

**Joint Meeting
Cayce City Council
Springdale Town Council
West Columbia City Council
January 31, 2007**

The City of West Columbia held a Joint Meeting of the Cayce City Council, Springdale Town Council, and West Columbia City Council today at noon at West Columbia City Hall. Those present from the City of Cayce included Mayor Avery B. Wilkerson, Jr., Councilmen James Jenkins, and Rick Myers, City Manager John C. Sharpe, and Municipal Clerk, Tammy Barkley. Councilmen Kenneth Jumper and Robert Malpass were unable to attend due to illness.

Mayor Bobby Horton of West Columbia opened the meeting with the invocation and then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Horton announced that this was not a Public Hearing and there would not be a public comment period. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the three cities to come together to discuss options and potential funding for the public bus system and DART system in the respective cities.

Mayor Horton stated that since the last joint meeting, all Councils should have received the requested data from the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority. He then reported the data he received for West Columbia and asked each respective municipality to provide a report on the data they received for their cities.

Mayor Horton stated West Columbia data as follows: Of the 209 certified individuals for the DART system, 40 West Columbia citizens used the system for a total of 7,295 trips during 2006. A random sample indicated that 57 individuals used the RTA public bus system during a one-month period. He stated that the City of West Columbia has been asked to contribute \$179,000 to continue the use of both systems in West Columbia equaling \$1,843 per person, per year.

Mayor Wilkerson stated Cayce data as follows: Of the 134 certified individuals for the DART system, 20 Cayce citizens used the system for a total of 4,734 trips during 2006. A random sample indicated that 92 individuals used the RTA public bus system during a one-month period. He stated that the City of Cayce has been asked to contribute \$119,388 to

continue the use of both systems in the City of Cayce equaling \$1,065 per person, per year.

Mayor Smith stated Springdale data as follows: Of the 21 certified individuals for the DART system, 1 citizen used the system during 2006. A random sample indicated that 66 Springdale citizens used the RTA public bus system during a one-month period. He stated Springdale's pro rata share of contributions equated to \$1,130 per person, per year.

All cities noted the importance of a public transportation system and the DART system for their citizens. A representative from the Central Midlands RTA in attendance stated that bus service in the three cities had been reduced and that a 70% decrease in riders had been experienced. Mayor Wilkerson inquired as to the amount of contributions required by the cities over the next five years. The RTA representative stated that in 2009, SCANA will remove itself from the funding of the system and the cities could possibly see a dramatic increase in the required pro rata shares.

Discussion was held on the possibility of using another source for public transportation with smaller vehicles. Mayor Horton advised that he is currently seeking a bid from another source to provide the service and would submit the information to each respective Mayor for their review and comment.

Mayor Wilkerson stated his hesitancy of adding fees to all citizens for a service that will be used by a very small percentage of residents and would like to explore other ways to fund the systems. In addition, he stated that he could not possibly make a decision on the contribution required without knowing how the pro rata share would increase over the next five years. Mayor Horton concurred. Mayor Wilkerson asked the RTA representative to provide each Council with a breakdown of cost to maintain the current system over the next five years.

After discussion, Mayor Horton inquired if another joint meeting would be necessary. The consensus was that another joint meeting would not be productive and that each respective Council needed to come up with ideas on how to fund their portion for the current system or alternatives to replace the system and share that information with other cities. Mayor Horton stated that he would share the information he receives from an alternate service provider for bus service to all Councils.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Avery B. Wilkerson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy P. Barkley, CMC
Municipal Clerk