

**City of Cayce
Special Council Meeting
April 18, 2011**

A Special Council meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Councilmen Steve Isom, James Jenkins, Kenneth Jumper, Tim James, City Manager Rebecca Rhodes, Municipal Clerk, Tammy Barkley, and Municipal Treasurer, Garry Huddle. Mayor Partin advised that members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the FOIA.

Mayor Partin opened the meeting and Councilmember Jumper gave the invocation and the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other

- A. Discussion of Discontinuing Twice a Week Household Garbage Pick Up Service beginning May 2011

Ms. Rhodes stated that Council had asked that she put together some information for Council to review, starting with the twice a week pick up service provided by the City. She stated that she had prepared a white paper and inquired if Council had any questions. She stated that Councilmember James had spoken with some of his constituents and she has found that people are either adamant or not about the service. She stated that she felt there would be always be a way to accommodate people who may need more than once a week service. She stated we have to try our best any way we can to save money and this is one of the things that is not necessarily a necessity. Councilmember Jumper stated people in his area stated that they did not need twice a week service. Ms. Rhodes stated that she felt the big garbage cans have helped the argument for getting rid of the twice a week service. Councilmember James stated that when the issue is presented in the correct manner, people seem to understand why eliminating this service is important in trying to find ways to save on the city's expenses. Councilmember Jenkins asked the Sanitation Manager, Thomas White, to provide input on this issue. Mr. White stated that the majority of the time on the second day of pick up, that route is basically riding up and down the streets. He stated that are a few cans out to be picked up. In other cases, he stated that on the second pick up, the can is only about one-third filled. Ms. Rhodes stated that not only is it expensive to run the trucks because of the increase in gasoline, as well as anything that is fuel-based, but it is also the wear and tear or miles put on the trucks to go back and forth to the landfills. She stated that Mr. White has requested in his FY11-12 budget a new rear loader for residential service. She stated the city has already spent \$25,000 repairing the truck that is used for second pick up just to keep it running. Mr. White stated that additional expensive repairs have also been done to this same truck this year. Additional

discussion took place on condition and repairs made to all the trucks used for residential sanitation.

Councilmember James stated that his concern was not eliminating the twice a week service but how to communicate it to our residents. Ms. Rhodes stated that her white paper includes a list of ways to notify the residents—press release, Facebook, City’s web site, water bills, etc. She stated that she would be attending all the neighborhood meetings this month and would relay the information. Ms. Barkley stated that in the past, staff has placed notices on the trash cans and that seemed to work well. Councilmember Jenkins suggested that the City’s PR agency be involved in getting the word out.

After discussion, Councilmember Isom made a motion to approve the discontinuation of the twice a week garbage pick up service beginning May, 2011, that the City Manager prepare the notice to go out to residents and use every avenue possible to get the word out. Councilmember Jumper seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Ms. Rhodes stated that she would draft the notice and sent it to Council for their review. Mayor Partin stated that it would be beneficial to include any other changes made in services in the notice rather than sending something out every time a decision is made.

B. Continuation of Presentations of Departments’ Proposed FY11-12 Budgets

The following department heads presented their proposed FY11-12 budgets to Council:

James Denny – Parks, Mike Clayborn – Garage, Garry Huddle – Finance, Frank Robinson, Ben Wright and Gary Hubbard – Utilities Departments.

Cost Cutting Measures and Revenue Enhancement Options

Ms. Rhodes placed the estimated revenues and expenses on a flip chart and stated more accurate figures would be forthcoming. She stated that the figures were for the General Fund and she would like for Mr. Milhous to meet with Council to go over the Utility Fund revenues and expenses. She stated that the General Fund does not really have a way to generate new funds. She stated she provided a number of options in the agenda packet. She stated the problem now is that for the longest time the city did not raise any of their fees or taxes, and now it cannot because of the millage cap placed upon the city. She stated the staff has gone a long time stretching things out as long as they could. She stated that from the buildings to the vehicles, everything is in dire need of repair or replacement and that the City is at a critical point where difficult decisions will need to be made for the city to be successful. She stated that the city does it all—everything from dispatch to picking up bulk white goods, we have our own Grants person, our own IT person and our own Museum, but we have failed to invest in a large portion of those things and are now at a point where things are falling down around our ears and decisions need to be made on how to move forward. She advised Council

that there are three big tickets items requested for FY11-12—a new fire truck, a new rear loader truck and the Animal Shelter.

She stated that the city's millage is capped at the CPI which is approximately 1.7% which might bring in \$60,000. She stated the city is in an interesting situation right now and there are several options in reference to the Animal Shelter—one is to build an Animal Shelter and have our own adoption program. She stated that she has asked West Columbia several times about partnering in building the Animal Shelter, but has not received a response. Another idea is that we work with one of the local non-profits to see if they would take at least our adoptable pets, but that really does not take the number of animals we need to get out of our facility. She stated Lexington and Richland Counties have worked out a deal with Pawmetto Life Line to help fund a facility out near Columbiana Mall that will take 1,200 animals a year from each entity. She stated that since the City is in Lexington County she asked if it could join in the agreement and was told no. She has set up a meeting with Pawmetto Life Line on Wednesday to see if there is any way we can work out an agreement with them. She stated that she also approached Lexington County about handling our animal services and they did not look favorably on the idea due to the number of animals and calls per month. She stated that she would be meeting with Lexington County to discuss this option further. She stated she is looking at every option possible because she does not see how the City can raise the kind of money needed to build and maintain an Animal Shelter. She mentioned alternatives of adding fees to property tax bills in order to pay for specific projects. Ms. Rhodes asked for Council's direction on this issue. Council asked that Ms. Rhodes continue with her plan of action and bring back information to Council once meetings have been concluded.

Ms. Rhodes stated obviously if you replace vehicles you can then reduce the repair line items, but she stated that she is pulling rabbits out of hat on ways that the can raise money or cut costs. She stated that the costs have been cut, cut, and cut every single year and in providing the services the city provides now there is no other place to cut unless you discontinue the service, the quality or quantity of service. She stated that there is the ability to put millage on to make up a deficit for a prior year and the possibility of putting a fee on the property tax with limitations. She stated that the minute you recoup the deficit, the additional millage drops off.

Councilmember James made a motion to adjourn and to take up the remaining items on the agenda at the next budget workshop. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Council scheduled the next Budget Workshop for Monday, April 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy P. Barkley, CMC, Municipal Clerk