

Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem Tim James	Council Members Phil Carter Hunter Sox Byron Thomas	Interim City Manager James Crosland	Interim Deputy City Manager Michael Conley	
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**City of Cayce**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 17, 2024**

The July 17, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 5:00 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, Interim Police Chief Shawn Grant, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gates, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, 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 Council Member Sox gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the June 4, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and the June 26, 2024 Public Hearing and 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**

Ms. Mary Safko – Item IX. A. 3. Ms. Safko stated that she was a member of District 1 and Tim James was her district representative. She stated that she was going to read her back-and-forth exchange with Tim James. She stated that her email read “Concerning IX. A. 3. since the only employees who are appointed by council are our two judges, one attorney, and our City Manager, why has this been added at the very last minute for discussion during executive session. This last minute add on gives me great concern. I am very satisfied with these appointments, especially the outstanding job by Tracy Hegler, our City Manager. I would like these positions to remain unaffected. Also, I am deeply concerned with electronic devices being used during council meetings by elected officials. Please consider banning the use of any electronic devices during council meetings except by the City Manager, Mendy Corder, and our AV team. Committee minutes should be read by council before this meeting. Mendy Corder can provide paper copies of the meeting agenda for your use. Tim James replied: “Many

thanks Mary for keeping up with everything going on and for your input. As for your point regarding electronic equipment, years back with my support, we as a council decided to issue workbooks as to ease the burden on staff for getting communications out and to reduce printing. And of course, to increase the timeliness of changes. So, we all have computers. I don't see where we need to change that and talk about going back in time. I for one, love using the system put in place versus collecting a bunch of documents. All I have to do is open the workbook." Ms. Safko stated that her response was as follows and stated that Mayor Pro Tem James did not respond to her first concern: "Does the workbook permit others to communicate to a council member during a council meeting? If so, as I feel certain is happening, outside interference has been occurring, which means outside interference manipulation is affecting council votes. I'm talking about 10 printed copies of a 2-page agenda twice a month. That is all the five of you should need. No smart phones or devices are needed. If you read the committee minutes prior to the meeting, you don't need to access those documents during the council meeting to vote to approve or amend each. I'm not suggesting these be printed. Homework using your workbook device should always be required reading. What happened in plain view to many people at the last council meeting truly needs to stop. Council members should not be receiving messages of any type during a council meeting in an effort to manipulate votes. If others want to comment to council, let them sign in to speak at the top of the agenda like me and everyone else. That provides a level playing field. The elimination of electronic devices should be mandated during council meetings to restore lost trust by constituents. Mendy Corder does an outstanding job of taking minutes, so you'll have an account of what occurred. This is not moving us back; it is moving us forward in a positive way. I don't want unelected people having invisible seats on our council. I hope you can see that. If so, use your influence to make this happen. Please lead this charge. If not, then I truly worry about your leadership. Thank you for the opportunity to let you know about the serious undercurrent of concern on this issue. People are watching and paying attention. This is far bigger than just me. Ms. Safko stated that her last email follow up to Mayor Pro Tem James read "since I was unsuccessful in handling this through you I will be making public remarks on both issues tonight. Hopefully you understand I only have Cayce citizens' best interest at heart. Thank you for this opportunity. Now I trust you will do the right thing and make the right decisions because I bid you good night.

Mr. Mike Pazery – Item V. A. Mr. Pazery stated that the only objection he had to the RS-4A zoning was the section that permitted duplexes. He stated that if Broad Brook CT, LLC ever found that they could not proceed with the project at 800 Lexington Avenue and decided to sell the property, a future buyer could build duplexes there because RS-4A allowed that. He stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously for RS-4A with duplexes not permitted. Mr. Pazery stated that he hoped that Council would make that change in RS-4A

Mr. Ross Shealy – Item IX. A. 3. Mr. Shealy stated that he lived in Council Member Carter's district and had lived in the City since 2004. He stated that he noticed the

Executive Session discussion of employment of an employee appointed by city council on the agenda and thought there were only two (2) employees appointed by City Council. He stated that he was not aware that municipal judges were appointed by Council. He stated that just in case that item was about the City Manager he wanted to speak. Mr. Shealy stated that he had the pleasure of working with the City Manager through the Beautification Foundation and had worked with city managers and municipal attorneys in his job as an attorney. He stated that Ms. Hegler was well regarded among those in the field, and she did an outstanding job and had done great things for the City. He stated that Ms. Hegler was outstanding, and he would say she was probably one of the best in the State and the City was lucky to have her. He stated that he thought that she was probably one of the best appointments Council had ever made.

### **Presentations**

- A. Presentation by Ms. Dara Brown regarding an update on the data from the bike lane demonstration and the community walk audit.

Ms. Brown stated that she was the Senior Community Health Coordinator for Brookland Lakeview Empowerment Center, and the chair of the Active and Accessible Committee Transit Coalition and more importantly, she was a 20-year Cayce resident. She stated that about a year ago, she had the opportunity to stand before Council and share the Coalition's ideas to make the West Metro area more walkable. She stated that as a reminder, improvements in walkability create accessibility for every age and ability to move from place to place without solely relying on a car. She stated that it would help reduce pedestrian collisions in which Lexington County was ranked in the State's top 10. She stated that they knew from other communities' walkability investments, it brought tourism, new businesses, and jobs. Ms. Brown stated that at the time, they shared an idea for a five (5) mile walk bike loop through Cayce and West Columbia and she promised she would keep Council informed. She stated that this spring the Coalition held some events to begin gauging community perception and she was going to give a brief summary of what they did this spring.

Ms. Brown stated that during Soiree on State, a temporary bike lane was installed on State Street with art provided by the Cayce Arts Guild. She stated that approximately 966 persons engaged with the walk-through demonstration and that included about 43 people with bicycles, 921 people either walking or strolling through with strollers, and two (2) people with mobility devices. She stated that during the demonstration surveys were completed by willing passers by either with a QR code on their smartphone or by paper, and City staff posted the survey link on Facebook for additional survey completion from the public. She stated that over 1,000 people completed the five-question survey, most from Richland and Lexington counties and of that total, 248 were from Cayce. She stated that the first question asked about usage, asking if protected bike lanes were permanent, would one use them, and the responses

were resoundingly positive. She stated that question number two asked how they would you use protected bike lanes. She stated that Cayce respondents mostly responded with recreationally as opposed to commuting. She stated that the third question inquired about perception of safety and if protected bike lanes made them feel safe for walking, biking, or rolling in the City. She stated that 99% of responding Cayce residents said yes.

Ms. Brown stated that question four aimed at assessing beliefs and attitudes towards investing in walk or bike infrastructure to make the City more accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities and across the board, the resounding answer was positive. She stated that the fifth and final question requested zip codes which was what allowed for them to categorize people and their locations. She stated that as a Coalition, they recognized that the sample size was diverse since the Soiree draws people of all types and it was also a small number compared to the actual population of the City. She stated that the data captured an interesting snapshot of public perception of walkability, indicating Cayce was moving toward being ready for such changes. She stated that in the future, they would ask for the respondent's age since younger generations were more likely to seek out living in areas that were more walkable. Ms. Brown stated that the AARP Livable Communities Program educated adults 50 and older around the country about communities being friendly to all ages. She stated that the Coalition had some education to do about what commuting was since the traditional definition was traveling to and from work, but they would like to challenge people to broaden that to commuting to any distinct destination, like a pharmacy or school or church.

Ms. Brown stated that the second event they held was a one (1) mile loop community walk audit that included about 18 people, including Mayor Partin, Council Member Thomas, City Manager Hegler and the Cayce Police Department. She stated that there were two (2) goals for the day, the first to make sure that every resident attending was heard, and that people listened to each other. She stated that a promise was made to collect all the feedback and share it with Council. She stated that they made three (3) stops along the route and community members were given a chance to rate the quality of their walk experience on a scale of one to 10 and give their reasons for each rating. She stated that the first stop was at the intersection of 12th Street and Frink Street and the average walk experience score was a three (3). She stated that some of the comments that were made were needing places to sit along the route, requests for more speed limit signs and law enforcement patrolling. She stated that there were requests for a buffer between pedestrians and the road and the shrubbery along 12th Street needed to be trimmed. She stated that they also commented that the sidewalk was bumpy and uneven and lighting was needed along 12th Street.

Ms. Brown stated that they also took the opportunity to look down Frink Street towards Julius Felder and noted the lack of streetlights, that the sidewalk ends in an area in which residents frequently walk to access local convenience stores and there

was no speed limit signage. She stated that stop number two (2) occurred at the corner of Frink and Foreman Streets and the average walk reference score for this stretch ranged from one (1) to four (4) and the comments included there not being much room on the shoulder of the road for walking or using a mobility device or even pushing a small stroller, which meant participants felt they were walking in traffic. She stated that one person commented that safety ended when the sidewalk ended. She stated that the final stop was the return back to the parking area in front of Granby Gardens Park after they walked down Walter Price using the crosswalk to cross five (5) lanes of traffic on 12th Street. Ms. Brown stated that the average walk experience score was one (1) to two (2) and the comments included that the road crossing was scary, the crosswalk was needing an additional crosswalk on the other side like the one at the other corner and a crossing light or change in the intersection design was needed for the Avenues residents wanting to walk and access the park. She stated that the comments also included that there were no streetlights or pedestrian level lighting making it difficult to see and be seen. She stated that the group debriefed further in the park, and she felt that this quote summed up the essence of the experience “busy roads divided neighborhoods, perpetuate separation, and make building community harder.” Ms. Brown stated that in the end the Coalition was trying to create a safe, healthy, inclusive sense of community for everyone.

Ms. Brown stated that the last question people were asked was to identify other areas of the City they felt needed more attention. She stated that the list included Julius Felder Street, L Avenue to Charleston Highway, and 12th Street from City Hall all the way to Triangle City. She stated that they recognized these target areas were within two (2) to three (3) miles of the river and left out other parts of the City. She stated that she had already spoken to Council Member Sox about arranging a community walk audit deeper within his district to engage more resident voices and she was happy to do the same thing for other districts. She stated that on behalf of the Coalition, she would like to reiterate that they recognized that Cayce, like most jurisdictions in South Carolina, did not own the streets and a lot of the coordination would have to take place on the County and State level. Ms. Brown stated that they were not requesting any action from the City at this time. However, West Columbia had documented the five (5) mile loop the Coalition proposed in their latest Revitalization Plan update. She stated that as Cayce updated Zoning Ordinances, they hoped they would keep the feedback that the Coalition provided in mind and lay down the framework for a more walk-bike friendly city.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that the City received a grant a couple of months ago for \$200,000 to use for safety and intersections. City Manager Hegler stated that at least one of them was on that list and the Coalition were supporters of the City getting that grant. She stated that the status of that was the City just got their final agreement approved with the DOT and staff would start soliciting for a contractor to help with that. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that Ms. Brown had done some phenomenal work and he could speak on behalf of the majority of Council that they wanted walkability in the City.

Mayor Partin stated that she wanted to thank Ms. Brown as a fellow Masters in Public Health and stated that she was the perfect person to be in her position. She stated that the City was thankful for everything the Brookland Lakeview Empowerment Center was doing for Cayce and West Columbia, because they were making a monumental difference and Council was there to do anything they could to support them.

**B. Presentation by Business Consultant Mr. Fletcher Smith regarding SC Small Business Development Center**

Mr. Smith stated that he was a business consultant with the South Carolina Small Business Development Center and was a City resident. He stated that he was there to make Council aware of their work and the services they provided at no cost. He stated that he believed that someone would approach Council about starting a new business and he hoped that they would send them to the South Carolina Small Business Development Centers. He stated that in 1979, Congress established the Small Business Development Centers and now they served all 50 states. He stated that they were a resource partner of the Small Business Administration and operated as a part of the University of South Carolina system. He stated that about one half of his engagements with clients were with people who were already in business and needed help with something as simple as social media marketing, starting a new business or opening a new location, or additional funding for their current business.

Mr. Smith stated that the other work he did was with entrepreneurs on the cusp of starting new businesses who either had an idea or a concept or a product, or a service that they wanted to provide to the market. He stated that he assisted them with writing business plans, doing financial projections and helping them get their limited liability corporation status set up. He stated that he also helped them with licensing such as the City of Cayce business license, retail licensing with South Carolina DOR, and if they were seeking funding, he assisted them with a loan application and a checklist from a specific lender or matched them up to a lender that they already worked with. He stated that they believed that they also added to the local economy by maintaining referral lists of other businesses and services that new small businesses were going to need. Mr. Smith stated that he participated in giving time to the Small Business Council at the Cayce West Columbia Chamber of Commerce and through the chamber, he was afforded the opportunity to provide education and participate in any number of events that involved small businesses in the area.

Mr. Smith stated that he met with City staff member Rochelle Smith recently and was able to spend some time with her reviewing the business license requirements and processes in the City. He stated that the Business License Department of any city was the starting point for anyone starting a business. He stated that now he had a relationship with Ms. Smith where she knew to send people to him, and he had already sent someone to her. He stated that he would help someone get their license and get the proper paperwork prepared and get them properly licensed to do business in the

City. He stated that they believed that with their client relationships, confidentiality was very important. He stated that they publicly helped their clients market their products and services but anything proprietary or financially related, they kept private. Mr. Smith stated that they did collect over time, their sales, employee and capital data, as they progressed as a small business and it got compiled into a very large statewide report that goes to the Small Business Administration who in turn, breaks it down and sends it back into the congressional levels locally for public consumption. He stated that there was a one (1) page summary about the work they did in Congressman Joe Wilson's district where last year they started 31 businesses with \$12 million worth of capital employed into the marketplace.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that when Mr. Fletcher came to the community he said he wanted to be a part of the community and through the Small Business Development Center with the state of South Carolina, he found a way to do that. He stated that for every three (3) large businesses there were 97 small businesses and Mr. Smith assisted those small businesses to become bigger, better and stronger. Mayor Partin stated that she was excited about what he offered and would definitely be sharing his contact information. Mr. Smith stated that the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce said that in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter there were 9,500 businesses in Lexington County and 9,000 of those businesses were under 50 employees and 50,000 people worked in those 9,000 businesses so small businesses were obviously the heartbeat of the community.

### **Items for Discussion and Possible Approval**

#### **A. Discussion and Approval to Select a Vendor for the Fire Department Station Alerting System**

City Manager Hegler stated that last year Council approved with ARPA funds \$60,000 to purchase an alerting system for the Fire Department because it would bring the Department up to NFPA standards and industry best practices. She stated that it was a clear rapid communication and alerting system that would have a positive impact on the Fire Department's response times, employee satisfaction and performance. She stated that the system would fully integrate the current CAD system and would improve upon the communication safety and response times that the Department currently had. She stated that staff had been researching potential vendors for this and the Fire Department would like to choose the system that was compatible with Lexington County, especially since they just made the transfer of Dispatch to them. She stated that would be Purvis Systems who was known for automated dispatching systems, servers, station radio and mobile alerting for fire, EMS, and military applications and was who Lexington County Fire and EMS used. City Manager Hegler stated that staff would ask if Council chose to do so that they waive the procurement processes since staff would like to sole source them for that compatibility. She stated that it was already budgeted for at \$60,000 and they quoted \$52,540.19 which included the initial

development and installation and the first year of ongoing maintenance of \$2,182.50 after the warranty period ended.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to waive the formal bidding process and select Purvis Systems in the amount of \$52,540.19 which would include the first-year maintenance post warranty to install the fire department station alerting system. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**B. Discussion and Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Springdale for Airport Boulevard Corridor Improvements**

City Manager Hegler stated that the City had been working with the Midlands Business Leadership Group, as well as other local municipalities in Richland and Lexington County, to establish regional gateways around the region. She stated that the team identified two (2) priority projects to begin with - Airport Boulevard from the airport to the interstate, as well as the Fort Jackson gateway. She stated that they had been raising funds for the construction and design of that work. She stated that they had been focusing solely on Airport Boulevard and the Land Plan Group had been working on that scope and they had completed the drawings and design and construction of that. City Manager Hegler stated that the next step for this work to continue was to get a permit from the DOT and get their approval for the design and then go into the procurement phase of selecting a contractor and getting the construction underway. She stated that Cayce was on one side of the street of that corridor and Springdale was on the other. She stated that DOT preferred one (1) applicant for efficiency of procurement selection, vendor selection and overall project management and MBLG would like for the City to be the sole applicant.

City Manager Hegler stated that MBLG funded a project manager, Ms. Mickey Laden, who was the CEO of LCK, a professional project management company fully funded by MBLG to help with the project. She stated that the steps the City needed to take were to have an IGA with the Town of Springdale allowing the City to be the applicant within their jurisdiction and they would also turn over the procurement process that would follow the City's. She stated that Springdale had already approved the IGA and legal counsel had looked at it as well. Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Springdale for the regional gateways project and authorize the City Manager to execute it. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that she was on the original committee that brought this project forward, so it had been a long time in coming. She stated that this project was one (1) of nine (9) that would transform the region. She called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Ordinances and Resolution**



**A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-08 Amending Article 6 District Regulations to Add Language to Create the RS-4A Single-Family Zoning District Along with Accompanying Regulations – Second Reading**

City Manager Hegler stated that there had not been a change with this item since first reading. She stated that Council gave first reading to the version of the district that was proposed by City staff. Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-08 amending Article Six district regulations to add language to create the RS-4A single family zoning district along with accompanying regulations. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion. He stated that City Manager Hegler and Assistant City Manager Conley were probably the very best in the state when it came to planning and zoning. He asked if City administration could deny certain things in this zoning compared to the other zoning districts they had. City Manager Hegler stated that what she told him was Council had full control over where the district goes since it did not currently exist anywhere and it was very difficult to make changes to existing districts. She stated that Council wielded the ultimate control at this point, since the district was brand new and they could decide where it gets to be applied.

City Manager Hegler stated that the two (2) issues the Planning Commission had questions about were duplexes which were really attached homes that were still single family and just shared a very limited side yard. She stated that they also had an issue with accessory dwelling units. She stated that the Planning Commission unanimously requested that the duplexes be removed, and a majority of the Commission asked that accessory dwelling units be removed. She stated that the City had additional design standards for all these types of units. She stated that the new district opened up a variety of housing styles and types that currently did not exist, but Council had control over where that zoning designation was put. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that if the current proposed project for this area was to fall through the next project would have to come before Council to approve. City Manager Hegler stated that was not correct since it would already be rezoned. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that City Manager Hegler and Assistant City Manager Conley must support the growth of the City in a very progressive manner, or they would not have brought it before Council. City Manager Hegler stated that was correct. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**B. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-09 Amending the Zoning Map and Rezoning Properties Located at 800 Lexington Avenue (Tax Map Number 05769-04-001 and Tax Map Number 005769-04-004) from RS-3 to RS-4A – Second Reading**

City Manager Hegler stated that there was no change since first reading. She stated that this was an application of this new district on a particular parcel. She stated that the Planning Commission had a split vote. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-09. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor

Pro Tem James stated that he was extremely happy that nice housing was going to be built on the property and the developers had committed to honoring and memorializing that the property was a former grammar school. He stated that they had mentioned having a groundbreaking or bringing everyone back that attended the school. He stated that they had ideas in mind of researching its history to name the neighborhood something that was reminiscent of the school that was there. Mayor Partin stated that there seemed to be some confusion and she wanted to make sure everyone understood Council just passed a description of a zoning option and now the question before them was if they would apply it to 800 Lexington Avenue. Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter, Sox and Thomas voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

### **Committee Matters**

- A. Approval to Enter the following Committee Approved Minutes into the City's Record  
Planning Commission – May 20, 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 Saturday, July 27 was the first ever Cayce Cool Down event in Granby Gardens Park from 11am to 1pm and was being put on by the Events Committee. She stated that same day from 2pm to 5pm was the Police Department's Back to School Bash at Mt. Zion. She stated that August 3 was Prescription Drug Take Back Day being put on by the Fire Department. She stated that she was excited to announce that a new Grants Manager was starting the following week who had 15 years of experience in all sorts of grant writing and management.

### **Council Comments**

Council Member Thomas stated that he appreciated Council's and Mayor Partin's thoughts and prayers for his family as they were dealing with an unexpected death in the family. Mayor Partin thanked staff for creating a great place to work and hiring a really good grants managers. She stated that made a difference in the budget and helped to take some pressure off of the citizens and it helped to give staff some of the great equipment that they needed to do the job that Council was asking them to do.

### **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 Taylor Street at New State Road
  3. Discussion of employment of an employee appointed by city council

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**

2. Claim for Improvements to Taylor Street at New State Road

Council Member Sox made a motion to authorize the City Manager to proceed with the proposal for Taylor Street improvements from 3D Dirt Works, LLC pursuant to the City's agreement with Lexington County for road improvements with contingencies as discussed in executive session pursuant to the provisions of the IGA with Lexington County with any necessary City funding provided by the general fund unassigned fund balance. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Partin thanked staff for really moving this in a tough climate for getting roads paved. She stated that they did a nice job navigating all that and it was great that the City had a really good County agreement, so they knew the County was going to do their part to get it done. She called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

3. Discussion of employment of an employee appointed by the city council

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the amendment to the Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Tracy Hegler as to employment as provided by the document prepared by the City Attorney and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Council Member Sox made a motion approving the agreement between the City and Tracy Hegler as to the mutually agreed voluntary separation and authorize the

agreement to begin Friday, July 19, 2024, and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Council Member Sox thanked City Manager Hegler for her years of service to the City and wished her the best in her future endeavors. Mayor Pro Tem James stated that while this was a mutual decision, he did not think there were many people that could pull a team together better than Tracy Hegler and certainly when it came to ordinances and zoning, she was probably the best he had ever seen. He thanked City Manager Hegler for her fingerprints on the City that would be there for many years to come and thanked her for everything that she had done. Council Member Carter thanked City Manager Hegler for taking care of the City. He stated that she started with the City during a tough time for him personally and they came together quickly. He stated that he appreciated what she had done and wished her best of luck in the future. Council Member Thomas thanked City Manager Hegler for her service and for having patience with him over the last nine (9) months as a newly elected councilman. He stated that it had been an honor to sing her praises for all the things she had done there. Mayor Partin stated that she wanted to recognize City Manager Hegler for the fabulous job she had done at the City. She stated that there had been a number of people that had said that Tracy was the best city manager the City had ever had. She stated that there were new businesses coming to the City thanks to Tracy's leadership. She stated that she had done an amazing job of creating a culture where employees wanted to come so they could recruit the best and retain the best. Mayor Partin stated that the City was lucky to have Chief Cowan for a number of years and now was lucky to have Chief Grant. She stated that City Manager Hegler had done an amazing job of keeping things going despite being down two (2) of the City's most prominent department heads, with the Chief of Police out and the Director of Utilities who had been out for several weeks after being in a horrific car crash. She stated that she had not missed a beat and that was pretty amazing. She stated that she had helped the City do what it did well, which was keep taxes and fees low but with a really high quality of life. She stated that it had been an honor to work with her. Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter, Sox and Thomas voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Jim Crosland as the Interim City Manager beginning July 20, 2024, to serve pending the search and appointment of a replacement City Manager. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Partin thanked Mr. Crosland for stepping up and stated that he was a vital part of the team and Council was thankful for his leadership. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Adjourn**

Council Member Sox 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 9:58 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

