

Mayor Elise Partin	Mayor Pro-Tem Phil Carter	Council Members Tiffany Aull Byron Thomas Alice Rose	City Manager Mike Conley	Assistant City Manager Betsy Catchings Wesley Crosby
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City of Cayce Council Vision Planning Session

Hyatt Regency Greenville, 220 N. Main Street, Greenville, SC 29601, Room: Think Tank

Thursday, July 16, 2026 | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

www.caycesc.gov

***Public Attendance:** This meeting was open to the public. Although this meeting was held in conjunction with the Municipal Association of South Carolina Annual Meeting in Greenville, any member of the public could have attended.*

The July 16, 2026, Council Vision Planning Session was held this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in Greenville, SC at the Hyatt Regency. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem Phil Carter, and Council Members Tiffany Aull, Byron Thomas, and Alice Rose. Attendees also included City Manager Michael Conley, Assistant City Manager Wesley Crosby, Municipal Clerk Kristen Hall, Director of Planning and Development Luke Godbold, and Communications Coordinator Karly Shorter.

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

Welcome by Mayor Partin

Mayor Partin welcomed those in attendance and opened the Vision Session. City Manager Conley reviewed the purpose of the meeting, noting that no votes or formal action would be taken, minutes would be prepared for Council approval, and discussion would conclude within the allotted meeting time. Ground rules emphasizing respectful dialogue, active listening, and allowing everyone an opportunity to participate were reviewed.

Vision Planning Session: Continuation of March 18, 2026, Strategic Planning Retreat

Discussion began with the importance of maintaining respectful and productive dialogue during Council meetings. Council reviewed information regarding the Dignity Index, civility pledges, and similar initiatives that encourage respectful public discourse. Members expressed interest in further exploring the concepts and incorporating them into future Council practices.

Council also discussed the City's communication strategy, emphasizing the importance of consistent messaging, transparency, and ensuring the City's website and social media platforms serve as reliable sources of information for residents and visitors.

Significant discussion focused on tourism and economic development opportunities, particularly the convergence of three major initiatives:

- The Thomas Dambo Troll public art project;
- The 12,000 Year History Park; and
- The Lexington County Sports Complex.

Council recognized these projects as transformative opportunities to attract visitors, strengthen regional tourism, and generate additional economic development. Members discussed promoting connectivity between these destinations through the Riverwalk, downtown Cayce, State Street, and surrounding amenities.

Additional topics included:

- Marketing Cayce as a tourism destination through dedicated branding, social media, billboards, and regional advertising;
- Supporting downtown redevelopment and increasing evening activity through restaurants, retail, entertainment, and lodging opportunities;
- Exploring boutique hotel development and redevelopment opportunities near downtown and the Riverwalk;
- Potential transportation and connectivity improvements, including multi-use paths and expanded pedestrian access;
- Long-term economic development strategies, including targeted business recruitment, redevelopment incentives, public art grants, and potential future annexation opportunities; and
- Continuing to evaluate tools that encourage investment while preserving the City's fiscal responsibility.

Council members provided feedback throughout the discussion and expressed support for continuing to evaluate these initiatives as part of the City's long-range strategic planning.

Adjourn

Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Rose seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.



Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen Hall, Municipal Clerk