

**CITY OF CAYCE
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of Cayce City Council was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Avery B. Wilkerson, Jr., Councilmen James Jenkins, Kenneth Jumper, Robert Malpass, and Rick Myers, City Manager John C. Sharpe, Tammy Barkley, Municipal Clerk, and Garry Huddle, Municipal Treasurer. Chief Charles McNair of Public Safety, Director of Planning & Development, Ken Knudsen, and City Attorney, Danny Crowe were also in attendance. Mayor Wilkerson advised that members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the FOIA.

Mayor Wilkerson called the meeting to order. Mr. Jumper opened with the invocation and Mayor Wilkerson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 27, 2007 Special Meeting, December 4, 2007 Regular Meeting, December 20, 2007 and December 27, 2007 Special Meetings were presented for approval. Mr. Myers made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Malpass seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore

Mayor Wilkerson stated that the Mayor Pro Tempore position is for a new term of two years and that Council should proceed with an election as required. Mr. Jumper nominated Mr. Bob Malpass for the position of Mayor Pro Tempore. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Presentations

- A. Presentation of the Employee of the Quarter Award – 4th Quarter

Mayor Wilkerson presented the Employee of the Quarter Award to Rachel Steen of the Cayce Historical Museum and thanked her for her dedication to her job and the city.

B. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Bonnie Kelly

Mayor Wilkerson stated that recently Ms. Bonnie Kelly retired from the Cayce Housing Authority where she has been an outstanding member for 25 years. He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Kelly and thanked her for her long commitment to the Authority and to the City of Cayce. Mr. Jack Sightler, Chairman of the Cayce Housing Authority presented Ms. Kelly with a resolution for her years of service. Mayor Wilkerson recognized Mr. Gilbert Walker of the Columbia Housing Authority. He also thanked Ms. Kelly for her leadership and commitment during the past 25 years.

C. Presentation of Decorate Cayce Awards

Mayor Wilkerson presented the Decorate Cayce Awards to the winners selected by the Cayce Beautification Board. He thanked all in attendance for their efforts in making Cayce a wonderful place to visit during the holidays. Mayor Wilkerson recognized the members of the Beautification Board and staff liaisons present.

D. Presentation by Ms. Wanda Smith Re Taylor Road Railroad Crossing

Ms. Smith appeared before Council to express her concern with the potential closing of the State Street, Taylor Street and Godley Street railroad crossings. She stated that she was representing the interest of her mother Ms. Evan Evans who is the property owner of Tommy's Grocery at 704 Taylor Street. She stated that they have been hearing rumors over the past few months that the City Council has voted to close Taylor Street at the railroad tracks on both ends of the street. She stated that she would like to find out what is rumor and what is fact. She stated that Ms. Evans is very concerned about how this is going to affect her store business. She stated that Tommy's Grocery is more of a convenience store and once that railroad crossing is closed, people will not want to travel all the way around to get to the store. She felt that it would greatly affect the store's business. She stated that Ms. Evans has not received any official notification that the closing will happen, nor has any signs been posted. She stated that she drove to the store with the thought of the road being closed and it took her 2.7 miles longer to get there than usual. She stated that if Council makes the decision to close the railroad crossing, it would be boxing Tommy's Grocery in and making it very inconvenient for their patrons. She inquired as to what she could be to stop the closing of the crossing.

Mayor Wilkerson asked for the status on this issue. The City Manager stated that the engineering study is still in process and that he has not heard back from the engineering firm. He stated that he has seen some drawings but right now no decision has been made. Mayor Wilkerson asked that the City keep Ms. Smith informed on the issue. He stated that permission would be needed from the owner in order to keep Ms. Smith informed. Ms. Evans was in attendance and agreed that her daughter, Wanda Smith, could represent her interest. Ms. Smith asked what steps she could take to stop

the closing of the railroad crossing. Mayor Wilkerson stated that he is not a lawyer and could not answer that question. He stated that he wanted to keep Ms. Smith involved in the process but that he could not answer some of her questions because he did not know the answers. Mayor Wilkerson advised that the Godley Street and Taylor Street crossings would close first. Ms. Evans advised that most of her customers travel to her store from either State Street or Forman Street.

Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Approval of Resolution Adopting a Regional Watershed Stormwater Education Strategy

The City Manager advised that one of the program elements of the NPDES Phase II program is that of public education. He stated that the city approved the participation and engagement of Carolina Clear through Clemson University for this effort. He stated that staff attended a meeting of the public education group and at that meeting, the group voted to change the name of the education working group to the Lexington County Stormwater Consortium (LCSC). He stated that the group also recommended that each member appoint a citizen representative to the group. He stated that city staff recommends that Daytona Jarmin be appointed for the city, but that to date Ms. Jarmin has not been reached to discuss this appointment.

The City Manager advised that the group also recommended that each member city approve a resolution adopting a regional watershed stormwater education strategy.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the Resolution adopting a regional watershed stormwater education strategy and that Ms. Jarmin, if she agrees to serve, be appointed as the City's representative on the Lexington County Stormwater Consortium. However, if Ms. Jarmin is unable to serve, he asked that the City contact Mr. Milt Fletcher or Bobby McLeod as potentials. Mr. Malpass seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

B. Approval of Ordinance to Rezone Property on Joyce Street from RG-2 to C-4 – Second Reading

Council considered for second and final reading the approval of an Ordinance to rezone property located at 1602, 1612, 1920-1924 Joyce Street from RG-2 to C-4. Mayor Wilkerson inquired if any additional comments had been received regarding this issue. The City Manager stated that no further comments had been received. Mr. Knudsen advised that the City of West Columbia did approve the rezoning of their portion. Mr. Myers inquired as to how it would be determined which city would be responsible for services, etc. Mr. Knudsen stated that he was not sure. Mr. Crowe stated that he has begun research on this issue. Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the Ordinance on second and final reading. Mr. Jumper seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Ordinance to Rezone Property Located on Windsor Road from RS-1 to RS-3 – Second Reading

Council considered for first reading the approval of an Ordinance to rezone property located on the east side of Windsor Road from RS-1 to RS-3. Mayor Wilkerson inquired if any additional comments had been received regarding this issue. The City Manager stated that no further comments had been received. Mr. Jumper made a motion to approve the Ordinance on second and final reading. Mr. Malpass seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Contracts/Agreements/Other

A. Bid Award – Public Relations Firm

The City Manager stated prior to Council's selection of a public relations firm, it was decided that a citizens survey be conducted. He stated that a preliminary report on the results of the citizen survey completed by USC has been received and distributed to Council. He advised that the final results should be completed by mid-January and will be forwarded to Council once it is received.

Mr. Myers made a motion to award the bid to the Clare Morris Agency. Mr. Malpass seconded the motion.

The City Manager advised that in addition to the three firms being considered by Council, the city has recently received a proposal from Novinger QTR LLC about the possibility of providing their services as a subcontractor for economic development, public relations, and governmental relations. He stated that this company proposed a subcontract for a "branding" initiative in the amount of \$15,000. He stated that the proposal was negotiable and can be considered as a subcontract if Council so desires. Mr. Myers felt this was a separate issue and could be considered at a later date. Mr. Jenkins stated that the agency be asked to provide a monthly report to Council. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Matters

A. Committee Appointments

Accommodations Tax Committee – One Position - Ms. Tammy Helfrich has submitted her resignation as she is no longer working in the city. This position must be filled by an individual from the hotel/motel industry. There are no recommendations at this time. Mr. Jumper made a motion to postpone this item until a potential member is submitted for review and consideration. Mr. Malpass seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

B. Committee Minutes

Council reviewed the following Committee meeting minutes for approval to enter into the official city record:

Zoning Board of Appeals – May 21, 2007
Planning Commission – November 19, 2007
Beautification Board – December 10, 2007
SPAT Committee – December 11, 2007
Cayce Museum Commission – December 12, 2007
Cayce Housing Authority – December 18, 2007

Mr. Malpass made a motion to approve that the minutes be entered into the official City record. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Mayor Wilkerson inquired if anyone in attendance had signed the speakers' list to address Council on municipal matters listed on the agenda. Ms. Barkley advised that no signatures had been obtained.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager advised that the December financial reports would be submitted to Council at the end of the week.

He provided Council with the following dates:

- January 16, 2008 – Mayors' Prayer Breakfast – 7:30 am Brookland Baptist Church
- January 21, 2008 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – City Hall Closed – normal pick up
- January 30, 2008 – Employee Awards Breakfast – 8:30 am Cayce Masonic Lodge

Request from Robert Felder – The City Manager stated that a request had been received from Mr. Felder to have Judge Melody James, the city's first female judge, inducted into the Cayce Historical Museum. He stated he had talked to Mr. Redmond in reference to this and the Museum Commission will be working on this.

FY 2008-2009 Budget Preparation and Schedule – The City Manager advised that staff has begun preparations on the FY 2008-2009 budget and provided Council with calendar denoting actions to be taken.

Update on Recent Annexation – The City Manager advised that he and City Attorney Crowe met with the Richland County Administrator, Milton Pope and their

County Attorney, Larry Smith last Thursday. He provided Council with a copy of a letter confirming the discussion and additional information on the meeting. He stated that he has also spoken to other Richland County departments to begin the process of working out specific issues. He advised that further meetings would be held so that agreements could be drafted and submitted to both Councils for review. Mr. Malpass inquired as to the name of the county attorney. Mr. Crowe advised that the attorney is Larry Smith.

Update on Midlands Utility – The City Manager stated that the City has owned the Midlands Utility system for a little over a year and under the terms of the Ordinance, the rates remained the same for a period of one year. He recommended that an Ordinance be reviewed by Council at the February meeting whereby the rates would remain the same until such time all Utility rates are revised.

Update on Sex Offender Ordinance – The City Manager provided Council with a letter received from the Assistant Attorney General and a letter from the Attorney General received today stating his opinion regarding the constitutionality of the proposed Ordinance. He stated that the Town of Lexington has approved a similar Ordinance with a 2,000 foot buffer zone rather than the 2,500 foot buffer zone as outlined in the City of Cayce's Ordinance. He stated this issue could be discussed with the City Attorney and a proposed Ordinance will be submitted for Council's review at the February meeting.

Committee Appointments 2008 – The City Manager provided Council with a list of Committee members whose terms will expire in 2008.

Congaree Business Center – The City Manager provided Council with the conceptual drawing of the Congaree Business Center which will be located across the street from City Hall on 12th Street.

Mr. Jenkins inquired if the developer of the Congaree Business Center was aware that there is a cemetery near the railroad. Mayor Wilkerson stated that Ben Jackson knows the exact location. Mr. Jenkins stated he would check to see if he can locate the owner of the cemetery and will advise the City Manager.

Mr. Jumper stated that a citizen, Mr. Richburg who resides on Axtell had brought to his attention problems with the quality of his water. He stated that this individual told him his water has not been fit to drink for two years. He stated that the individual has called the city numerous times, but nothing has been done to correct the problem and his home is not the only one having this problem. Mr. Jumper stated he would get the exact address and advise the City Manager so that proper follow up could be done.

Mr. Jumper stated that the city previously made an offer on the property across from the Public Safety Department fronting 12th Street. The City Manager stated that the purchase price provided by the owner was very expensive which made it

unattainable. Mr. Jumper asked that staff again contact the owner to see if the city could possibly purchase the property.

Mr. Malpass inquired as to the status of the financing for the WWTP upgrade. The City Manager advised that the city was awaiting plans and until American Engineering receives firmer numbers, the plans for financing cannot proceed. He stated that he would be meeting with Town of Lexington tomorrow to obtain better estimates on their needs. He stated that the Town of Lexington is interested in pursuing funding on their own and that the Joint Water & Sewer Commission has expressed interest in joining with the City for their funding.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Avery B. Wilkerson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy P. Barkley, CMC, Municipal Clerk