

**CITY OF CAYCE
Public Hearing and Special Council Meeting
May 29, 2012**

A Public Hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to obtain public comment on the establishment of a permit fee to maintain chickens on residentially zoned properties within the City limits. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Councilmen Steve Isom, Tim James, and James Jenkins, City Manager Rebecca Rhodes, Tammy Barkley, Municipal Clerk and Garry Huddle, Municipal Treasurer. Councilmember Ken Jumper was absent due to illness. Mayor Partin advised that members of the press and the public were duly notified of the Public Hearing in accordance with the FOIA.

Opening Statement

Mayor Partin stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to obtain public comment on the establishment of a permit fee to maintain chickens on residentially zoned properties within the City limits.

Public Testimony

No one from the public in attendance offered any public testimony or comment.

Close Hearing

Mayor Partin closed the public hearing noting that no public comment was received.

The Special Council Meeting immediately followed the Public Hearing in Council Chambers. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Councilmen Steve Isom, Tim James, James Jenkins, City Manager Rebecca Rhodes, Tammy Barkley, Municipal Clerk and Garry Huddle, Municipal Treasurer. City Attorney, Danny Crowe, Public Safety Director Charles McNair, Major Darwin Fulwood and Planning & Development Director, Shaun Greenwood was also in attendance. Councilmember Ken Jumper was absent due to illness. Mayor Partin advised that members of the press and the public were duly notified of the Public Hearing in accordance with the FOIA.

Mayor Partin called the meeting to order. Councilmember Jenkins gave the invocation and the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other

- A. Approval of Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 ("Animals") of the Cayce City Code to Allow the Keeping of Domestic Chickens under Certain

Conditions – Second Reading

Mr. Greenwood stated that the original draft of the Ordinance had been changed to include clarifying language regarding the appeals process when a permit is denied or revoked. Councilmember Isom made a motion to amend the Ordinance as recommended by staff. Councilmember James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Councilmember Isom made a motion to approve the Ordinance as amended on second and final reading. Councilmember James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

B. Continued Presentation of Departments' Proposed FY12-13 General Fund Budget – Public Safety

Chief McNair and Major Fulwood provided Council with the highlights of their budget and answered Council's questions.

Ms. Rhodes stated that she also had several items that were on her wish list to be included in the budget if funds are available. She stated that she did not know if these items would make it into the budget, but wanted Council to know that she is thinking about them and trying to find ways to pay for them.

She stated one was an incentive program for the revitalization of Knox Abbott and State Street. She stated that she has previously worked with a grant program for businesses whereby a small grant would be awarded to the business to enhance the façade of their building. The grants would be reimbursable and they would have to spend the exact same amount of their money on the project. She stated the reimbursement would not be provided to the business until the project has been completed. Ms. Rhodes stated another would be small incentives involving business licenses and/or property taxes.

She stated another thing that we would all like to get done is moving on to a streetscaping project for Knox Abbott now that we are trying to finish State Street with ISTE-21 funds and as we are finishing that, we had talked about moving on to Knox Abbott. She stated she would like to have some plans drawn up or designs done for all of Knox Abbott that breaks it down to block by block costs so that staff can start the grant process or researching other funding sources for the project. She stated the project would include the sidewalk, the lighting, landscaping, etc. She stated it is an extensive undertaking to improve a road like Knox Abbott. She stated that she had talked to SCE&G about burying the power lines from the Blossom Street bridge to Axtel and it is \$1.2 million just to bury the lines in that area.

She stated that on her list is funding for a stormwater drainage study and Code Enforcement funding to demolish dilapidated structures.

She stated that currently there is no cost of living or merit increases in the draft budget and she is not sure it will make it into the budget. She stated that the City gave the employees a 2% cost of living increase last year and if we are unable to give them anything this year, one of the things that would be possible is changing office hours from 8:00 – 5:00 to 8:30 – 5:00. She stated that normally most places work 8:30 to 5:00 and that by doing so, the City could possibly reduce the amount spent on overtime or compensatory time as employees would work 37.5 hours per week, but only receive overtime or compensatory time for hours worked over 40 hours per week. She stated that the city has little to no phone calls between 8:00 am – 8:30 am. However, she stated it would be possible to have the pay window open during this time.

Ms. Rhodes stated that she had a couple of ideas on how to balance the budget and also needed to discuss dates for the next Council meetings and the Public Hearing on the budget. She provided Council with the following information on how to balance the budget.

She stated that the State is considering funding the Local Government Fund at 88% of the total and that is \$28,770 higher than what was in Council's handout. She stated it is questionable whether that amount will remain in the State budget to be distributed at the 88% level.

She stated that the City has the possibility of raising the property taxes by the CPI which is 3.2%. She stated that the State Budget and Control Board will be unable to release the growth figures until sometime in July and if Cayce has experienced growth, that could also be used to calculate an increase in property taxes. She stated that the 3.2% increase or 1.34 mills would result in \$61,440 in funds and that one mills equals approximately \$42,000 in funds which is about \$4.00 to \$5.00 for a \$100,000 home.

She stated that for some of the capital items, she is meeting with Department Heads this week to see what can be cut or not cut, what can be placed on lease/purchase so that can be presented to Council next week. She stated there are some funds available from the increased business license fees that can be spent in this year's budget to purchase some of the smaller items the Departments have requested so that they can be taken off the Capital Equipment Schedule for the 2012-13 Budget.

She stated another way to balance the budget is to use a lease/purchase program for the 9 vehicles and a sanitation truck that has been requested.

She provided Council with information to review on the City's residential sanitation service to be discussed at next Tuesday's meeting. She stated that during last year's budget discussion, Council reviewed the commercial sanitation rates and the possibility of raising the rates to cover the City's costs for this service. She stated that during this year's discussion, she is asking Council to review the residential sanitation

rates and consider the possibility of raising those rates to pay for the service. She stated it is at the point where it is difficult to provide good service at the current rates. She provided Council with a copy of the Municipal Full Cost reporting form which is submitted to DHEC which calculates the city's cost to provide sanitation service.

Ms. Rhodes provided Council with a report issued by the Municipal Association of South Carolina that lists South Carolina cities and the amounts they charge for residential sanitation service. She stated there are a number of cities that provide residential service, but not commercial service and vice versa. She stated there are various models, but we do it all—residential, commercial, recyclables, limbs, leaves, other yard trash, and bulk white goods. Mayor Partin stated that the city loses quality control when and if it goes to a commercial service and that the Sanitation Department staff does a great job. She stated that the city receives \$79,000 per year at the \$1.50 per month rate and this was initiated by Council just to pay lease/purchase payments to purchase sanitation trucks. She stated that the city did not want to make money from residential or commercial fees, but needs to cover operational costs and replacement of sanitation equipment.

Councilmember James inquired if recycling, while it is a wonderful project for our city, is it a priority as we move forward with the Sanitation Department. Ms. Rhodes stated that it does bring in some income, but would not classify it as a priority. Councilmember James asked if it was an operational burden for staff. Ms. Rhodes stated that it is in the fact that items need to be separated as it is being picked up. Councilmember James asked if it would be better to have a recycling station. Ms. Rhodes stated that was an idea that staff could research. Mayor Partin stated that if we can reduce the amount of tipping fees by promoting and doing more recycling that would be an option. Councilmember Jenkins inquired as to where staff takes recycling materials. Ms. Rhodes stated it is taken to a few different places such as Sonoco. Discussion took place on whether citizens should bag yard debris or be provided with another roll cart for yard debris.

Councilmember James stated that he would like for staff to keep up with the pace on what the city is charging for commercial service and raising it a little each year to stay in line with the expenses. He stated that Ms. Rhodes' suggestion to revitalize Knox Abbott was intriguing and wanted to know if she would be submitting a plan so that priorities could be set. Ms. Rhodes stated that after the budget is done, we will start looking at a hospitality tax and how the revenues can be used. She stated that this type of beautification project can be paid for by a hospitality tax.

Councilmember Jenkins inquired about the grants program mentioned by Ms. Rhodes and would it be offered to the property owner or the person who occupies the building. Ms. Rhodes stated that normally the program would be set up whereby the property owner would have to apply for the funding. Councilmember Jenkins stated he would like to see what it would cost to place a metal detector at the entrance to

Chambers. Ms. Rhodes stated that the City does have a mobile unit and it can be placed at the door for Council meetings. Councilmember Jenkins stated he would like to have it in use during Council meetings.

Ms. Rhodes stated that the key is that Council expects certain things from her. She stated that she hears Council discussing the topics, and knows the things Council would like to see occur. She stated that those things cost money and she is advising Council how to pay for it. She stated that if Council does not provide the funding, then they cannot expect her to do some of these things. And, if there are no tools to do these things then we are going to run the day-to-day operations of the City and will continue to squeeze the blood out of the turnip as best we can.

Councilmember James inquired about the banners along Knox Abbott Drive. Ms. Rhodes provided information on the program to Council.

Councilmember James inquired about funds to demolish dilapidated buildings. Ms. Rhodes stated that the City's budget used to include funds for Code Enforcement after they had exhausted all legal bounds, to demolish structures ourselves and put a lien against the property owner. Councilmember James inquired if the City Code needed to be updated in regards to this issue. Chief McNair stated that the Ordinances are in place and can be appropriately enforced. Councilmember James stated that before we can move forward with funding to demolish structures, he wanted to be sure that Code Enforcement would be able to enforce the laws the City currently has on the books.

Councilmember James stated that he felt that the budget should include a COLA plus the 37.5 hours work week by changing the opening time of 8:30 a.m. with the pay window being open at 8:00 a.m. Councilmember Isom stated that he felt that the discussions being held were not detailed on the agenda and should be in order to allow citizen input. Mayor Partin pointed out that the Budget discussion is noted on the agenda and that Ms. Rhodes is providing additional information on the Administration Department. Ms. Rhodes stated that she also included funding items during her presentation and the agenda item would continue to state general discussion of the budget rather than specific items being listed.

Councilmember James stated that he did not see where funding had been included for the City's 100th birthday celebration that would take place in 2014 and felt the City should start planning in FY12-13 for this event and that funds be included.

Ms. Rhodes provided Council with several date options for upcoming meetings. She stated that the notice of the Public Hearing would need to be published in the media 15 days in advance of the date of the Public Hearing. It was decided that staff would contact Council to set up these meetings and the Public Hearing on the budget.

There being no further business, Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Isom seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy P. Barkley, CMC, Municipal Clerk