

Okaloosa County League

of Cities

SPRING MEETING
April 24, 1980

The 1980 Spring Meeting of the Okaloosa County League of Cities was held at the Sheraton-Marina in Fort Walton Beach on April 24, 1980, hosted by the City of Fort Walton Beach. Cocktail hour was scheduled at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7:30 p.m.

President Warren Mirshak called the meeting to order, Councilman Fred Pryor gave the invocation, and Mayor Bob Gates welcomed the assembled officials.

Mayor Gates comments included recognition of Councilman Jim Baughman for work on Bicycle Pathways and Councilman C. H. Rigdon for his work on double taxation. The Mayor spoke in favor of charter government for the County and discussed a recent personal visit with President Gerald Ford who stated that he continues to regard World Communism as America's greatest threat.

Guests for the evening were County Commissioner Moe Hersh and his wife, Elaine.

President Mirshak introduced the 1980 officers and announced the following Committee Chairmanships: Double Taxation, C. H. Rigdon; Legislative, Fred Pryor; Roads & Bridges, Durrell Lee; Program, Hayward Strong.

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Baughman gave the Treasurer's report. All 1980 dues and convention ad shares are now paid. Checking account balance is \$1,386.53 in the Valparaiso Bank. Savings balance for double taxation activity is \$4,137.19 in Mutual Federal Savings & Loan Association. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Winter Meeting as written and previously mailed to each official. Approval vote was unanimous.

Councilman C. H. Rigdon reported on the Double Taxation study recommending that the League not accept the County Commission's double taxation list itemizing two areas; we should break the County down farther; delineate how Municipal County taxes are used and how unincorporated area taxes are being used; City Clerk Charles Evans is meeting with the County leaders to reconsider the double taxation areas; they include Sheriff's Road Patrol, Engineering, Purchasing Department, Personnel Department, Maintenance, data processing, plus others, totaling twelve areas; he said that Destin and Okaloosa Island have been living off the City residents;

REPLY TO: _____

*File New
minutes*
RECEIVED JUN - 9 1980

League of Cities
Spring Meeting
April 24, 1980
Page 2

our goal should be to reduce City millage by two mills and add two mills in special taxing districts; we will go to court if necessary but hope to negotiate; court cases have been tried and won for other Florida cities; Rigdon suggested continued cooperation of all cities in the League.

Councilman Fred Pryor gave a brief Legislative Committee report which covered no major items, but recognized that the State Legislature is now in session. Municipal bills being considered are: Financial Disclosure, Leeway in Code Enforcement, Regional Planning Councils, Annexation, and hazardous waste disposal.

Councilman Durrell Lee gave a brief Roads & Bridges Committee report which included no specific items.

Since Congressman Bob Sikes could not be present the presentation of his Honorary Membership was deferred to a subsequent meeting. President Mirshak asked for nominations for other honorary memberships and the following were mentioned: "Pop" Sullivan, French Brown, Jim Trask, Hut Carnathan, and Maurice McLaughlin. Motion was made by Mayor Bob Gates and seconded by Mayor Gene Clary to consider these and others at the next Council of Mayors meeting. Approval was unanimous.

Councilman Dan Houghton moved that the League support Ray Sittig's position concerning Financial Disclosure Legislation. Mayor Bob Gates seconded and approval was unanimous.

Mayor Kathleen Bowman moved that the League go on record as opposing Governor Bob Graham's 10¢ gasoline tax. Councilman Phil Johnson seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The City of Crestview offered to host the Summer League Meeting on or about the third week in July. The specific date will be announced by President Mirshak.

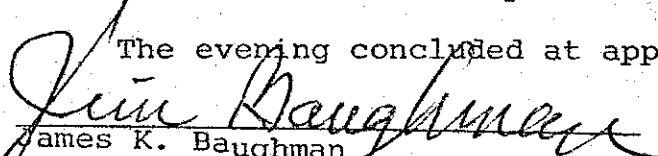
Executive Secretary Peggy Taylor of Fort Walton Beach was presented the floral centerpiece which adorned the head table for the outstanding seafood buffet dinner which she coordinated.

President Mirshak congratulated Councilman Harold Sundy and his wife Mary upon the anniversary of their wedding which fell on the same day as the League meeting.

The business meeting was then adjourned by President Mirshak.

Entertainment for the evening followed as Valerie's of downtown Fort Walton Beach presented a fashion show featuring summer clothing styles. Mrs. Warren Mirshak accepted the responsibility for narrating the fashion show on short notice and provided a very professional presentation.

The evening concluded at approximately 9:30 p.m.


James K. Bauchman

