committee thought that was an appropriate use of funds. City Manager Hegler stated that was possible or they could have requested funding from West Columbia for different items.

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve staff's recommendation on hospitality tax funding requests for FY 24/25. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Discussion and Approval of a Quote from 3D Dirtworks to Repair/Repave Spencer Place Road

City Manager Hegler stated that the City currently had a maintenance agreement for Spencer Place Road with the Cayce Housing Authority and that road was in a state of disrepair and needed repaving. She stated at Council's direction on March 5, 2024, the City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to repair Spencer Place Road. She stated that the City did not receive any responses to that RFP and staff made several attempts to contact vendors directly and still received no responses. She stated that it was their understanding that there was just a lot of great work going around. She stated that staff discussed with the City's on-call general contractor, 3D Dirt Works, their ability to do the work. She stated that they did not typically do paving but had subcontractors that they could work with. City Manager Hegler stated that staff recommended forgoing the formal bid processes and engage the City's on call general contractor to repave Spencer Place Road to State standards and good repair. She stated that 3D Dirt Works submitted a proposal for \$46,865 and staff recommended that Council approve the City Manager to accept the quote to repair and repave Spencer Place Road in the amount of \$46,865 with the funds being expended from the City's fund balance which had a current unassigned balance of \$9.2 million.

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the City Manager to accept 3D Dirt Works proposal and fund it from the City's fund balance. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ordinances and Resolution

A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-06 to Adopt an Annual Budget, Levy a Property Tax, and Provide Revenue for the City of Cayce for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, and To Adopt and Establish Certain New Fees and Charges with Amounts – First Reading

City Manager Hegler stated that Council and staff had four (4) work sessions leading up to first reading of the budget and she thought they were some of the most robust meetings they had ever had. She stated that they started in February with an

update on the state of where the City sat locally and across the nation and what could be expected. She stated that in March, Council met with the Utilities Department, and went through their funds and their requested budget as well as the consultant that was helping the City with a rate study that Council approved last year. She stated that in April, Council met with the General Fund directors who reviewed their proposed budgets for Council. She stated that in May, Council and staff met to discuss options for balancing what was a pretty out of balance budget for both halves.

City Manager Hegler stated that the FY24/25 budget was the hardest she had since starting with the City. She stated that she had three (3) interesting phases of budgeting with Council. She stated that the first couple of years, the City was in a real high from having some big projects come to the city and the budget was good. She stated that the City's revenues were trending upwards, then COVID hit. She stated that Council and staff did an amazing job during those times to handle what they did not know about budgeting and what they did not know would happen with the closure of things. She stated that the City had a very conservative couple years where it did well, better than anticipated because of some of the prior great work that Council had done in the revenues increasing. City Manager stated that the third phase was the last two (2) years where the City had a lot of ARPA money coming down from the Federal government that was helping to balance and infuse a lot of capital into what would otherwise have been a tough year. She stated that she would refer to the current budget as phase four where they were out of COVID conservatism, and no longer had ARPA funds to help support some of the City's losses.

City Manager Hegler stated that she would review the General Fund budget first. She stated that it was currently balanced at \$19,949,448. She stated that in regard to projected revenues, staff was recommending an increase of eight mills that would take the City from 58.1 to 66.1 and would increase the City's revenues by \$543,000. She stated that staff also recommended a \$5 per month increase in sanitation fees that would take the fee from \$13.50 a month to \$18.50 a month for customers and would give the City a \$287,100 increase in revenue. She stated that there was a Utility Fund transfer for indirect costs of \$2.1 million to the General Fund and a \$1.1 million transfer from hospitality tax revenue. She stated that there was also grant funding for City events totaling \$128,500. City Manager stated that staff recommended transferring \$598,000 from the unassigned reserve account to balance particularly for capital costs and other items. She stated that School District Two was giving the City \$820,000 for 75% cost share with the School Resource Officers. She stated that some vehicles and other items for the Fire Department needed to be purchased in the amount of \$600,000 and staff recommended doing that as a lease purchase. She stated that included in those expenditures were capitals, totaling \$426,500.

City Manager Hegler stated that staff was recommending having a municipal complex study done since every department including the Police and Fire Departments had outgrown the current space. She stated that new computers on the replacement

plan were requested as well as new furniture to replace broken office furniture. She stated that staff would like to study the utility indirect transfer to make sure the City was keeping pace there. She stated that the concrete pad in front of the firehouse needed to be replaced and eight (8) sets of replacement bunker gear, some roll carts, some field generators, and backup pumps needed to be purchased and \$132,000 was being recommended for budgeting software purchase. She stated that staff actually recommended taking that out of some interest that was earned on the City's ARPA money. She stated that hospitality tax funding was recommended out of the fund balance of \$26,000 to take care of some items needed at the Museum. She stated that the Museum had a great Catawba pottery exhibit that staff wanted to find a way to showcase that and money was needed to finish the public safety exhibit and do some additional work at the 12,000 Year History Park to gear up for the Revolutionary War 250th anniversary.

City Manager Hegler stated that the General Fund budget included a recommendation for two (2) full time employees with benefits – an Economic Development Director and a driver for the Sanitation Department. She stated that staff was recommending an across the board cost of living increase of \$2,550 for the General Fund employees which represented anywhere between a 1.5% increase to an 8% based on their existing salary and the total for that would be \$487,811. She stated that there were some operational expense increases recommended totaling \$144,825. She stated that there were some employees they would like to send to management classes and there were repairs needed at the range. City Manager Hegler stated that all of the operating costs had gone up for the vehicles, additional supplies and uniforms were needed as well as additional training. She stated that staff would like to bolster the Facade Grant program by \$10,000, as well as the demolition program by \$15,000. She stated that they had to take into consideration the cost of some of the City's external costs such as insurance at 19% and a PEBA insurance increase of 11.8%.

City Manager Hegler stated that she would review the Utility Budget next. She stated that it was balanced at \$42,904,761 and included a 25% rate increase for water and sewer for all customers, inside and outside the City. She stated that it had a \$2,550 cost of living increase for all its employees similar to what was proposed for the General Fund employees that represented a 2% to 7% increase based on their salaries totaling \$225,285. She stated that the proposed budget did continue to meet the City's debt coverage obligations for the five (5) bonds that the City had as well as their payment. She stated that the proposed Utility Fund budget included three (3) new full-time employees for the Utility Department - a meter tech II, a water treatment plant trainee, and a wastewater trainee plant operator. She stated that would all be funded under the 25% increase that was being proposed. City Manager Hegler stated that the \$2.2 million capital that was being recommended would have to come from a reserve account. She stated that \$600,000 was recommended to come from the wastewater renewal and replacement reserve account, \$784,000 from the capital equipment reserve account and \$895,000 from the water sewer capacity reserve account. She

stated that the Utility Department also had a SMIFR increase of 19% and PEBA insurance increase of 11.8%. She stated that she did not take lightly at all the impact of the recommended increases to include eight (8) mills that would equal \$80 a year for an average \$250,000 homeowner, sanitation fee increase of \$5 a month which would be \$60 a year and a 25% water and sewer increase which would come to about \$168 a year for a total increase to a \$250,000 homeowner of \$308 a year or \$25 a month.

City Manager Hegler stated that there were recommended increases in the City's Master Fee Schedule. She stated that all costs had increased with inflation to include the cost of the chemicals needed for water and sewer and fuel and that was why staff was proposing increases. She stated that the increases included the 25% for sewer and water usage, an increase in capacity fees for water and sewer, an increased sanitation fee from \$13.50 to \$18.50, an increase for the collection of construction debris for the Sanitation Department from \$220 to \$250 for a 20 yard container and \$330 to \$350 for a 30 yard container. She stated that there were a couple of minor modifications to the business licenses to keep pace with State law. She stated that it was discussed in the past how the City dealt with billiard halls and that was updated in the Master Fee Schedule. She stated that staff recommended increasing the Police Department special duty pay from \$55 to \$65 an hour that would be fully covered by the user that requests them. She stated that was being managed by a third party contract that was approved by Council last year and staff was recommending doing the same for the Fire Department by charging for special requests for fire trucks to attend events. City Manager Hegler stated that a minor fee was added for damages to the Community Tool Shed's equipment and a fee was added to use the Museum space. She stated that all credit card fees would be passed on to the user. She stated that the public hearing and second reading of the budget would be at the end of June and staff would do a lot of public education based on whatever Council recommended.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the General Fund and Utility Fund budgets on First Reading. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Sox stated that at the next Council Meeting, for transparency purposes, he would like to have staff speak to what vehicles were in what department and how many each department might have, what the uses might be for, why you might see those after hours or on the weekends with staff that were on call and things of that nature. He stated that he thought that would help with some of the questions he had been receiving. He stated that he would like staff to touch on the cost difference in getting a new vehicle versus trying to fix certain issues these days and how different that was, with things that were really just made to break these days, especially vehicles and mechanical pieces. Council Member Sox stated that he thought that originally Council and staff had discussed some lower millage increases. He stated that he knew that at one point the sanitation fee increase was added. He stated that he thought previous Council's goal years ago was to have that department be self-sustaining and he would like to see a plan for that. He stated whether that be a five year, seven year, eight year, nine year, ten year plan on how they could get sanitation to be self-sustaining, whether

that be through millage or a set fee, or both. He stated that with three (3) proposed increases across the board, he thought that was a good bit for people to swallow today. He stated that he would like to strike the sanitation fee increase or entertain striking the sanitation fee increase in lieu of covering those expenses that it would cover at \$287,100 from the unrestricted fund balance.

Mayor Pro Tem James thanked staff for their work on the budget. He stated that it was the hardest budget he had seen. He stated that they had discussed a great deal about the four (4) mils or the eight (8) mils. He stated that a mil did not bring in a lot of revenue but was still an impact on the community. He stated that he did not have a concern about the City moving to eventually allow the sanitation fee to pay for sanitation. He stated that the City's Sanitation Department did an awesome job. He stated that Council's original intent in 2013 was to move into a five (5) year plan after raising the sanitation fee \$3. He stated that he seconded that motion in 2013. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he would like to see a plan put in place that could educate the community on exactly where they were heading and what it cost and how long it was going to take so they could make sure that the sanitation fee was taking care of the Sanitation Department. He stated that staff had eliminated the lowest two (2) pay grades, because that was where most of the sanitation workers were and he appreciated them doing that. He stated that the City had \$9 million in its revenue fund fund balance and staff had done a really good job of making sure that the City had the correct amount on hand so when borrowing money, the City would get low interest rates but that did not mean that more of it could not be used.

Mayor Partin stated that the motion made affected the General Fund and Utility Funds and she wanted to make sure everyone was keeping that in mind. Council Member Thomas thanked staff for doing a great job trying to educate him on his first budget and thanked Mayor Partin and Council for meeting with him multiple times to go over the budget. He stated that he had constituents in District Two tell him that they felt left behind and neglected, constituents that were living paycheck to paycheck or on a fixed income and looking for some breathing room. He stated that they all understood that inflation was real. He stated that the City had over \$9 million in unassessed fund balance for the General Funds but they were choosing to only use a little over \$500,000 of that if the proposed eight (8) mils were to go through. He stated that was too much extra money in the fund balance for them to ask citizens to give more of their hard earned money. He stated that now was not a time for him to vote yes to continue to take more of the citizens money and he would love to continue to work with Council to map out a plan for his constituents to be as best prepared as possible for an increase in City rates in the future.

Council Member Carter stated that the millage rate was less painful but it was all money out of people's pocket. He stated that the value of a millage rate would hopefully increase in time, one would get more bang for their bucks. He stated that the potential sanitation increase troubled him because it really just affected residents and not

commercial businesses or apartments. He stated that he agreed with Council Member Thomas that this was a lot for the taxpayers to digest with the potential of three (3) increases. He stated that he could live with the increase to eight (8) mils. He stated that he was the first one to want to protect the fund balance but there was a limit to what was needed to survive so it would not bother him to tap into it a little more even though some of it was built in already. Council Member Carter stated that staff did wonderful work with the budget, and it was well thought out, comprehensive and gave Council a number of options and flexibility. He stated that it was really appreciated.

Mayor Partin stated that based on Council's comments there was not a viable motion on the table. She asked if someone wanted to make a viable motion before they went any further. Council Member Sox made a motion to approve first reading of the FY24/25 General Fund and Utility Fund budgets with the strikethrough on the \$5 Sanitation fee increase that would generate \$287,100 and move that capital expenditures be funded through the unrestricted fund balance. Mayor Partin asked if that was the correct fund to use for sanitation. City Manager Hegler stated that if she was understanding the motion, it was proposing to move what the \$5 increase would have generated to pulling it from fund balance but Council was not cutting anything. She stated that she would note that those items were not capital items but actually operating but yes, that was the unrestricted fund balance. Mayor Partin asked if there was a second. She stated that for lack of a second, that motion died and asked if there was another motion. Mayor Pro Tem James asked if the eight mils and striking the sanitation increase would that mean that everything discussed regarding taking the two (2) lowest pay grades out would remain the same. City Manager Hegler stated if that was Council's will otherwise, they were cutting something that had been proposed, yes.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that in regard to the utility increase, he could live with a 10% increase but not the 25% and if the remainder of Council was interested in that he would put that in the form of a motion. Mayor Partin asked if he had a motion to increase eight mils, to not increase sanitation and to move those recurring expenses annually from the fund balance and to not increase utilities 25% but to increase it 10%. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that was correct. Mayor Partin asked if there was a second. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James asked City Manager Hegler if the cost of living increases would remain in the budget with the 8 mils. City Manager Hegler stated that on the General Fund side, Council had not reduced the revenue, but had just moved it around so that was correct but if Council did not approve a 25% increase in utilities, that was not true. Mayor Partin stated that Council had three (3) options from their budget workshop; option A was a 40% increase, option B was a 25% increase and option C was a 15% increase. She stated that the City would not even meet its debt coverage with the motion just made. City Manager Hegler stated that the difference between options B and C that was discussed in work sessions was always starting year one with a 25% increase. She stated that the only difference was the following year. She stated that the City ultimately needed a 40 to 50% increase over the course of two (2) to three (3) years to keep pace and to get

ahead of their capital so staff presented Council options to spread it out. She stated that 25% was the minimum that had been discussed all along to include the current cost of things, the City's debt coverage and an increase in salaries. She stated that if the 10% increase was approved, staff would be forced to figure out what to cut. Mayor Pro Tem James stated nothing from fund balance. City Manager Hegler stated that they were already even at 25%. She stated that all capital was being funded from fund balance. She stated that capital was what could be taken from fund balance. She stated that what Council was proposing for General Fund was some recurring costs in operations. She stated that she did not even recommend that for Utilities and that was why she presented the eight mills. She stated that if they did not do a 25% increase for utility rates that already did not cover capital, capital was coming from fund balance and was proposed by the Utilities Director. She stated that it only covered operations at the current state, the expected debt coverage, and the increases to COLA that Council was asking for. Council Member Sox asked if the increase could be drawn out to 10% for four (4) years in a row. Mayor Partin stated by doing that the City would not meet the bond coverage. City Manager Hegler stated that she would offer that Council could probably drag out year two (2) and three (3) but they had to get some revenues up fast. She stated that the question they needed to answer was what was the difference between 10% and 25%.

Mayor Partin stated that with the original motion that was on the table what was presented from staff already had almost \$3 million of transfers and that was unusual for the City. She stated that they did not typically use money from the reserves but she thought this was a good budget year to do that. She stated that she could not support transferring money from the City's reserve fund, which was basically the City's savings, for recurring costs. She stated that she was fully supportive of doing that for one-time costs because that was good budgeting but if money was pulled out of savings for regular costs, then the City would run out of savings very quickly. Mayor Partin stated that staff recommended funding two (2) positions out of the reserves but that was bad budgeting and she could not support that for the City's citizens. She stated not increasing the sanitation fee \$5 a month would also put the operating costs, those recurring costs, coming out of savings. She stated that was a dangerous way to budget. She stated that staff requested raising the sanitation fee last year and Mayor Pro Tem James asked her at the last minute, could we not do that and she supported not doing that last year. She stated that now they were looking at a larger increase because they did not do the increase last year.

Mayor Partin stated that it was a hard budget year but when she first became Mayor, there was a similar mess but what was worse was half of the City's Public Safety fleet had over 100,000 miles or more. She stated that Officers would be on their way to a call and their call would break down. She stated that at that time the Sanitation team did not have rain gear and there was not a dryer at the Firehouse for the fire hose. She stated that the men and women who worked in the Fire Department all had different equipment, which meant if they were inside of a structure, they could not help one

another if someone's equipment went down. Mayor Partin stated that this Council and prior Councils did an amazing job and did the hard work. She stated that balancing a budget was one of the hardest things that Council Members did and the current Council has done a great job with that. She stated that on occasion prices had to be raised and that no good business stayed in business if they did not keep up with costs and the City would not be able to stay in business if they did not keep up with costs. Mayor Partin stated that they would have to get rid of the Sanitation Department and that would cost the citizens more because private companies were so expensive. She stated that the City had an amazing Sanitation team and received compliments about the whole team all the time.

Mayor Partin stated that the City had done a good job of being mindful about costs and proactive about costs. She stated that when she first became Mayor they were patching things and throwing good money after bad. She stated that the current Council actually provided staff with the equipment that they needed to do the job that they asked them to do and that was something Council should be commended for. She stated that the City was able to keep good staff, because they were paid what they deserve to be paid. Mayor Partin stated that the City was one of the cities with some of the lowest costs, but the highest quality of life. She stated that Council had a tough decision before them but it was a walk between protecting the citizens and knowing that the way to do that was by keeping good staff because staff would take care of the citizens and provide great quality of service. Mayor Partin stated that if they stopped taking care of staff, then they would lose quality.

Mayor Partin stated that there was a motion for first reading of the fiscal year 2024/2025 General Fund and Utility Fund budget to increase eight mills and 10% for utility rates. She stated that the 10% did not meet the City's bond coverage. She stated that Council had a great budget workshop and a great rates study to help them to know that was where they needed to be. She stated that Council would be falling short of the City's municipal responsibilities with the motion to at least not increase the utility rates by 25%. Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter and Sox voted yes. Mayor Partin and Council Member Thomas voted no.

City Manager Tracy Hegler stated that unless there was anything else Council wished to remove Council could make the motion to adopt the Master Fee Schedule with the changes they just made. Mayor Partin asked if Council had a recommendation. Council Member Carter stated that he had a question. Mayor Partin stated that he could make a motion and get it on the table. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he would make a motion for discussion. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he would make a motion to approve. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Partin asked if the motion was to approve the fiscal year 2024/2025 Master Fee Schedule with requested increases in addition to

the changes made based on the prior motion and action. Mayor Pro Tem James stated yes. Council Member Sox seconded the motion.

Council Member Carter stated that the last time the City had a substantial increase in tap fees on the water and sewer side a consultant advised Council to make the increases to get in line with other municipalities. He asked if they did that this time or were they just basically backing into the number based on math. City Manager Hegler stated that it was done as part of the rate study. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that inside water capacity fee was currently \$465 but the recommendation was to increase it to \$1,720 and the outside water capacity fee was currently \$930 but was recommended to be increased to \$1,720 as well. He stated that previously outside of the city was a great deal more than what inside city citizens were paying but now was being recommended to be the same. City Manager Hegler stated that was another recommendation from the rate study.

City Bond Attorney Lawrence Flynn stated that capacity fees were determined based on the cost of providing service therefore there was no justifiable reason or basis in assessing a fee that was not dictated by actual costs, so charging out of city ratepayers a capacity fee that was in excess of the in city ratepayer rate was not justifiable by costs. City Manager Hegler stated that was just to establish the capacity and the usage fee was different. City Bond Attorney Flynn stated that was correct, usage was different than capacity because capacity costs were based on the City's ancestral payers who created the system. He stated that the increase affected new people that were coming in to take the existing capacity on this utility and they were recovering their costs of taking that capacity because it was basically building for future expansion of the treatment facilities. He stated that by not recovering those costs on \$1 cost basis based on what either the existing costs of capacity was, or that future expansion costs, the City was absorbing those back into rate base for the people that were currently paying rates today. He stated that if the City had to borrow money in the future to make expansion into those systems, then everyone who had historically paid for that system was paying for that growth and that was the idea of setting capacity fee that was dictated based on a per residential equivalency units (REU) cost. City Bond Attorney Flynn stated that the determination about what the gallons of capacity that you have remaining were what was going to be needed in the future on the water system and the sewer system, an actual cost per gallon was assigned and then an assumption was made based on the size of a general user. He stated that a residential user was typically going to be 300 ERU and gallons were assigned based on that and that was how the fee was calculated.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that in Fiscal Year 23/24 the inside city water capacity charge was \$465 and was now being proposed to be increased to \$1,720 and the outside city charge was \$930 and being proposed to increase to \$1,720 which was going to be the exact same fee an inside the city person paid. He asked how was the City able to charge much more for out of last year, but not currently. City Bond Attorney

Flynn stated that the City was either subsidizing the in-city rate through existing ratepayers or it was an unjustified fee. Mayor Pro Tem James asked how many years that had been going on. City Bond Attorney Flynn stated for a long time. Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter, Sox and Thomas voted no. Mayor Partin voted yes so the motion failed. Mayor Partin asked Council to give staff guidance on what they would like for staff to bring back to them for a Master Fee Schedule if they were not supporting the proposed one. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he needed a great deal more explanation of why inside city citizens had paid less in the past while outside the city had paid more and now inside city customers would be paying the same as outside city people. Council Member Sox asked what the proposed rates were compared to neighboring cities from the standpoint of future development. Mayor Partin asked if the other two (2) Council Members who voted no could give some guidance to staff. Council Member Thomas stated that he stood on the same side as Mayor Pro Tem James in getting those answers. Council Member Carter stated that the capacity charges had been the same since he first started serving on Council and asked why the radical change now. He stated that if the City was walking close to the threshold of not being in a good position to make the bond payment, how did they get there and why did Council not know about it.

City Bond Attorney Flynn stated that the rate adjustments proposed by Raftelis were built based on what the City's long term needs were for the system filling those positions that have otherwise been empty as a large part of the operating side of the rate perspective. He stated that the other piece and the need for it was the City transferred \$2 million out of the Utility Fund to the General Fund every single year and those costs have continued to escalate. He stated that the coverage requirement was a legal mandate under the terms of the City's master bond documents and if the City failed coverage to its bondholders, the bondholders could sue the City for defaulting under its bonds. He stated that a trustee would come in and tell Council that they no longer had independent rate discretion on setting these rates. He stated that whatever Council went back to based on what that adjustment was, they needed to be cognizant of the fact that there were legitimate costs that were out there, and the City had made covenants to its bondholders that they would continue to sustain rates at a level sufficient to meet that minimum 115 coverage ratio. City Bond Attorney Flynn stated that if the City fell below that, Council would be legally mandated to do it under the terms of the City's bond documents. He said that ultimately it fell back to staff and himself to figure out how to make adjustments internally to make sure that did not happen.

City Bond Attorney Flynn reminded Council that the people paying the capacity fees were not currently customers but someone who did not currently receive utility service from the City of Cayce and so be that out of the city or inside the city, they had never paid a dime into the system. He stated what the City was trying to do was recover the cost that the people that had been here for a really long time, and had paid to create the system, had otherwise done so this was truly growth paying for growth.

He stated that if the in city payers were not paying the same thing that out of city payers were paying, Council had no way to justify how that cost was determined and that was what it ultimately came down to, an equitable determination. He stated that the reason those numbers had gone up was that the cost of utility service had exploded and the idea of potentially having to go through the process of expanding the wastewater plant, or add capacity on the water system, which was obviously a cheaper expansion, the costs had significantly escalated. He stated that it had gone from \$10 a gallon to build a new wastewater treatment plant to \$45 a gallon. He stated that the City and its partners built the wastewater treatment plant for roughly \$75 million but at today's numbers it would cost \$750 million to construct. He stated that was why those numbers had gotten the way they were, was because the City had to start absorbing that capacity on those old costs and had to be able to make up those costs in time by either raising rates or making the people that were using that capacity pay for it and that was the whole idea behind the discrepancy.

Mayor Partin stated that she had a technical question. She stated that the Master Fee Schedule was voted down and this was the first reading but by law, the City had to have a balanced budget by the end of June and the next meeting was supposed to be the second reading but technically it would be first reading since the motion at the first reading failed. City Attorney Crowe stated that was correct. Mayor Partin stated that Council would have to hold a special meeting. She asked Council if there was a way they could approve it on first reading with some changes in it so staff did not have to hold another meeting after already having four (4) work sessions on the budget alone.

City Manager Hegler stated that Council had effectively made recommendations on the Master Fee Schedule with their last motion. She stated they changed the rate increase from 25% to 10% and zeroed out the sanitation fee increase. She stated that what was in the Master Fee Schedule was virtually everything they just discussed in the budget, separate the capacity fees so they could just make those changes to the Master Fee Schedule and keep it compatible with what they did on the budget. Mayor Pro Tem James asked so it could be reflective to the budget they passed. City Manager Hegler stated that was correct with anything additional Council wanted to modify which it sounded like they might want to or they could pass it on first reading and staff could get those answers on the capacity fees to Council by second reading. Mayor Pro Tem James stated as long as it was reflective to the budget that was passed. City Manager Hegler stated that was correct and they would just say whatever they had already approved in the budget, as a fee, reflect that in the Master Fee Schedule and ask staff to bring back more information on the capacity. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve first reading of the Master Fee Schedule reflective of the budget that Council passed in the previous vote. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Partin, Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter and Sox voted yes. Council Member Thomas voted no.

City Attorney Crowe stated that Council did not actually vote on the Budget Ordinance. Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-06 as reflected in their earlier motion and as modified in earlier motions. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion. Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James, Council Members Carter and Sox and Mayor Partin voted yes. Council Member Thomas voted no.

B. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-07 Amending City Code Section 28-113 ("Possession of Unlawful Weapons") – First Reading

City Manager Hegler stated that this was a required amendment to the City's Ordinance based on the recent State law change that allowed for open carry therefore the City's Ordinance needed to be amended to remove pistols from the list of things that would be unlawful for persons to have. She stated that the amended version should read "it shall be unlawful for any person to carry on or about his person, concealed or not concealed, any weapon, dirk, butcher knife, case knives six inches or longer, sword or spear, metal knuckles, razor, numb chucks (nunchaku), throwing stars, or any other weapon of offense within the corporate limits of the city". She stated that it simply removed a pistol from that list. City Manager Hegler stated that staff recommended Council approve the amendment to section 28 113 entitled possession of lawful weapons.

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the amendment to Section 28-113. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

City Manager Hegler stated that staff was looking for a way to be more competitive in recruitment and retention of good employees. She stated that Council had shown a track record of doing that with salaries and the parental leave that was approved recently. She stated that to continue to be competitive, staff did look at some comparisons of the City's annual leave and at the City one had to be employed for a fair amount of time to accrue leave and it was really difficult to recruit that middle management that had a lot of time at their previous place of work. City Manager Hegler stated that what was proposed was accrued annual leave that would change from five (5) days from date of hire to one year to 10 days in the first five (5) years of employment and years five (5) through 15 would increase to 15 days and after 15 years would increase to 20 days. She stated that currently the payout was a maximum of 400 hours that could have been accrued and staff was recommending reducing that to 320 hours but grandfathering the staff that already had that amount from 400 to 320. She stated that staff also recommended that bereavement leave be amended to allow for 10 days of paid leave to an employee who had lost a spouse or a child. City Manager Hegler

stated that a couple of employees had lost a spouse or child over the last few years and it was traumatic to ask them to be back to work after three (3) days. She stated that staff was also asking that when adopting the Resolution, Council also adopt the City's entire leave policy. She stated that it was currently embedded in the employee handbook, which made it difficult for her to make changes to day to day things that did not really need to come before Council.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the Resolution. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Council Member Carter stated that when there was staff on annual leave obviously someone had to work for them and asked if that was buried into the budget. City Manager Hegler stated that actually was not true for most of staff. She stated that there was not someone that covered staff's shift. She stated that when she was off no one technically covered her so there was actually minimal overtime. She stated that was the same with police and fire and usually obviously it was covered by a Lieutenant on staff for someone that was not typically in the field, so there was no overtime embedded in annual leave. Council Member Thomas asked if he could ask the Police Chief or Fire Chief a question. Mayor Partin stated that he could ask City Manager Hegler a question. Council Member Thomas asked if a firefighter were to go on vacation, did another firefighter not have to take their place in case there was an emergency in the City. City Manager Hegler stated that it was not left unattended, it was covered by those that could cover it. She stated that overtime was already embedded in the budget every year and this was not something that was adding to the overtime budget. She stated that most of the employees that were salaried there was no one coming in and covering for them. She stated that there was not a cost involved in most of the labor and the way the shifts worked, they could cover them differently.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he would have anticipated needing a certain amount of emergency personnel and would have expected leadership to put someone in that position if someone was out for a day or a week but City Manager Hegler was saying on staff people were used to do that so it was not going to affect the overtime at all. City Manager Hegler stated that was true in most cases but she was not saying if that department was short, that person was being covered. Deputy City Manager Crosland stated that the City currently had ample enough people on shift if one should go out. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that he supported the proposed leave policy but at the same time, he was feeling that it was needed to put something in the budget to be able to cover it. He stated that the firehouse could not be down one (1) person nor could Patrol on the street so his concern was there might be an increase in the line item for overtime. Deputy City Manager Crosland stated that if that occurred staff would readjust for the next year, but staff was not anticipating those increases. Mayor Partin asked what the other cities staff reached out to said about the budget impact. City Manager Hegler stated what staff was proposing was comparable to all other places and the other cities stated that it was a benefit that they built in. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that benefits should be costly if they were good and he had no problem

whatsoever with the benefit. 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
 - Cayce Housing Authority Annual Meeting – February 20, 2024
 - Cayce Housing Authority Regular Meeting – February 20, 2024
 - Museum Commission – April 3, 2024
 - Accommodations Tax Committee – April 9, 2024
 - Cayce Housing Authority Special Meeting – April 9, 2024
 - Events Committee – April 11, 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.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hegler stated that the complicated sewer repairs that had been going on for quite some time on Railroad Avenue near State Street were completed. She stated that it was open to travel and the pump that had been there for a while was removed. She stated that the boardwalk repairs on the Riverwalk were also completed and that section was reopening the next morning.

Council Comments

Council Member Thomas stated that he had recently spoken to some West Columbia Council Members about potentially both cities meeting at least once a year to see how the cities could continue to work better together and to see if there were any resources they could pull together to make both cities a better place to live, work and play. He stated that the West Columbia Council Members loved the idea. He stated that he would love it if City Manager Hegler could reach out to West Columbia's Town Administrator to see when that meeting could take place this year. He asked how the other members on Council felt about this. Mayor Partin stated that the meeting would have to be publicly known. City Manager Hegler asked if Council Member Thomas was asking for the Councils to meet because staff talked on a regular basis. Council Member Thomas stated that was correct.

Council Member Thomas stated that Council Member Carter was the historian on Council and asked him to tell what history he knew about Monkey Springs Branch Creek. Council Member Carter stated that the story about monkeys getting loose from

the circus was recently mentioned on social media posts and that was the first time he had heard that story. He stated that he had a map dated 1950 and Monkey Springs Branch was listed on that map but other than that he did not know what happened. Council Member Thomas stated that he reached out to SCDOT about the sign and they took it down. He stated that he wanted to make it clear to everyone that the City, nor Council and the Mayor had any jurisdiction of putting that sign up and had nothing to do with that but they did work to get it down. He stated that showed that when citizens came to Council with complaints or concerns, they took them very seriously. He asked that they continue to work together as a city to continue to improve the City of Cayce.

Mayor Partin stated that one of the City's citizens who was the most regular attendee of council meetings, invited her to go to church with him at Gannt Street Baptist Church since they had a Back the Blue service. She stated as the representative from Cayce who was there they gave her a gorgeous book that said it was prayers that shaped America and she wanted to present it to Gerald Cromer for inviting her.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Ms. Jennie Jordan who lived on the Avenues was voted Administrator of the Year at Cayce Elementary. He stated that Ms. Jordan worked so hard with the students there and he wanted to recognize her. He stated that Cayce Elementary Assistant Principal Ms. Ashley Caulder was voted Mrs. South Carolina America and represented South Carolina.

Council Member Thomas asked Mayor Partin what the process was to recognize amazing things like those two (2) accomplishments at Council Meetings. He stated that he would like to recognize community members that were doing amazing things in the community and asked what was the process so then their citizens would know so they could start to recognize them more at Council Meetings. Mayor Partin stated that Council Meetings were a business meeting of the Council so that was something Council could talk through.

Council Member Carter stated that he had received another email of praise for the Sanitation Department and it was one more of a long list of accolades for Thomas White and his team.

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. Claim for Improvements to Spencer Place Road

Mayor Pro Tem James 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 Carter made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Thomas 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

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-05 Authorizing the Sale of City-Owned Portion of Real Property at 800 Lexington Avenue

There were no follow up actions to Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

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 June 4, 2024

Name	Address	Agenda Item
BRANDY GIBSON		V. A
LARRY MACK		//

*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.

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Byron Thomas

Meeting Date: June 4, 2024

Agenda Item: Section III Number B

Topic: H - 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.

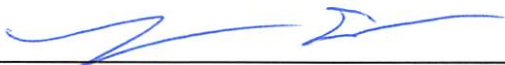
Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: Asked for H Tax funds due to Riverwalk Rabbit Run

6/4/24
Date


Member Signature

Approved by Parliamentarian:

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Tim James

Meeting Date: June 4, 2024

Agenda Item: Section III. Number A & B

Topic: Approval of Accommodations Tax Committees Recommendation for Distribution for Funding for FY24/25 and Discussion and Approval for Hospitality Tax Grant Funding for FY24/25

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: _____

6/4/24
Date


Member Signature

Approved by Parliamentarian:

