



Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
Tim James

Council Members
Phil Carter
Hunter Sox
Byron Thomas

City Manager
James Crosland

Deputy City Manager
Michael Conley

**City of Cayce
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

A Public Hearing was held this evening at 6:00 pm. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Tim James and Council Members Hunter Sox and Byron Thomas. City Manager Jim Crosland, Deputy City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Fire Chief Steve Bullard, IT Director Jamie Beckham and City Attorney Will Dillard were also in attendance.

Mayor Partin asked if members of the press and the public were duly notified of the Public Hearing in accordance with the FOIA. Ms. Corder confirmed they were notified.

I. Opening Statement

Mayor Partin stated that Pursuant to Section 6-1-80 and Section 6-1-330 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, public notice was hereby given that the City Council would hold a Public Hearing on the proposed redrawing of district lines. She stated that the Public Hearing was for a redistricting ordinance and invitation for public comment. She stated that Ordinance 2025-03, established new municipal district ward lines for the election of council members, reflecting population changes in the year 2020 census and repealing all previous ordinances establishing district ward lines. Mayor Partin stated that redistricting was the process of redrawing the district lines from which public officials were elected and typically took place after each census to accommodate population changes over the previous decade. She stated that it was in the interest of the City to establish new municipal district lines reflecting the changes in population, as shown by the Census to provide for fair and equitable representation of population to comply with the United States Constitution and voting rights act of 1965. She stated that redistricting affected all jurisdictions that had single member elections and tried to equalize population among those districts. She stated that the City's proposed redistricting followed a process outlined in law and supported by a Resolution adopted by City Council in March 2023 and was prepared by a third-party entity, the South Carolina Revenues and Fiscal Affairs office, who had done this for jurisdictions around the state.

Mayor Partin stated that the City's timeline for establishing new district lines for municipal elections included adopting a Resolution at the March 2023 Council Meeting, outlining the standards by which it would use to achieve its redrawn district boundaries. She stated that on June 1, 2023, a Public Hearing notice ran in the Lexington Chronicle and in the first week of June 2023 approximately 900 letters were sent to all residents that would be affected. She stated that the letters indicated what district they were

currently in, where they were proposed to move to, as well as reminded them of the Council Meeting and encouraged them to reach out to staff, should they have any questions. She stated that at the June 21, 2023, Council Meeting, a Public Hearing and First Reading was held. She stated that Second Reading was held at the July 11, 2023, Council Meeting and the Ordinance was deferred until after the 2023 municipal election. Mayor Partin stated that in January 2025, approximately 900 letters were mailed to residents that would be affected. She stated that the letters indicated what district they were currently in, where they were proposed to move to, as well as reminded them of this Council Meeting and encouraged them to reach out to staff should they have any questions. She stated that a Public Hearing notice was in the January 16, 2025 Lexington Chronicle. She stated that Council looked forward to hearing from the public and they did not have to sign up to speak during the Public Hearing. She asked that anyone speaking keep their comments concise. She asked Ms. Katherine Kelly from the South Carolina Revenues and Fiscal Affairs office to present their process for redistricting and how they came to propose the districts that were before Council for First Reading.

Ms. Kelly stated that she was the Communications and Operations Manager for the Revenue Fiscal Affairs Office. She stated that she was a Cayce resident which did not mean anything other than she lived in Cayce so this affected her as well. She stated that she had been redistricting for a couple of years and started at RFA in 2021 right before the census data came out. She stated that they did redistricting for approximately 39 counties for the State and then 70 or so municipalities around the State and a couple of Special Purpose Districts. She stated that the RFA was a third party, neutral agency and they were the official keepers of the numbers from the Census Bureau. She stated that the census was done every 10 years, RFA received that data, they would parse it out and then make it available to the public. She stated that it was not a requirement to use them, but a lot of people had in the current redistricting cycle. She stated that previously, one had to have their plan approved through the Department of Justice but that was no longer required but Council was responsible for whatever was adopted for the City.

Ms. Kelly stated that people often asked why they should care about redistricting. She stated that it was about their vote having the same impact as others. She stated that redistricting looked at the district sizes and then told the Council where they needed to move the lines to adjust so that they could comply with one person, one vote. She stated that the RFA was responsible for making sure that districts were drawn contiguously to minimize the division of voting precincts. She stated that the districts needed to be geographically compact and when feasible, be drawn with respect to existing districts and communities of interest, which required input from the public and Council. She stated that districts also needed to comply with other applicable court decisions and Federal and State laws.

Ms. Kelly stated that redistricting was very important since things changed from year to year. She stated that the data from the census was the data that they used and they did not go back out and get more data, but they did understand that with municipalities, annexations did occur, and they accounted for that in the maps that they drew. She stated that the City of Cayce's population increased 10% from the last census going from 12,528 people to 13,781 people and as a result, the ideal district changed from 3,100 people to about 3,400 people. She stated that the benchmark report noted a deviation of 54.74% so that was the sum of the highest and the sum of the lowest and it created a deviation range. Ms. Kelly stated by law, it was required to have a maximum range of 10% and RFA recommended a deviation range of 5% so there was a decent bit of work to be done. She stated that Districts One and Two needed to gain people, and Districts Three and Four needed to lose people. She stated that the process included talking to administration within the City and getting feedback from Council, and then holding a Public Hearing, and that feedback was taken into consideration as well. She stated that you had to move people to get to that 10%; however, they did want to be respectful of communities of interest within the City and had to rely on Council to provide them with that feedback.

Ms. Kelly stated that in order to make the districts even, they had to look at the census blocks. She stated that RFA did not draw the census blocks, the Census Bureau did that and the RFA had zero control over it. She stated there could be a census block that had 100 people and one that had 15 people so they took that into consideration when redistricting to make it fit to get as close to the deviation as possible. She stated that they had the Department of Justice's definitions of race and the total population by race and the voting age population by race. She stated a draft map had been created to make the adjustments to make the statistics match for a 10% deviation or less and once the Public Hearing and the two (2) readings of the Ordinance were done they would finalize the map. She stated then the City would let the local Election Commission know that it was done. Ms. Kelly stated that the RFA communicated that information also to the State Election Commission and the County would pull that data as well.

II. Public Testimony

Mr. Gerald Cromer- Mr. Cromer stated he had lived in Cayce for 65 years. He stated that he knew redistricting had to be done but it affected many neighborhoods. He stated that his neighborhood was Broad Acres and with the proposed redistricting the first three (3) blocks of his street would be broken up, along with Northland Drive up to Summerland Drive and part of Sunnyside Drive. He stated that the first three (3) blocks of those streets were going to be put in another district, Mr. Thomas's district, taking them away from Council Member Sox. He stated that he hated to see his neighborhood broken up from one representative to another since it affected what happened in the neighborhood.

Ms. Kelly Wuest – Ms. Wuest stated that her home was one of the many homes that would be redistricted. She asked if some of the new housing developments coming to the City would also be considered in the counts. She stated that the new developments would bring a lot more people into a lot of the neighborhoods that were being considered for redistricting.

III. Close Hearing

The Council Meeting immediately followed the Public Hearing at 6:18 pm. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Tim James and Council Members Hunter Sox and Byron Thomas. City Manager Jim Crosland, Deputy City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Fire Chief Steve Bullard, IT Director Jamie Beckham and City Attorney Will Dillard were also in attendance.

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

Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025, 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

There was no public comment.

Ordinances

- A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-03 Establishing New Municipal District/Ward Lines for the Election of Council Members Reflecting Population Changes in the Year 2020 Census and Repealing All Previous Ordinances Establishing District/Ward Lines – First Reading

City Manager Crosland stated that Council approval was needed to give First Reading to an Ordinance establishing new district lines for municipal elections. He stated that in response to the issuance of the new decennial census data, the City was obligated to undertake a redrawing of its districts, if determined necessary, and work with the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office to complete this process. He stated that after reviewing the City's census data, SCRFA identified a target population

for each district of 3,445 individuals to achieve a recommended population deviation of 5%. He stated that District Two needed to increase in population, and District Four needed to decrease its current population. He stated that in March 2023 City Council adopted a Resolution outlining standards by which it would use to achieve its redrawn district boundaries. He stated that in June 2023 Council considered the proposed changes to district lines for First Reading but decided to defer the redistricting until after the November 2023 municipal election to ensure that all affected residents were informed of the proposed changes of their districts. He stated that staff recommended that Council give First Reading approval of an Ordinance establishing new municipal district/ward lines for the election of council members, reflecting population changes in the year of the 2020 census and repealing all previous Ordinances establishing district/ward lines.

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03 establishing new municipal district/ward lines for election of council members. Council Member Sox seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated he knew Council had been dealing with the redistricting for many years but usually, as First Reading got closer Council started hearing from constituents. He stated that the resounding issue he was hearing from constituents was exactly what RFA mentioned earlier which was communities of interest. He stated that in his years of being in Cayce, it was a bunch of neighborhoods that made up a city, and those neighborhoods were Moss Creek, the Avenues and Broad Acres. He asked if they started dividing those neighborhoods, were they doing the right thing.

Council Member Sox stated that the only outreach he had received prior to that night was people requesting further information on how the land was changed and if there was further development anticipated. He stated not looking at it from the sheer amount of residents, but more the land mass. He stated that with Mr. Cromer's and Ms. Wuest's remarks and both of them residing in District Three and moving to District Two. He stated that he would look into what it would look like with the new proposed developments and what a possibility would look like to keep some of Broad Acres together. Council Member Sox stated that he knew it gets tricky there since it was subdivided between Councilman Carter, Councilman Thomas and himself, but they would take a look to see if they could make it a little more cohesive.

Mayor Partin asked if it was Council's wish to take one more look at the redistricting with keeping in mind the brand new neighborhood that was coming and how that impacted numbers knowing it was not far from getting its ability to have people move in. She asked if that was Council's wishes, was it better to not pass the Ordinance on First Reading. She stated that if the current map was still good then Council could move forward with it at the next meeting as First Reading or do they pass

it on First Reading, knowing there was the possibility of changes, and if there were significant changes, she assumed another Public Hearing would have to be held.

Ms. Kelly stated that the new developments were not taken into consideration during the 2020 census and they did not take into consideration annexations that come between when the census was done and when the redistricting was done, since there were no people living in that development. She stated that it would be taken into consideration during the 2030 census and Council needed to keep in mind that redistricting would likely need to happen again. She stated that they had numerous entities do their First Reading in title only for their Ordinance to get the ball rolling. She stated that they had the same issue in Hilton Head since it consisted of all different neighborhoods. She stated that there was only so much movement that could be done. Ms. Kelly stated that she did not think another Public Hearing was required but Council might want to hear from their constituents. She stated that if Council was not comfortable with the map the RFA could look at it again but their staff resources were limited since they were in session. She stated that at some point, they might have to refer someone else who could help more than they could but they would provide their technical expertise with Council's feedback.

Council Member Thomas asked if Council could take the new developments coming to the City into account when making their decision even though the new developments were not considered in the census. Ms. Kelly stated that Council could consider them but could not include any population from those developments because there was no one living there during the count. She stated that redistricting would likely happen after the 2030 census and Council could think about how the new developments might impact it then but it did not affect the current redistricting. Mayor Partin stated that she was not sure if she understood the annexation example. Ms. Kelly stated that if the City annexed a neighborhood into the City and those citizens were there during the Census count then they would be included in the count. She stated that there was a development being built near City Hall which no houses were currently built in so Council could take that into consideration since they probably knew how many houses were coming but that was not going to affect the current redistricting cycle since there was no population actually there. Mayor Partin asked if that was an RFA rule or was that just a redistricting rule. Ms. Kelly stated that it was redistricting.

Mayor Pro Tem James asked if Council should table the redistricting or pass it on First Reading even though they had concerns. Mayor Partin stated that they were trying to figure out what was their best practice and easiest for staff. She stated that redistricting was brought up before the last election and because of staff changes at the highest level, it had not happened but it could not go on any longer. She stated that it needed to be done and it was fair. She stated that she would not be interested in pushing it out any further than a month from that day. City Manager Crosland stated that staff would be working together for the next two (2) weeks with RFA putting together another draft, to see what could be done.

Ms. Kelly stated that Council referred to neighborhoods earlier and she had a copy of the benchmark map as well as the current draft map, if Council wanted to individually circle what neighborhoods they were referring to. She stated that their staff could look at it from the census block level and see what they could do. She stated that RFA never went over the 10% though. Mayor Partin asked for the citizens who spoke during Public Testimony and anyone else in the assembly who did not speak but was concerned to contact City Manager Crosland so they could share their concerns and they could be included. Council Member Sox stated that based on everything he was hearing, he would recommend that Council defer First Reading. He stated that they could find out whether another Public Hearing would be necessary, and at that point, if there were substantial changes, Council would have a clean, fresh start in two (2) weeks. Council Member Carter stated that he wanted to emphasize the point that redistricting was a numbers situation and some people would have to go to another district to meet the numbers requirement. He stated that in reference to the cleanliness of neighborhoods, in 1914, Cayce was basically a grid on the Avenues that was clean and neat. He stated that as the City grew over the years, it grew in all directions. He stated that they needed to be cautious when considering geography. Council Member Carter stated they needed to acknowledge and recognize neighborhood boundaries but he did not see how any circling of neighborhoods could happen without a radical change. He stated that he would withdraw his earlier motion and make a motion to defer to the February 19, 2025, Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-01 Amending the Zoning Map and Rezoning Property Located on Dixiana Road (Tax Map Number 006899-01-027) from M-1 to M-2 – Second Reading

City Manager Crosland stated that staff was asking for this item to be deferred to the February 19, 2025 Council Meeting.

Council Member Sox made a motion to defer Ordinance 2025-01 until the February 19, 2025, Council Meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

C. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2025-02 Annexing Two (2) Properties Located on Dixiana Road (Tax Map Number 006899-01-027) from M-1 to M-2 – Second Reading

City Manager Crosland stated that staff was asking for this item to be deferred as well to the February 19, 2025 Council Meeting.

Council Member Sox made a motion to defer Ordinance 2025-02 until the February 19, 2025, Council Meeting. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Items for Discussion and Possible Approval

A. Bid Award – Glenwood Park

City Manager Crosland stated that Council approval was needed to accept a service agreement between the City and Virtus Construction for improvements to Glenwood Park. He stated that on November 1, 2024, the City posted a request for quotes (RFQ) on the City's web page and scbo.com, seeking experienced consultants capable of needed improvements for Glenwood Park. He stated that the park was in dire need of improvements and City Administration, along with Parks staff, created a list of needed improvements to the park, which included the replacement of a chain link fence, removal of an old broken bike rack, reconditioning the basketball court to include the goals, moving an old picnic shelter and table and adding a new water fountain, and installing new seating and trash receptacles. He stated that Glenwood Park was one of several neighborhood pocket parks located in the City and was used frequently. He stated that Virtus Construction scored the highest points total in the evaluation criteria, meeting all the necessary RFQ requirements and was the lowest bidder. He stated that Virtus Construction was located locally in Columbia, with the added bonus of the Project Manager residing in Cayce. City Manager Crosland stated that there was a total of six (6) companies that submitted proposals - Virtus Construction, 3D Dirt Works, Bliss, Merrick, JF contractors and Bullseye Building and a selection committee was made up of three (3) City staff members who reviewed the score proposals based on specific criteria. He stated that Virtus Construction was the most responsive and responsible responder and staff recommended that the project be awarded to Virtus Construction in the amount of \$49,962.44. He stated that funding for the project would come from the hospitality tax reserve fund.

Council Member Sox made a motion to award the project to Virtus Construction in the amount of \$49,962.44 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Council Member Thomas stated that this was a big win for families in the City and he was very proud of staff for working on this project. He stated that this was something he had been speaking about since September, so he was very excited to see that the City was going to renovate Glenwood Park. He stated that he would love during the unveiling of Glenwood Park to the public to have students from Brookland Cayce or Airport High Schools, especially the basketball team, to test out the new basketball court, so they could see how nice it was.

Mayor Partin stated that the upgrades to Glenwood Park was a win and thanked all the neighborhood leaders that she had been meeting with for years. She stated that

Dara Brown, who was the neighborhood leader for the Glenwood area, had been a very active part of the community and done a lot through some of her work in public health and helping with new sidewalks. She stated that Ms. Brown had spearheaded this project and worked with the City to help get the neighborhood involved so the upgrades would be what the neighborhood wanted. She stated that they had talked about getting the high school basketball team there, as well as the elementary and middle school students. Mayor Partin stated that she and City Manager Crosland had talked about reaching out to the City's School Resource Officers and having them reach out to the students in the neighborhood and using the City's roll cart notices to help let all the people in the neighborhood know about the park opening. 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
 - Events Committee – October 10, 2024
 - Board of Zoning – October 21, 2024
 - Museum and Historical Commission – November 6, 2024
 - Cayce Housing Authority – November 19, 2024

Council Member Sox made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the record. Council Member Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Crosland introduced Mr. Wesley Crosby, the City's new Assistant City Manager with Special Projects and Community Development. He stated that since the Glenwood Park upgrades were on that evening's agenda, staff thought it would be nice to showcase some of the other park upgrades that had been made recently. He stated that Granby Gardens Park recently received new electrical panels and a water source to have more options for City events and Wi Fi would be installed in there soon as well. He stated that Guignard Park recently got new picnic tables and would also have Wi Fi soon as well as the front gates to the park being replaced. City Manager Crosland stated that Cayce Memorial Park, maintained by Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission, was getting new equipment, pickleball courts and a field dedicated as a pet area. He stated that H. Kelly Jones Park, located right off the City's Riverwalk, had a nice, covered picnic shelter along with bathrooms. He stated there was also a river access point there. He stated that the City's parks would continue to be one of the City's main objectives.

Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem James thanked Administration and staff for focusing on the City's parks. He stated that the Avenues and a few other communities throughout the City had a lot of young families moving in and the City had to have a place for the kids and families to enjoy time together. He stated that it was a priority and was about quality of life. He welcomed Assistant City Manager Crosby and stated he was glad he was with the City.

Council Member Thomas stated that he would love to challenge the City's Events Committee to think about some music opportunities for the City's Art Lot, because the City wanted to attract attention to it. He stated that it was a City park and was a beautiful music venue with restaurants and shops around it and the Events Committee was doing great work, but he would like to challenge the Committee to bring some music to Cayce, as the Art lot was currently the City's beautiful amphitheater. He stated that the Martin Luther King Jr. clean up day was a huge success. He thanked everyone that showed up, especially the Brookland Cayce High School Sustainability Club. Council Member Thomas stated that over 300 pounds of trash was picked up in two (2) hours on the streets of Hart, Lily, Middle, Wilkinson, and a portion of Poplar Street. He thanked the Cayce West Columbia library and South Carolina Student Loan Association for partnering with him to host a FASFA student loan and scholarship seminar the previous week. He stated that at the last Council Meeting, Mayor Partin asked him to bring more information about the services offered by the COMET for their constituents. He stated that he did post this information on his social media as well. Council Member Thomas stated that DART was a complimentary Americans with Disabilities Act Para Transit Service for persons with disabilities unable to board the COMET busses or access a transit stop for any trip. He stated that to use DART, customers must complete an ADA certification application. He stated that DART operated the same service hours as fixed routes and customers must travel within 3/4 miles of the common route. Council Member Thomas stated that the COMET also had COMET on the Go, where COMET would pay up to \$8 for Lyft rides that started in in the Comet fixed routes and they also had COMET Night, which ran seven (7) days a week between 8pm and 6am and the COMET to the Market which ran seven (7) days a week, between 6am and 8pm and would take riders to grocery stores that sell fresh produce. He stated that was offered for up to four (4) trips per month and Food Lion and the Neighborhood Walmart were on that list. Council Member Thomas stated that COMET's customer service number was 803-255-7100 if anyone wanted more information. Mayor Partin thanked Council Member Thomas for the information and asked if COMET still had a route that went all the way down 12th Street Extension. Council Member Thomas stated that the route went to Amazon and through the business corridor. He stated that he did ask the COMET to have a representative speak at the next Council Meeting.

Council Member Sox stated that a couple months ago, Memorial Drive got paved and it was much needed, especially the intersection where one exits onto and off Charleston Highway. He stated that the DOT signs had been up ever since the project started and he thanked City Manager Crosland and staff for helping to get those down.

Council Member Carter stated that Council attended a reopening ribbon cutting the prior day at Zaxby's on Knox Abbott Drive and also attended the Chick fil A Distribution Center's ribbon cutting. He stated that the Distribution Center was not located in the City, but they used the City's services.

Mayor Partin stated that the new Zaxby's looked great and businesses like to invest in cities that invest in themselves and the City had done a great job of that. She stated that staff was very business friendly. She stated that the new Chick fil a distribution center was past Amazon on 12th Street Extension and supported all the restaurants in the area. She stated that the City provided water and sewer to the distribution center and the City was the sixth largest water and sewer provider in the entire state. She stated that the City's Utilities team did such a great job that a lot of businesses want to come there, some that are in the City and some that are customers outside of the City. She stated that they received water and sewer service, but the economic development was absolutely great. Mayor Partin stated that she received an email from a citizen complimenting the Sanitation team. It read "Mr. White, just a quick note to say thanks for a job well done. Most people don't think about it other than when they put their Herbie Kirby out or bring it back in. They don't think about the rain, cold, or even the heat. The trash trucks still run, other than the occasional snow day, but most businesses were off for that one. Some for a couple of days. The sanitation crew took their day because safety is and must always be job one. That Thursday was cold, but here they come down the street, and when I wave to them, they return my gesture, hopefully with a smile and life in Cayce goes on one Herbie Kirby at a time after time after time. So, for this, this Cayceite says hats off, stand and applaud. Congrats on a job well done and under appreciated. Keep smiling and waving."

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
 - i. Fire truck warranty litigation
 - ii. Zoning appeal litigation (1028 Michaelmas Avenue)

- B. Receipt of legal advice and discussion of proposed contractual arrangements relating to:
 - i. Proposed lease of office space
 - ii. Proposed purchase of Fire Department equipment
 - iii. Avenues Drainage Project

- C. Discussion of Lexington County economic development projects relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses within the City

- D. Discussion of proposed contractual arrangements relating to negotiation of a proposed City Manager employment contract
- E. Receipt of legal advice and other matters covered by attorney-client privilege relating to City Attorney communication and City Council rules of procedure

Council Member Sox made a motion to move 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 Carter made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Sox 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. Approval of City Manager's Contract

Mayor Pro Tem James made a motion to approve the City Manager's contract. Council Member Sox seconded the motion. Mayor Partin stated that Council knew her thoughts on this and she wanted to go on the record, because she was going to vote no. She stated that it was not about City Manager Crosland because he was awesome. She stated that it was about the risk of saddling taxpayers with another huge bill and given the City's very recent history, she would say that it was a pretty big risk. She stated that Council just stuck taxpayers with a severance package for the City's last administrator needlessly, she thought, and unfortunately, there was nothing to suggest that it would not happen again. She stated that Council would be potentially leaving taxpayers on the hook for tens of thousands of dollars and that was not a chance that she wanted to take, especially at a time when the budget was stretched, when Council may have to raise taxes and when employees were going without a cost of living adjustment. Mayor Partin stated that City Manager Crosland was a fine man and a capable administrator, but again, it was not about him but about protecting taxpayers.

Mayor Pro Tem James stated that the City Attorney did review the City Manager's contract and the City Attorney made sure that Council was keenly aware that the International Association of City Managers was at least what was being proposed that night and even more so in many cases. He stated that the last three (3) City Managers were the same and Council was being very consistent with what they were doing with City Manager Crosland.

Mayor Partin called the question. Mayor Pro Tem James and Council Members Carter, Sox and Thomas voted yes. Mayor Partin voted no.

B. Other items discussed in Executive Session

Council Member Sox made a motion to approve the lease purchase of the fire truck discussed in Executive Session with \$500,000 at contract signing into a seven (7) year lease payment. Mayor Pro Tem James seconded the motion. Mayor Partin thanked Fire Chief Bullard and Assistant Fire Chief Gates for finding this great option so that Council could continue to keep them safe, first, and then keep the citizens safe. She stated that having the right equipment for the Fire Department actually helped to make sure that the City was able to create a rating that was what insurance companies used to decide how much they were going to charge for insurance at one's home. She stated that Council doing their proactive work actually saved citizens money on their home insurance. Mayor Partin called the question 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 9:19pm.

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 *February 4, 2025*

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.