

Mayor
Elise Partin

Mayor Pro-Tem
James E. Jenkins

Council Members
Tara S. Almond
Phil Carter
Eva Corley

City Manager
Rebecca Vance

Asst. to City Manager
Rachelle Moody



**City of Cayce
Special Council Meeting
February 21, 2018**

A Special Council Meeting was held this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Council Members Tara Almond, Phil Carter, Eva Corley and James Jenkins. City Manager Rebecca Vance, Administrative Coordinator Katinia Taylor in place of Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, City Treasurer Garry Huddle, Assistant to the City Manager Rachelle Moody, Planning and Development Director Carroll Williamson and Director of Public Safety Byron Snellgrove 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. Taylor confirmed they were notified.

Call to Order

Mayor Partin called the meeting to order and Council Member Carter gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda

Ms. Taylor stated no one had signed up for public comment.

Presentations

- A. Presentation by Ms. Lou Kennedy and Mr. Lee Bussell re Midlands Business Leadership Group's Regional Competitiveness Initiatives

Mr. Bussell, CEO of Chernoff Newman, stated that the MBLG (Midlands Business Leadership Group) is a coalition of more than 40 CEOs and executives from the region's largest employers who regularly convene and work on issues vital to the Midlands' success. He stated that a year ago the MBLG felt that other communities and regions in the state were moving forward at a faster rate. They felt that those communities had a better idea of what their vision was and how to get there. Therefore the MBLG initiated a competitiveness collaboration. They are leading a collaborative effort focused on enhancing regional competitiveness, prosperity and growth in the Midlands.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the MBLG formed working groups around five indicators of competitive communities, as outlined in EngenuitySC's Midlands Regional Competitiveness Report: talent, entrepreneurial & business environment, innovation, industry clusters, and livability. She stated that the working groups, comprised of community and business leaders, identified regional assets and gaps while developing prioritized short-term recommendations, as well as a 10-Year Vision for success. From

these recommendations and from additional expert input, MBLG's Executive Committee prioritized seven initiatives for action by the end of 2018:

- 1) Establish a formal collaboration with the property owners from Gervais Street to Catawba Street to address the design, funding, development and operation of a regional waterfront amenity along the Congaree River. This would accelerate the development of Columbia as a cool region that attracts and retains top talent, produces vibrant job offerings, and provides necessary resources to improve livability for all people.
- 2) Design and implement a solution for regional branding that includes funding, ownership, coordination, collaboration and regional buy-in.
- 3) Evaluate and accelerate the mission, structure, role and funding model for economic development in Lexington and Richland Counties.
- 4) Convene a new "Coordinating Council" for regional collaboration (to include MBLG, Chambers, regional economic development, downtown development, etc) that will lead the charge to integrate more diverse, young people into positions of leadership.
- 5) Support local Chambers' efforts to ensure greater collaboration between public entities and the business community.
- 6) Support the creation of a one-stop shop for resources available to entrepreneurs.
- 7) Identify an appropriate entity to take ownership of and design a plan for pedestrian connections along Assembly Street, including streetscaping and identified funding sources.

Ms. Kennedy stated that since the initiatives have been narrowed and shared widely with elected officials, key stakeholders and working group participants, MBLG is moving forward with their execution strategy, forming new committees around each of the seven priorities. These committees will be much smaller than the initial working groups, and they will be populated with experts from the region and the working groups. Likewise, the support of elected officials and participation by government representatives, as requested, will be crucial to the success of these impactful initiatives. Mayor Partin thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the improvement of the region.

Other

- A. Discussion and Approval of Bid Award for General Contracting Services for the City's Sewer Line Rehab Project

Ms. Moody stated that Council's approval was needed to accept the low bid for general contracting services for the City of Cayce Sewer Line Rehab Project, and to spend up to \$150,000 from the Utility Fund for the repairs. She stated that the City of Cayce received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award in 2016 of \$270,331 to perform sewer line rehab of approximately 1,225 linear feet of substandard

concrete sewer lines. This is a reimbursable grant, where the City outlays all funds initially and is reimbursed by CDBG for approved expenses. She stated that grant funds will be used for construction costs, permit fees, environmental review fees and Davis Bacon monitoring fees.

Ms. Moody stated that the City has a required 10% grant match, which will be covered through City of Cayce Utility Fund (City Engineer salary for project design and monitoring). The project area includes a portion of State Street, Holland Avenue, and Railroad Street. Rehabilitation will consist of installation of new cured-in-place liners for sewer lines. She stated that all work will be performed in the right of way and will not cause ground disturbance. The required environmental review has been performed and the project has been approved by HUD for construction.

Ms. Moody stated that a request for proposals was placed in SCBO on December 11, 2017 and three firms responded. Prism Contractors was the lowest responsive responsible bidder with a bid of \$129,433. Prism Contractors has been vetted by the City Engineer and City Attorney and are recommended for award.

Council Member Almond stated that the low bidder was significantly lower than the other bids. She asked if they were qualified to handle the project. Ms. Moody stated that the highest bidder planned to use sub-contractors therefore the cost was much higher. The lowest bidder's references all gave rave reviews on their work. Prism Contractors only work on small projects, which is unusual and helps them keep their costs down.

Council Member Carter made a motion to award the bid of \$129,433 to Prism Contractors. Mayor Partin noted that staff's recommendation was for Council to accept the bid from Prism Contractors, authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for general contracting services for the City of Cayce Sewer Line Rehab Project, and to spend up to \$150,000 from the Utility Fund for the repairs. Council Member Carter amended his motion to reflect staff's recommendation. Council Member Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval to Proceed with SC Public and Employee Benefit Authority Health Insurance

Ms. Vance stated that the City's health insurance costs increase annually. The City has what insurance companies refer to as a "sick pool". This means that the City pays less for health insurance than what the insurance company has to pay for staff's medical needs. Staff is currently looking at PEBA, which is the insurance that State agencies have. The City's current insurance provider's cost for family coverage is so high that only a few employees have it. PEBA's rates are based on 50% of the City's experience and the other 50% is based on the pool's experience.

Ms. Vance stated that the City has applied to join PEBA in the past and was turned down. She stated that with PEBA the employees are required to pay a portion of the cost of their health care premium. She stated that the City could decide to pay a portion of the cost for the employees and that some cities pay the entire cost for their staff. She stated that the approximate cost to the employee would be \$97 a month. PEBA's health insurance includes a basic vision and dental plan, a basic life insurance policy and a basic long term disability plan. The PEBA plan does require the City to pay for family, children or spouse coverage. Currently the City's family coverage costs \$1,300 a month and the City does not pay any of those costs. Ms. Vance stated that the high cost of family insurance affects the City's ability to recruit and retain staff members. The City's current plan's deductible is \$3,000, which also affects recruiting and retaining staff. PEBA's deductible is \$440.

Ms. Vance stated that PEBA's plan requires members to offer health insurance to any person that is eligible for state retirement. The City does not have to pay for it but this allows someone who is retired to be able to obtain health insurance. The City would invoice the retiree and they would pay the City for the cost of the insurance.

Ms. Vance stated that she and Human Resources staff met with all the employees and surveyed them to see who would be interested in getting family coverage. She stated that even with the additional employees who would want family coverage the City would save \$46,000 a month. If the City paid the employee's portion there would still be a savings of \$17,000 a month.

Ms. Vance stated that part of the application process requires that council vote on entering the PEBA plan. Council Member Almond made a motion to move forward with the application. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Vance stated that Phase 2 of the Riverwalk grand reopening was the following day. The ground breaking for Steel Hands Brewery is March 7 at 10:30am. Construction has begun on the apartments at the Brickworks property. She stated that some sewer line improvements may have to be done so she possibly will have to come back to Council regarding partnership opportunities with that.

Ms. Vance stated that ExperienceColumbia and the City of Columbia are in the process of getting new wayfinding signage. She contacted the well-known consultant they are using and he agreed to put together a proposal for the City as well. This may provide a cost savings for the City and will be a great collaboration with the other two entities.

Ms. Vance stated that the City helped the City of Columbia during the 2015 flood by temporarily setting up a connection with Columbia to provide water to their downtown

customers. City of Columbia has contacted City staff about making the connection permanent. This would benefit both cities in the case of an emergency.

Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

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 upcoming personnel vacancy in the Administration Department

Mayor Partin stated that there were not any items to be discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Council Member Almond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katinia Taylor, Administrative Coordinator

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 21, 2018

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. At the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer, the length of time for any speaker's presentation may be limited and the number speakers also may be limited.