



<b>Mayor</b> Elise Partin	<b>Mayor Pro-Tem</b> Tim James	<b>Council Members</b> Phil Carter Hunter Sox Byron Thomas	<b>Interim City Manager</b> James Crosland	<b>Interim Deputy City Manager</b> Michael Conley
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**City of Cayce**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

The October 16, 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. Interim City Manager Jim Crosland, Interim Deputy City Manager Michael Conley, Deputy Municipal Clerk Amanda Rowan, Interim Police Chief Shawn Grant, Fire Chief Steven Bullard, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, IT Director Jamie Beckham 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. Rowan 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.

### **Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

No one signed up for Public Comment.

### **Presentations**

- A. Presentation to Council by Fire Chief Steve Bullard on the Fire Dispatch Consolidation with Lexington County

Fire Chief Bullard thanked Council for allowing him to give an update on the Fire Department's recent transition into the consolidated dispatch with Lexington County. He stated that he also wanted to thank Council again for supporting the Fire Department and helping them grow as a department. He also thanked everyone who had a part in the transition. He stated that there were too many to name, but it could not have happened without their support and willingness to see the project through. He stated that Council approved the consolidation on June 26, 2024, and after approval, it took a couple of weeks to get the technology components integrated into the system. Fire Chief Bullard stated that the Department officially went live with consolidated dispatch on August 1, 2024. He stated that since the integration it had been largely successful. He stated that some of the positives they had seen were overall operational safety on scenes by having multiple units on scene immediately that were being dispatched by one single source. He stated that morale had improved overall and they now felt that they were part of a bigger system.

Fire Chief Bullard stated that there was no more competing for airtime on the radio and multiple dispatchers were available to monitor radio traffic which eliminated the delay between dispatch centers, making their aid partners response time significantly faster. He stated that the City was never without coverage anymore and interoperability had drastically increased by being able to talk to everyone without switching channels. He stated that safety of fire scenes was increased because they now had a dispatcher that could listen to all radio traffic. He stated that the Department was meeting NFPA and ISO standards for personnel and structure fires, which was 17. He stated that some more positives that came out of dispatch consolidation were the Department now had mobile data terminals in their fire trucks so they could see live updates from the dispatch center. He stated that their call volume had increased slightly, which was improving morale, and their call time accuracy had improved.

Fire Chief Bullard stated that the only negative was they were experiencing problems with their reporting system. He stated that was not a dispatch problem and they were working on it. He stated that the call volume and type starting August 1, 2024, to October 10, 2024, when they pulled the data, they ran a total of 421 calls, and of those calls, they gave or received aid on 152. He stated that the aid came primarily from the West Columbia Fire Department. He stated that between January 1, 2024, and July 31, 2024, they ran a total of 1,412 calls and only gave aid to 292 of those calls. He stated that in the first eight (8) months of the year, they gave or received aid only 20% of the time and in just the month and a half that they had been on consolidated dispatch, they had increased to providing 36.2% of the calls where they had either given or received aid. He stated that this data showed that a better service was being provided to the community by being on a consolidated system and that applied to those they provided aid to.

Fire Chief Bullard stated that as a whole, the fire service in all parts of Lexington County benefitted from the City being on a consolidated system since now there were no gaps in responses. He stated that a recent example of this could be seen with Hurricane Helene. He stated that a couple of weeks ago, between all County Departments, over 600 calls of service were answered within a 24 hour period. He stated that during this time, there were no jurisdictional lines and there were no jumping through dispatch centers to get calls out. He stated that when they were busy on calls, other departments came to the City to help out and vice versa. Fire Chief Bullard stated that being on a consolidated dispatch system with all the fire departments around the City had been a drastic jump for the City, bringing them into the 21st century, and it was a fairly simple process to implement once they got all the pieces in the right place.

## **Ordinances**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2024-10 Amending the Zoning Map and Rezoning Properties Located on Middle Street (Tax Map Numbers

005764-01-009, 005764-01-010 and 005764-01-011) from C-3 to RG-2 –  
Second Reading

Interim City Manager Crosland stated that Council approval was needed for the Second Reading of an Ordinance to rezone three (3) properties on Middle Street. He stated that the applicant, Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity, helped the City a lot with the homes on Julius Felder. He stated that the properties were currently undeveloped and addresses would be assigned later. He stated that the RG-2 zoning district permitted single family, detached, duplex, triplex, quadruplex and multifamily uses. He stated that patio homes and town homes were also permitted under conditional uses of the RG-2 zoning. He stated that the proposed map amendment complied with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the rezoning on Second Reading. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Items for Discussion and Possible Approval**

**A. Discussion and Approval to Purchase a Utility Terrain Vehicle for the Fire Department**

Interim City Manager Crosland stated that Council approval was needed to purchase a Utility Terrain Vehicle for the Fire Department to utilize in the Riverwalk and at special events that were held throughout the City. He stated that currently, the Fire Department did not have a utility vehicle or golf cart to use to respond to medical emergencies. He stated that the UTV would have a fire suppression system on it and could also be used to transport patients out of the Riverwalk easier and quicker. He stated that staff received quotes from Columbia Power Sports, Wilson Equipment and Outdoor Carolina Power Equipment and Augusta Kawasaki and Suzuki. He stated that the lowest quote of \$25,626 was for a UTV that was too big for the Riverwalk, therefore the second lowest quote of \$26,219 from Augusta Kawasaki and Suzuki was selected by staff. He stated that the dealer was also on the State contract, and the UTV was in stock. Interim City Manager Crosland stated that funding would be provided by the ABC fund and the funding request included outfitting the UTV with emergency lights and equipment and a patient transport suppression with the total not to exceed \$40,000. He stated that the current fund balance for ABC funds was \$71,600.

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the purchase of a Utility Terrain Vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 which included the outfitting of equipment and utilize the City's local option permit restricted fund balance, ABC funds. Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Member Thomas asked Interim City Manager Crosland to explain what the ABC fund was. Interim City Manager Crosland stated that ABC funds were funds from alcohol licensing and the City received

a portion anytime someone applied for alcohol licensing. He stated that the funds could be used by a municipality or county for county improvement, purchases and renovation of buildings, historical properties and festivals that have demonstrable significant impact on tourism. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Committee Matters**

- A. Appointments
  - Events Committee – Two (2) Positions
  - Museum Commission - One (1) Position

Mayor Partin stated that the City's Events Committee currently had five (5) open positions and the City had received potential member applications from Mr. Grant Grieswell and Ms. Ashley Warthen. Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Mr. Grieswell and Ms. Warthen to the Events Committee. Mayor Partin stated that the Museum Commission currently had one (1) open position and the City had received a potential member application from Mr. Will Britz. Council Member Sox made a motion to appoint Mr. Britz to the Museum Commission. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **City Manager's Report**

Interim City Manager Crosland stated that staff reached out to the South Carolina Revenues and Fiscal Affairs Office and received updated maps and numbers for the redistricting. He stated that staff would have those soon for Council review. He stated that several meetings had been held discussing the possible improvements to Glenwood Park and he was hopeful to have something back to Council soon on some of those improvements in that area. He stated that the City's Finance team had once again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Finance Reporting for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended in June 30, 2023. He stated this award was given by the Government Finance Officers Associations of the United States and Canada. He stated that Cayce's report had been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which included demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure, communicating its financial story clearly and motivating potential users to read the report. He stated that the Certificate of Achievement was the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and finance reporting, and its attainment represented a significant accomplishment by government. He thanked the Parks staff and Brian Squires, with 3D Dirt Works for clearing out the Riverwalk after Hurricane Helene. He stated that they took something that should have taken six weeks and did it in a matter of days. Interim City Manager Crosland stated that Mr. Squires had a crew of two (2) skid steers, an excavator and 15 people and with the Parks Department and their equipment, they were able to remove trees and three (3) or four (4) feet of mud on the trails. He stated what

they did was just miraculous. He stated that the boardwalk would remain closed because there were some footings that needed to be replaced but they would be barricaded until they were repaired. Interim City Manager Crosland stated that in the fall of 2022 the City's Utilities Department was notified by DHEC that the EPA required the City to identify any lead service lines inside Cayce's distribution system. He stated that during the planning of this project, 5,637 properties were identified that needed to be inspected and a plan was put in place in the spring of 2023. He stated that a team started the task of identifying the materials of the utility and customer side service lines for any houses, businesses, school or daycare, or commercial structures that were built prior to 1988 and earlier. He stated that after 1989 lead was not permitted to be used in service lines. He stated that the task included digging holes on either side of the water meter boxes exposing the materials on the utility side and the customer side service lines. He stated that GIS software was utilized to capture the needed information for this project and the information that was collected included pictures of the service line, addresses of the property and the size and material of the service lines. He stated that this labor intensive project was completed in about 14 months and the best part was the City did not have lead in any of its service lines. He stated that the report would be placed on the City's website soon.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Pro Tem James thanked Fire Chief Bullard and his team and thanked them for the presentation. He stated that Fire Chief Bullard's leadership led everyone to recognize that partnerships benefitted the City and numbers did not lie and response times did not lie. He stated that the amount of times that the City was being supported versus the City supporting other agencies was a great investment. He stated that the City's Sanitation team had done a remarkable job cleaning the City after Hurricane Helene. He stated that Thomas White and his team were doing a wonderful job and he wanted to take a moment to commend them.

Council Member Thomas thanked Interim City Manager Crosland for speaking about Glenwood Park. He stated that he wanted the public to know that one of the most disappointing moments he had experienced as a Council Member was being at one of the City's parks and watching two (2) kids ride their bikes to the park, look around at the equipment and then leave. He stated that was disappointing, because you could tell those kids had once played at that park, and they had now gotten older. He stated that the City had to do a better job of recognizing that kids were growing older and they needed to still feel a part of the parks in the City. Council Member Thomas stated that they were still working to better the City's relationship with the County, but what they could control was City of Cayce parks. He stated that Glenwood Park was the only Cayce park that had a basketball court. He stated that he had great discussions with Administration on what needed to be done to get that basketball court looking better so then families could send their kids there or families could go there and enjoy that park. He thanked everyone that gave blood that day to help with the blood shortage in the

community and thanked staff for making it happen. He stated that two (2) residents from District Two had joined committees recently and he hoped to keep that momentum going. He asked his constituents to please help the City by bringing their ideas and talents to help the City continue to grow and be the best City in the state of South Carolina.

Council Member Carter stated that the people who followed the City's Council Meetings had heard speakers recently who had not maintained proper decorum and had wavered from the agenda item that they signed up to speak about. He stated that the City's rules only allowed speakers to address specific agenda items and not include personal attacks on City employees or the Council itself. He stated that unfortunately, in these cases, Mayor Partin chose to ignore protocol and allow these speakers to offer their opinion on non-agenda items. He stated that the purpose of this process was to maintain professional standards and to stay on point with the agenda and he believed it was very important to know that the presiding officer of Council, only had the gavel by Ordinance and the gavel was to be respected and not to be used, or not used, to advance a personal agenda. Council Member Carter stated that he was disappointed in himself that he did not speak up at the time and allowed the misguided and inflammatory comments from the speakers to proceed. He stated that the City Attorney did speak up in one case and reminded Mayor Partin that the speaker was out of order but was again allowed to continue. He stated that should not have happened and would not happen again. He stated that they had seen newspaper articles recently that served no purpose other than a calculated attempt to divide Council and their citizens. He stated that he had heard from many residents off the record and many on the record that Council needed to stay out of the newspapers and conduct themselves in a professional manner. He stated that unfortunately, at times, Mayor Partin was an architect of controversy and used the media to advance a narrative that was malicious, vindictive and unnecessary. Council Member Carter stated that this behavior had a negative impact on City employees and the City as a whole. He stated that he appreciated all of those that had reached out and shared these thoughts with him. He stated that the latest in this case was a personal attack on a colleague that served no purpose other than to embarrass and seek retribution for a differing position on a property matter. He stated that the word respect was the operative word in the newspaper article and unfortunately, Mayor Partin had no respect for Council, no respect for opinions of others, and continued to be a conflict entrepreneur. He stated for the record that particular matter had been resolved and the Mayor Pro Tem's position was validated without expensive litigation, and it further promoted goodwill for all involved. He stated that goodwill was something that Council had failed to achieve and promote. He stated that in the past, they had been unable, up to a few months ago, to collaborate and build relationships with their regional partners and stakeholders. Council Member Carter stated that efforts to change this were led by Mayor Pro Tem James who set up a series of meetings, establishing new relationships and mending old relationships, and it had shown to be beneficial opportunities for growth and a positive future was presented to Council that would not have been happening without the

collective efforts of the Mayor Pro Tem and all of Council. He stated that he pledged to spend his remaining time on Council to move the City forward in a positive way and he hoped and prayed that all five (5) of Council would be part of the success. Council Member Carter stated that he respected the office of the Mayor and would always endeavor to be a team player, but that went both ways. He stated that they could move the City forward, with or without Mayor Partin.

### **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
- B. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with SCDOT and a new industry

Mayor Partin stated that they had business to conduct instead of personal attacks. Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to into Executive Session. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Reconvene**

After the Executive Session was concluded, Council Member Sox made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Carter 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**

Council Member Sox made a motion to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager to negotiate an agreement with the Cayce Housing Authority under which the Authority would continue its payment in lieu of taxes, in consideration of the City's execution of the letter of support to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Adjourn**

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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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      October 16, 2024

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Name	Address	Agenda Item

**\*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.