

ITEM I. B.



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

Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Cayce City Hall, 1800 12th Street | 5:00 p.m.

www.caycesc.gov

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

The July 22, 2026, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening in Council Chambers. Those present include Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Carter, and Council Members Tiffany Aull, Byron Thomas, and Alice Rose. Attendees also included Municipal Clerk Kristen Hall, City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Assistant City Manager/Utilities Director Betsy Catchings, Finance Director Sarah Hawkins, Police Chief Bruce Wade, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Human Resources Director Keisha Brunson, IT Director Jamie Beckham, and City Attorney James Smith.

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

Call to Order

Mayor Partin called the Regular Council Meeting to order, and Council Member Thomas gave the Invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve both the June 2, 2026, Regular Council Meeting minutes and the June 11, 2026, Public Hearing and Special Called Council Meeting minutes as written. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Chip Salak, Item IV. A. – Mr. Salak noted that Council had previously discussed initiatives such as a civility pledge and a code of conduct and expressed support for efforts that promote civility, respect, and professionalism. He requested additional discussion regarding the purpose and need for adopting the Dignity Index, noting that it is a relatively new program and that its use appears to require licensing or an agreement with the administering organization. Mr. Salak suggested that Council consider first pursuing any necessary licensing or partnership agreement before taking action and encouraged a thorough public discussion of the initiative and how it compares to previously discussed alternatives.

Presentations

A. Introduction of Tony Tam, CEO – Greater Cayce-West Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Partin welcomed Tony Tam, the newly appointed CEO of the Greater Cayce-West Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Tam introduced himself and provided an overview of his professional background, highlighting more than 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry and his long-standing ties to the Midlands. He shared his vision for the Chamber, emphasizing support for local businesses through networking, educational resources, and a strong focus on tourism and regional economic development. Mr. Tam expressed his commitment to maintaining a strong partnership with the City of Cayce and offered the Chamber's support to City leadership and the business community.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Discussion and Approval of Council to operate under the Dignity Index

City Manager Conley introduced the discussion regarding Council's consideration of operating under the Dignity Index, a nonpartisan communication tool developed through the Unite Initiative. He explained that the Dignity Index focuses on how individuals communicate during disagreements, with the goal of reducing contempt, promoting dignity, and encouraging productive problem-solving. He noted that Council members had previously been introduced to the concept through conferences and discussions and expressed that the initiative could provide value in promoting respectful dialogue.

City Manager Conley advised Council that additional research is needed regarding trademark and licensing requirements associated with using the Dignity Index in public-facing materials and educational efforts. He stated that staff would continue working with the City Attorney to obtain clarification on those requirements and provide additional information to Council.

Council members expressed general support for the concept and agreed that promoting civility and respectful communication is important. Council Member Thomas discussed the importance of adopting a meaningful civility initiative and suggested that, regardless of the final approach, Council consider formally reciting a civility pledge or statement of conduct prior to Council meetings to demonstrate its commitment to respectful dialogue with one another and the community.

Council members also discussed the Municipal Association of South Carolina's civility pledge as another resource and expressed interest in reviewing all available options before making a final decision. Council consensus was to direct staff to obtain additional information regarding licensing requirements and available options and bring the item back to Council for further discussion and consideration.

Resolutions

A. Consideration and Approval of Resolution for Safe Streets for All Grant

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the staff recommendation of approving the resolution establishing a Vision Zero policy to support the city's comprehensive safety action plan and

continued eligibility for the future Safe Streets for All implementation funding opportunities. Council Member Aull seconded the motion prior to discussion and roll call vote.

During discussion, Council Member Thomas asked about the city's funding received through the program to date. City Manager Conley stated the city has received approximately \$160,000 in grant funding to develop the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and explained that completion of the planning phase positions the city to apply for future implementation grants for eligible safety improvement projects. Council members expressed appreciation to staff for pursuing the grant and emphasized the importance of long-term planning to improve pedestrian safety, expand walkability, and enhance transportation infrastructure throughout the City. Council recognized that the resolution supports the City's ongoing commitment to creating safer streets and maintaining eligibility for future federal funding opportunities.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Partin called for the vote which was unanimously approved.

Committee Matters

- A. Appointments
 - a. Beautification Foundation – One (1) Vacancy
 - Vanessa Mota
 - Dana Bailey

Council Member Thomas made a motion to appoint Vanessa Mota to the Beautification Foundation. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- b. Events Committee – Five (5) Vacancies
 - Atavia Jackson

Council Member Thomas made a motion to appoint Atavia Jackson to the Events Committee. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- B. Approval of Minutes
 - Cayce Historical Museum Commission – March 4, 2026
 - Cayce Housing Authority – May 19, 2026 and June 29, 2026
 - Cayce Planning Commission – February 23, 2026
 - Cayce Public Safety Foundation – March 24, 2026 and April 28, 2026

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to approve all six (6) sets of committee minutes. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Conley announced the appointment of Sarah Hawkins as the City's new Chief Financial Officer. He highlighted Ms. Hawkins' 12 years of local government finance experience

and welcomed her back to the City of Cayce, where she previously served as a staff accountant. He commended her professionalism and the experience she brings to the City's leadership team.

City Manager Conley also reminded residents that the City's Community Tool Shed remains available to Cayce residents, providing free access to yard maintenance tools. Lastly, he announced the upcoming Cayce Back-to-School Bash on Thursday, July 30th, encouraging the community to attend and support the event, which provides school supplies, haircuts, and other resources for local students and families.

Council Comments

Council Member Aull welcomed Sarah Hawkins as the City's new Chief Financial Officer and highlighted the value of attending the Municipal Association of South Carolina Annual Meeting, noting that Council gained valuable knowledge and best practices to help move the City forward. She also recognized Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Code Inspector David Jennings, and Dominion Energy for their exceptional efforts in assisting residents with power restoration following recent storms, commending their dedication and service to the community.

Council Member Thomas reflected on the Municipal Association conference, highlighting the value of networking with municipal leaders and touring the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Travelers Rest as inspiration for expanding connectivity and walkability throughout Cayce. He expressed interest in holding additional Council work sessions to continue collaborative planning and encouraged the community to attend the monthly free breakfast hosted by Cayce United Methodist Church. Council Member Thomas also announced an upcoming community career and resource fair, thanking community partners for their support, and offered continued prayers for Senator Lindsey Graham and his family.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter congratulated the Airport High School Baseball Team on winning the 2026 South Carolina 4A Lower State Championship and finishing as the 4A State Runner-Up, commending the players, coaches, families, and school community for their accomplishments and bringing pride to the City of Cayce.

Mayor Partin echoed Mayor Pro Tem Carter's sentiments for the Airport High School Baseball Team on its successful season and shared positive feedback from a resident recognizing Animal Control Officer Johnson and Officer Strum for providing exceptional assistance and customer service. She thanked an anonymous resident for donating laminated news articles related to the City's public art project and expressed appreciation for the community's enthusiasm and support. Mayor Partin also recognized the late Butch Wallace for his many contributions to the City of Cayce, highlighting his longtime advocacy for the community expressed gratitude for his lasting impact on the City's arts community and overall civic development.

Executive Session

- A. Personnel Matter – Hiring of Public Defender
- B. Discussion of proposed agreement with CMC regarding repair of intersection
- C. Receipt of legal advice relating to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege

Council Member Rose made a motion to move into Executive Session for all items. Council Member Aull seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Council Member Thomas made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Council Member Rose seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Reconvene

After Executive Session concluded, Mayor Partin announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session other than to come out of Executive Session and resume the Regular Council Meeting.

Possible Action in follow-up to Executive Session

- A. Possible action, if any, relating to claims or potential claims discussed in executive session, as appropriate and as permitted by law

Adjourn

There being no action in follow-up to Executive Session, Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.



Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen Hall, 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.**

Public comment is limited to **5 minutes** or less per speaker.

COUNCIL MEETING SPEAKERS' LIST

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

	Name	Address	Agenda Item
1	CHIP SARK	301 TANWOOD C.	IV-A
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***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.